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THE NEAR EAST.

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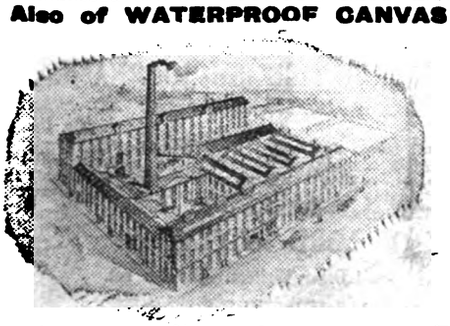
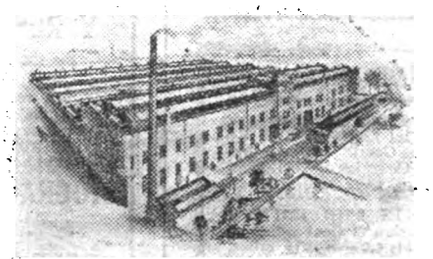
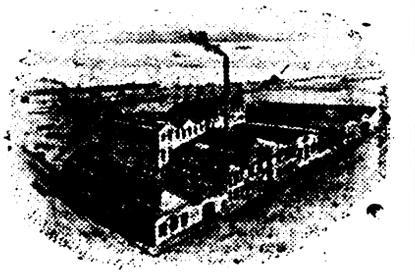

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 313.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The news from Mesopotamia during the past week has been eminently satisfactory. After their defeat at Istabulat on April 22 the Turks abandoned not only Samarra station, as announced in Sir Stanley Maude's despatch, but the town of Samarra as well, and fell back on a position fifteen miles to the north. They had counted largely on their ability to hold Istabulat, which was a point of considerable strength, and consequently they had made no preparations for the destruction of the railway and rolling stock at Samarra. The station was gutted, but in the haste of the withdrawal it was not possible to destroy either the permanent way or the bulk of the locomotives and trucks which had been accumulated at railhead. Further details of the fighting show that the Turks, in the hope of saving Samarra, had hurried forward the 13th Army Corps from the Jebel Hamrin hills to attack the right flank of this section of General Maude's force on the Shatt-el-Adhaim. The defeat of this corps, after a second attack, rendered the Samarra position untenable, and a general withdrawal of the whole Turkish line ensued.

A later report from General Maude shows that he has been able to follow up his successes without allowing the enemy much respite. On April 30 British troops found the 13th Turkish Army Corps entrenched in a position on both banks of the Shatt-el-Adhaim, which they had spent some days in strengthening. The attack took them by surprise, and their first two lines, together with a fortified village, were captured. A strong counter-attack caused the village to be temporarily evacuated by our troops, but it was regained, and before the day was over the Turks were once more in full retreat.

At the point now reached, a little more than eighty miles north of Baghdad, General Maude encounters the main physical obstacle in his advance from Kut. The Jebel Hamrin range stretches from the Tigris to the Persian hills, and, although rising to only a moderate height above the surrounding country, some 600 feet, the barrier provides the Turks with an ideal position for defence. In the country between the Shatt-el-Adhaim and Kizil Robat the same range, inclining slightly to the south-east, has apparently enabled the enemy to hold both the right wing of General Maude's army and the Russian troops who are occupying the country between the Diala River and Kasr-i-Shirin. If a frontal attack on the Jebel Hamrin is to be avoided, the time has come for our Allies to make more use of the position they hold on the Turkish left flank. The enemy has evidently suffered severe losses in his attempt to challenge the British advance, and his chief attention will be directed towards the Tigris, where General Maude's strength is likely to be concentrated. The Russians, therefore, will probably find an appreciable weakening of the resistance hitherto offered them.

General Maude's successes in Mesopotamia are very necessary at the present time, if only as an off-set to the continued inability of our Russian Allies to make headway against the enemy either in Armenia or on the Persian frontier. A Constantinople report announces that Mush has been evacuated by the Russians and occupied by Turkish troops. If this be true, the Russian withdrawal may be regarded as the outcome of the steady pressure exercised by the enemy on the Armenian front for some time past. It has not been possible from the fragmentary reports issued by the Russian Government to piece together any detailed picture of the fighting that has been taking place in this region; but it is evident that the Turks have been making a determined effort to throw back our Allies along the whole front from the Black Sea to Lake Van. Mush has changed hands several times during the war; but its reoccupation by the Turks at the present moment is inopportune, as it may help to facilitate their communications with the army operating south and east of Mosul.

There is no need to view with any misgiving the long pause in the British advance in Palestine which has followed the Battle of Wadi Ghuzzeh. The progress of the expedition has been characterized throughout by the most thorough preparation, and the two principal engagements, last August and again in March, were really the outcome of the enemy's challenge. In each instance the Turks have doubtless felt compelled to give battle in the vain hope of breaking down the almost uncanny precision of Sir Archibald Murray's strategy. Their double discomfiture—they lost 9,000 out of a force of 23,000 at Katia and 8,000 at Wadi Ghuzzeh—will hardly encourage them to risk a third attack. Meanwhile, the consolidation of the territory occupied by General Dobell's expedition continues. The railway is being extended; the conditions of the desert are being entirely transformed by means of roads, water supplies and fortified centres. In a word, Egypt is being brought to Palestine, and the desert barrier that has hitherto separated the two countries is rapidly becoming eliminated

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This aspect of the invasion of Palestine must be causing the Turkish Government far greater uneasiness than the advance of an ordinary expedition, however successful from a military point of view. The Turco-German raids on the Suez Canal entailed elaborate preparations; but they were directed to serve the immediate purposes of the invading force, and had nothing permanent about them. The British, on the other hand, both in Palestine and Mesopotamia, are acting as though the military operations were intended not only to defeat the enemy in the field, but also to give effect to the Allies' determination not to allow Turkey any longer to lie across the path of the world's progress, at least in the territories in question. In each case the blow is falling on a vulnerable spot in the Turkish armour. Ottoman rule has never been acceptable to the Arabs in Mesopotamia. There is something more than mere opportunism, therefore, behind the message of congratulation on the capture of Baghdad which the *Mujtahid* of Kerbellah and Nejef have sent to King George. His Majesty's answer, moreover, will have strengthened the hopes already raised by General Maude's proclamation to the people of Baghdad:—"My earnest desire is for the well-being of Irak and its people, the preservation of its Holy Places, and the restoration of its ancient prosperity." Something of the same foretaste of liberty will be heartening the people of Syria as they watch the methodical progress of the British force from Egypt. The Constantinople Government must realize that its hold on these parts, if once relaxed, can never be restored, and the offer of the Allies, before Turkey entered the war, to guarantee her integrity will be acquiring a new significance in Turkish eyes.

Not the least satisfactory feature of the campaigns in Palestine and Mesopotamia is that they appear to have been carried out so far with relatively small losses to the British forces engaged. This should be the case in all subsidiary theatres of the war, where the operations, however useful in their general effect, cannot exercise a decisive influence on the war as a whole. We should like to think that the operations in the Balkans will also be attended with small losses. The Battle of Doiran, however, recalls certain incidents on the Western front, where alternatives to frontal attacks are practically impossible. The Doiran sector, we are told, is one which the shape of the ground has made particularly strong. There were three distinct systems of enemy trenches to be negotiated, about a thousand yards apart, each position being higher up the steep slopes than those in front of it. The British attack was launched at night. On the left flank the troops were entirely successful; on the right some of the ground won had to be surrendered. Since April 24, the date of the attack, the British position has been subjected to fierce assaults on the part of the enemy, which have been invariably repulsed with heavy losses. It is fitting that steady pressure should be maintained on the Bulgarians; but after the long period of preparation allowed General Sarrail, it was hoped that an offensive, when it did come, would be based on more successful strategy than mere frontal attacks, especially when the preliminary artillery bombardment is not able to deal effectively with the enemy in his trenches.

In an article appearing elsewhere in this issue, Mr H. C. Woods, a well-known authority on the Near East, urges the application of "strategic diplomacy" to the Balkans, and shows how the application of the principle of nationality may be expected to work in regard to Bulgaria. The suggestion that the Allied Governments should endeavour to keep a sensitive finger on the political pulse of Bulgaria and Turkey has already been made in these columns, and as the struggle goes more and more against the Central Powers, diplomatic openings are likely to multiply. It would be a matter for regret, however, if the Allies allowed themselves to be beguiled into the comfortable theory that concentration on the diplomatic aspect of the problem justified a relaxation of military efforts. Diplomacy will speak with far greater weight after a signal defeat of the Bulgarians. So long as the German hold on the country is unimpaired, there are almost insuperable obstacles in the way of popular feeling asserting itself. So far, it must be remembered, the Bulgarians have experienced no serious reverse. The fighting on the Macedonian frontier has gone against them, and the prolongation of the war is having its effect on the country; but the Sofia Government can still pretend that with Austro-German help Bulgarians are invincible. Until General Sarrail has scotched this delusion diplomatic efforts may not find it easy to make headway, and it may be doubted whether they would prove, if actually successful, in the real interest of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole.

Hypnotism, we believe, is accepted in some quarters as a useful accessory to medical treatment, but its value in medico-political cases would seem to be problematical. The Allied Governments, called in to treat the Greek situation, could only agree upon submitting it to hypnotic influence; Greece was to be placed in a condition of political coma, and it was hoped by auto-suggestion to cure the Royalist Greeks of their evil ways and the Venizelists of their embarrassing energy. As might have been expected, the quack treatment has failed; the Royalists, including the King, remain incorrigible, and the Provisional Government has continued to make headway. The time has now come when important events may occur, and we cannot help thinking that the reputation of the Allied physicians calls for an official statement that their patient is no longer acting under their hypnotic influence, but is a free agent, and that they themselves have retired from the case

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We should like to think that the two Allied Conferences which have taken place on the Continent within a fortnight have found time to deal with the Greek problem, whatever may be the weightier considerations which rendered the meetings necessary. When M. Venizelos, according to a report in a Salonika journal, has publicly declared that "it is impossible for King Constantine to remain in his position," and a resolution from a congress of Hellenic colonies records the similar conviction of all Greeks outside the kingdom as the result of recent events in Greece, the Entente Powers will be carrying their support of unconstitutional autocracy a little too far in continuing to protect King Constantine against the national demand for his deposition. There is no call for the Allies to play any part in the changes that may be about to take place in Greece. They have hitherto interposed an effective barrier for the benefit of an unconstitutional monarch, who has not had the saving grace of being loyal to his protectors. No doubt feeling is running high in Venizelist circles owing to the unjustifiable action of the Allied Governments, and it may be that mature consideration and direct negotiations may modify some of the opinions now held. But what is urgently required is that the embargo placed on Greek political development by the Allies should be removed, and that she should be allowed to work out her own salvation on her own lines. The resultant situation will be the healthier, even if some blood should be unfortunately spilled, than if a perfunctory settlement is imposed by the Entente Powers.

A further change in the Emirate of Koweit, to which reference is made on another page, has afforded an occasion for a fresh testimony of the loyalty of the Arabs on the Persian Gulf to the British cause and of their growing feeling of an identity of interests among themselves. Sheikh Mubarak, who was a good friend of the British, died, it will be remembered, on November 28, 1915, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Sheikh Jaber. On the death of the latter on February 5 last Sheikh Mubarak's second son succeeded to the Emirate. The ceremony associated with his accession was attended by Sheikh Ibn Saoud and the Emir of Mohammerah, as well as by a deputation sent by General Maude. The close association of the three most powerful Arab chiefs of Eastern Arabia is of satisfactory augury for the future consolidation of these regions for a new era of material development.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 3.

The Health of the Sultan.

From private information I have received, I gather that the Sultan has much improved in health, and is practically free from the discomfort which he suffered. The High Commissioner has had an interview out at Heliopolis with his Highness, who has been regularly receiving the Ministers during the past few days. It is expected that he will soon return to Abdin. The Sultan has just ordered the sum of £E1,000 to be given from his private purse to the students and employees of Al Azhar. This generous gift has been received with delight. The employees, who benefited in similar manner by the Sultan's munificence last year, owe the increase in their salaries, now provided for in the Al Azhar budget, entirely to the intervention of his Highness. The Sultan was much exercised in mind at the meagre pay which he found many of them received, and ordered the Prime Minister to investigate the matter and arrange to remedy this state of affairs.

The Summer Resort Question.

With reference to my recent remarks anent the summer resort question, the military authorities now announce that from the 15th inst. Aboukir is declared to be a military zone. This means that that district will be closed to visitors until further notice. Aboukir has in the past always been a resort much frequented by residents, especially Alexandrines, in the summer. This new decision, consequently, aggravates the situation and, if anything, strengthens my contention that Port Said should be reopened for the summer months, at any rate to approved residents.

The State University.

The Council of Ministers, to whom the proposal for the creation of a State University was submitted about a month ago, has appointed a special Commission for the purpose of studying the question and drawing up a scheme of organisation for final consideration by the Council. The Commission consists of H.E. Ismail Hassanein Pasha, Under-Secretary of State for Education (President); Mr. Sidney Wells, Director of Technical Education; Mr. Boyd Carpenter, Chief Inspector of Education; Dr. Keatinge, Principal of the School of Medicine; Mr. Walton, Principal of the School of Law; Mohammed Atef Barakat Bey, Principal of the School for Kadis; Ahmed Barreda Bey, Principal of the Sultania Normal School; Mr. Shearer, Principal of the School of Agriculture; and Mohammed Ali Bey El Maghrah, and Messrs. Quilici and Edgar, Inspectors in the Ministry of Education. The Commission has already started on its labours, and was welcomed at its first meeting by H.E. Adly Yeghen Pasha, Minister of Education. The task before it will not be altogether an easy one, for there are many interests to conciliate and various difficulties to overcome. The constitution of the Commission is, however, sure to give the assurance that the question will be ably and thoroughly studied, and that a final scheme, satisfactory to all parties and meeting all the requirements of the situation, will eventually be evolved. It would appear, nevertheless, that some time must elapse ere it is in a position to present its report.

Sir William Brunyate and the Mixed Bar.

Last Thursday the Mixed Bar of Alexandria gave a banquet to Sir William Brunyate in honour of his appointment as Judicial Adviser. The banquet, which had originally been fixed for March 15, but had had to be postponed for unavoidable reasons, was attended by a fully representative gathering, which included a lady barrister. Me. Mercinier, the doyen of the Mixed Bar, proposed the health of Sir William Brunyate, to whose ability and past career he referred in most felicitous terms. In the course of his reply, which was most happily worded and which has been exceedingly well received in legal circles, the Adviser referred to the impending judicial and administrative changes, and took the opportunity of explaining that the British Government, being of opinion that the time had come to exercise the reforms which would be rendered necessary by the declaration of a British Protectorate over Egypt, and by the eventual abolition of the Capitulations which would naturally follow from that event, had decided to call for the appointment of a strong Commission, which should be entrusted with the mandate to study the question, and to which should be accorded very extensive powers for the purpose. He added the hope that the Mixed Bar would lend this Commission its whole-hearted co-operation, and that the reorganisation would conduce to creating closer relationship and the kindling of a feeling of mutual goodwill and confidence between the various elements of the local legal community, especially between the Native and the Mixed Bars.

The Commission referred to by Sir William Brunyate has already been appointed. It consists of the Ministers of Finance, Education and Justice, the Financial, Judicial, and Interior Advisers, the Vice-President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, and one of the Sultania Counsellors. It is empowered to co-opt on to sub-commissions any persons whose assistance may appear desirable, to call for suggestions and criticisms from any qualified persons or bodies, and to publish in advance drafts of any laws or regulations which it intends to propose, with a view to obtaining the fullest amount of information on the points in question before finally submitting them to the Council of Ministers.

The Cairo Racing Season.

On Saturday last the eleventh race meeting was held at Gezira, and with it the Cairo Turf season for 1916-1917 was brought to a close. It has been in every respect a most successful season with some excellent racing, and the decision to hold meetings in spite of the war has been fully justified both by the fillip that has been given to horse-breeding and by the financial results, which have enabled the club to make handsome donations to military and other charities—the profits from the last meeting went entirely to charity. Altogether the stewards and the indefatigable acting secretary, Mr. B. P. Greenwood, are heartily to be congratulated upon the result of their labours, which have afforded healthful recreation and relaxation to hundreds of members of the Army which they would otherwise not have had.

Cairo, April 10.

The Late Duchess of Connaught.

The death of the Duchess of Connaught aroused widespread regret here in Egypt, where she was very well known. Her Royal Highness had visited this country on several occasions both before and during the period when the Duke was Inspector-General of the Overseas Forces, with headquarters at Malta, and it was she who laid the last stone at the inauguration of the Assuan Dam in 1902. The Duchess of Connaught had always endeared herself to all who had come in contact with her, and the High Commissioner truly represented local feeling when he sent the Duke and the other members of his family a telegram of sincere condolence on behalf of the British community.

All Saints' Church

Considerations of space prevented me from referring last week to the general meeting of the congregation of All Saints' Church, which took place on Saturday week last at the Residency, the High Commissioner being in the chair. Resolutions were proposed and passed to the effect, first, that with the object of obtaining a free-seated church no further seats should be allotted; and, secondly, that the whole of the collections on at least six Sundays in the year should be given to outside objects, the choice of which should be left to the chaplain. At the conclusion of the business of the day, Sir Reginald Wingate addressed the meeting. He congratulated the community upon the excellent result of the last financial year and paid a tribute to the work done by the National Mission, led in this country during the past two months by Dean Storrs and the Rev. Mr. Burroughs. His Excellency referred in feeling terms to the deaths of Lords Cromer and Kitchener, both of whom had been past-presidents of the Anglican community, and he proposed that the name of the "Maker of Modern Egypt" should also be associated with the Cairo Cathedral

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scheme, which was originally intended to be a memorial to those who had fallen in this war, and especially to Lord Kitchener. It is certain that this proposal to link the names of the two most illustrious Anglo-Egyptians with the erection of this monument to our faith will meet with the unanimous approval of the Anglican community in Egypt. In conclusion, it is interesting to note, from the High Commissioner's speech, that a good deal of work in connection with the Cathedral scheme has been done during the past few months, and that the committee hope soon to bring forward some important and interesting proposals.

Exhibition of War Trophies.

An exceedingly interesting exhibition of trophies taken in the course of the fighting in the Sinai and on the Tripoli frontier has been held during the past week on the square opposite Abdin Palace. Specimens of all guns and arms captured were shown, including curious-looking German trench mortars, Krupp field guns with the name of the makers and the Turkish imperial arms clearly marked on them, and Turkish field guns. There were also some of the latest type of machine guns constructed for desert transport, some of them for conveyance on one man's shoulders. One of the most interesting groups was the collection of miscellaneous firearms, which had either been picked up on the field of battle or taken from the prisoners. Some of these were of the most antiquated pattern. The exhibition was held in a barbed-wire enclosure, into which admission was only permitted by ticket. However, it attracted crowds of Egyptians and local subjects, who were able to look at the trophies from without the "wire entanglement," and who appeared to be duly impressed by the sight that met their gaze.

The "Capitulations" Commission.

On Thursday the newly appointed "Capitulations" Commission held its first meeting at the Ministry of Justice under the presidency of H.E. Yusef Wahba Pasha, the Minister of Finance. The main lines on which the Commission will work were decided upon, and henceforward meetings will be held three times a week. The formation of this Commission appears to have met with the approval of the foreign communities, who see in the provision for the co-option in the sub-commissions of members from outside, and in the other facilities for sounding public opinion accorded to the Commission, an assurance that their views and their interests will receive the fullest consideration. From conversations I have had, I gather that Sir William Brunyate's speech to the Mixed Bar the other day has made an excellent impression, and that its effect will be to enable the Commission to start on its labours with the goodwill of all the local foreign elements concerned in the impending changes. Those who have any knowledge of the situation that ordinarily arises in this country whenever it is a question of administrative or legal reforms will readily appreciate how enormously the existence of this current of sympathy will conduce to the satisfactory settlement of the various delicate and intricate questions that are bound to arise in the course of the elaboration of the coming reorganisation.

THE GERMAN PERIL IN BULGARIA.

It appears that the Bulgars have realised what a peril the Germans will constitute for Bulgaria after the war, writes a correspondent. They are, therefore, already trying to secure themselves against their "Allies." The Serajevo paper, *Serajevski List*, of April 5, publishes the following information upon this matter:—"Since Bulgaria joined the Central Powers, the German Press has not ceased to repeat that as many Germans as possible, manufacturers for preference, should settle in Bulgaria and there push the interests of German industries and trade. For this purpose a special German paper, the *Deutsche Balkanzeitung*, was started in Sofia. This paper, in its issue of March 21, contains a note from the Bulgarian Sobranje, announcing that the Deputy Nedeljkov (Agrarian party) has submitted the draft of a Bill, signed by sixty Deputies, whereby it is to be made illegal for any foreigner to acquire landed property in Bulgaria. Likewise no foreigner may own any commericial concern in Bulgaria, unless 50 per cent. of the capital is owned by Bulgarian citizens."

The Ottoman Consulate at Vienna has notified that Turks between the ages of thirty-eight and forty-three, hitherto excused from military service, must report for examination within a week, and those found to be fit must join the army immediately.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The New Bishop of Kyrenia.

A new Metropolitan for Kyrenia was elected on March 31, in the person of the Archimandrite Makarios, and the ratification of the High Commissioner has been published in the official *Gazette*. The electing body consisted of forty-four "general electors," of whom thirty-three voted for Makarios and eleven for Kleopas, Abbot of Kykkou; although the latter had stated that he did not desire to be elected, and would decline to accept the appointment, if offered. The service of enthronement took place at Nicosia. The Archbishop, conducting the Prelate to his throne, placed the mitre on his head and handed to him his pastoral staff.

The new Bishop is about forty-seven years of age. During his education he studied at Constantinople, Athens, Geneva, and Oxford. He has held different ecclesiastical appointments, at Larnaca and Alexandria, and in 1912 took part in the Turco-Greek War as army chaplain, seeing active service.

On April 3 the Archbishop presented the new Metropolitan to Sir John Clauson at Government House. The High Commissioner expressed his pleasure at the result of the election, which was increased by the fact that he had long known the new bishop as a friend. The visitors expressed their thanks to the High Commissioner, who stated that the Greek Church could always rely on the support of the Government in its good work. The Holy Synod is now complete.

The Greek Church and the Courts.

The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, in a recent interview, consulted the Greek Archbishop, Kyrillos, on several questions connected with crime, the law courts, and the employment of discharged prisoners. He referred to a case in which a village girl and her betrothed are both undergoing a sentence of imprisonment for an offence of which both were convicted. The girl is shortly to be released, while the young man's term will not expire for some time. Their fellow-villagers have earnestly petitioned the High Commissioner, praying that the remainder of the latter's sentence may be remitted, in order that the couple may be married, and the risks which would otherwise threaten the future of both may be avoided. His Excellency, said the Chief Justice, was favourably disposed, should the Archbishop he able to give an assurance that the Church would allow the marriage to take place in Lent. The Primate replied that in the circumstances of the case the Church would sanction the marriage even during the Holy Week. The couple are therefore likely to have an opportunity of living happily ever afterwards. It is not in many countries that such a petition would be put forward, but in Cyprus it seems natural enough.

The Chief Justice also consulted His Beatitude regarding the future of convicts on their discharge from prison. In Cyprus there are no societies corresponding to those in England which find employment and endeavour to reform prisoners. He suggested that the Church might step in and interest itself. The Archbishop acknowledged the Church's opportunity, and suggested that the Government should, by small allowances for the work of prisoners, especially of the long-sentence class, create a fund that could be applied to the purpose in view. The Chief Justice was not able to give any assurance on this subject. The Archbishop promised that the Church would devote increased attention to the matter.

Sir Charles Tyser also suggested, with a view to tracing and combating the causes which lead to serious crime in the island, that a competent representative of the Church should be regularly deputed to attend sittings of the Assize Court and follow the proceedings. The Archbishop concurred, and promised that in future a suitable person, clerical or layman, should attend and watch the cases for the purpose referred to.

Inter-School Athletics.

The athletic contests between the English School of Nicosia and the American School at Larnaca took place on March 31. The challenge cup presented by Sir Hamilton Gould Adams was won by the pupils of the former school.

THE ROUMANIAN PARLIAMENT.

Under date of April 30, Reuter's Jassy correspondent telegraphs:—

"During the sitting of Parliament on April 28, M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, read a Royal decree prolonging the session until May 9.

"During the absence of M. Bratiano in Russia, M. Pherekyde, Minister without portfolio, will act as Prime Minister, while M. Take Jonescu will take charge of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

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NEWS OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 12.

A Moslem family arrived in Egypt from Tripoli, Syria, about a couple of weeks ago. The account of their escape reads more like fiction than reality. During many a long night, patiently and secretly, the work of building a small skiff was carried on inside the house; and, as soon as it was completed, the frail boat was launched on a rather rough sea. Even the old mother was dumped down in the boat under cover of darkness, and the journey to a place of safety—the name of which is withheld for obvious reasons—was a long-drawn agony; the occupants of the boat were almost all the time waist deep in water, and it was only through tireless and desperate baling that the constant danger of sinking was averted. To have thus braved such a voyage the situation left behind must have been as bad indeed as death. These fugitives gave the gist of Jemal Pasha's last manifesto to the Syrians, which bears the imprint of this modern Nero's cynicism. After praising the people for their loyalty, and for the sacrifices they have made to the Empire, he informed them of the Allies' sinister designs against that Empire. Already, he said, Constantinople has been promised to Russia, and Syria to France; but he expressed the conviction that the people would continue to work loyally with the Government to frustrate the designs of the foe.

For once this man of dark deeds and wily ways has blundered badly; for he has dispelled any lingering doubt in the minds of the people as to the inevitable fate of the already tattered Empire. After the fall of Baghdad, which sealed the doom of Turkish rule in Mesopotamia; after the conquest of practically all Armenia, after the successful revolt of Arabia proper, after the conquest of Sinai and the invasion of Southern Palestine, this official announcement as to the Allies' designs in regard to what is still left of the Empire, is said to have revived the failing hopes in the hearts of the Syrians, or at least those of them who are still left to be saved.

A young officer belonging to the leading Moslem family in Palestine was captured about a couple of months ago in one of the battles of Sinai, and, being an ardent Arab reformer, was placed on parole by the authorities here. The writer, in a very recent meeting, asked him if all that was being published in the papers as to wholesale deaths from famine and epidemic disease was true. "Alas," he replied, "it is only too true. I saw with my own eyes children and women dying from hunger in their own homes. That two-thirds of the population of Jerusalem have perished may not be an exaggerated estimate."

The new informant from Tripoli says that of the inhabitants of Jibeil (old Byblos) and neighbouring villages on the northern coast of the Lebanon only 15 per cent. are left; the remainder have either died or have emigrated to the interior to escape starvation. The price of 5 lbs. of bread in Beyrout and neighbouring sea ports, as well as in Kesrawan—the most sorely tried district of the Lebanon—was, a couple of months ago, 140 piastres in paper money, and 40 piastres (about 7s.) in gold or silver. This year's crop in Syria is estimated at about one-fourth of the normal average. The number of Christian families alone expelled from Beyrout is put at 150; while that of Moslem families is said to be still larger. Until the said informant's departure the Government was still accepting the exoneration tax, not, however, in gold or even paper money—as most, if not all of this has already been taken over by the Government—but in a supposed equivalent of grain, which, according to the then ruling prices in paper money, should be worth about £400.

The Syrian recruits, both Christian and Moslem, are exclusively employed on auxiliary work, such as transport, road making, trench digging, and similar work immediately behind the firing line.

The Lebanese had not yet been mobilised, but the Government had published a notice to the effect that they may yet be called to the colours in case of need.

The present Governor of the Lebanon is a Turk, Mumtaz Bey. The Turkish Government was contemplating the division of The Mountain into two districts, one to be annexed to the vilayet of Beyrout, and the other, larger one, to be included in the Mutessarifiat of Tripoli. This arrangement was to come into force at the beginning of this year, but up to the date of the informant's departure the order was still in abeyance.

The pound sterling was fixed by the Government at 108 piastres gold, the Turkish pound at 100 piastres, and the French pound (Napoleon) at 87 piastres, but the Turkish note has fallen to one-fourth its original value.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Germans and the Dead. April 30.

Mr. Ronald M'Neill asked if steps would be taken to make it known as widely as possible in Egypt, India and the East generally that the Germans use the dead bodies of their own soldiers and of their enemies, when they obtained possession of them, as food for swine.

Lord R. Cecil replied that the Government had no information at present beyond that contained in extracts from the German Press and published in the Press here. In view of other actions by the German military authorities, there was nothing incredible in the charges made against them.

Conditions in Greece. May 2.

Mr. Dillon asked the Leader of the House whether his attention had been called to the extremely unsatisfactory and conflicting telegrams from Greece which had been allowed to appear in the Press during the last few days and to the great and growing public uneasiness and bewilderment over the situation in Greece, and whether, in view of the condition of things, he could see his way to offer an opportunity for public discussion on the Greek situation and the Salonika Expedition.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, but in my opinion any public discussion on either of these subjects would be against the national interest. The public anxiety is important, but there are other considerations which are even more so.

FOLKLORE OF PALESTINE.

Lady Evelyn Cobbold presided at a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie on April 23, when Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall delivered an address on the Folklore of Palestine.

Mr. Pickthall's paper was a long and very interesting one, containing many folklore stories. We reproduce the following:—A young man had been brought up by a holy man, the guardian of a famous wely or saint's tomb. At length the holy man sent him out to seek his fortune, giving him a little money and an ass. He rode away. As he was travelling in a desert place the donkey died, leaving him thus alone. The young man wept, and, having nothing else to do, buried the donkey and adorned its grave with stones. While he was doing this an Arab chief came up, saw the young man weeping, and inquired the reason of his grief. The young man using an unusual word for donkey, "Eyr," the chief imagined that the grave was that of some holy man; so he sent for stone and built a pretty shrine, of which the young man was appointed guardian at a salary. A village grew up round the tomb. The fame of this wely spread through all the country till it reached the ears of the young man's former tutor. He went to see it, recognised his former pupil, and elicited the whole story, under bond of secrecy. The young man in his turn asked, "Oh, my father, who is the holy man who lies beneath your dome? I have known his name from my youth up, and have heard the rumour of his miracles, but nothing more." The sheikh hesitated for a moment, and then replied: "To tell the truth he is the father of your donkey."

Another story told how the mosquito came to buzz:—After the fall of man the serpent was able to prove that he had been promised the most delicious kind of flesh for his food. There was a doubt as to what kind of flesh was the most delicious, and the mosquito, as an experienced taster, was sent round to try. He was quite impartial. But the swallow, a good friend of Adam, followed him throughout the world. At the end of a year the mosquito came back to the council ready to declare that the flesh of man was of all the most delicious. The insect had at that time an articulate, sonorous voice. But just as he was flying to the presence of the judges, the swallow, who knew what he would be at, flew up against him, thrust its beak into his mouth and plucked his tongue out. "Well, what is your report?" inquired the president. An angry buzz was the mosquito's only answer. The court was at a loss, but the swallow politely stepped forward and volunteered to speak for his poor friend, which he said he was qualified to do since he had been with him on his journey of inspection. Many of the creatures present could bear witness that they had seen the two together in far distant places, so the swallow's evidence was accepted; and he said: "My poor friend found the flesh of frogs to be the sweetest." The mosquito buzzed distractedly, but to no purpose. He was inarticulate. The flesh of frogs was thus appointed to be serpent's food. The serpent, angry with the swallow, tried to bite him as the crowd went out of court, but only succeeded in getting that little bit out of the tail which you see is missing at the present time.

King Solomon, Johha, the jester, and Karakash, the impartial judge, were the heroes of other stories. One of these related how a rich old miser was carried out to be buried. He was still alive, but was prone to swoons, and his two nephews, who wanted his money, had taken advantage of one of these to get rid of him. While the funeral was on its way he recovered, saw Karakash approaching, and cried to him for help. Karakash stopped the procession and held an inquiry. He asked the nephews whether their uncle was dead, and was assured that he was. He asked the hired mourners, who gave the same answer. "But you can see for yourself that I am alive," cried the miser. Karakash eyed him sternly "God forbid that I should trust to your bare word or to the evidence of my poor senses against the testimony of so many lawful witnesses. It has been proved that you are dead. Proceed with the funeral."

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE RIGHT METHOD WITH BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your article in last week's issue touches the spot. Similes are apt to mislead, but to the writer the Central Powers and their Near Eastern allies constitute an arch of which Bulgaria is a voussoir, which, were it detached, would let down the rest: Turkey first, then Hungary, and so on. The thing was palpable, but escaped the vision of Lord Grey of Falloden, who, in his efforts to gain the worthless Greeks, was barking up the wrong tree.

To surround the entire Enemy-Alliance with a ring of steel and tighten it at all points is very slow work, and very expensive. It is time to try diplomacy, and to begin with the States with which our quarrel is not *à outrance*, as it is with Prussia. Of these Bulgaria is the most accessible, and presents the most favourable field.

It is probable that the actual negotiations had better be entrusted to Russia. Bulgaria has always been held to be peculiarly within the Russian sphere. The fall of the Romanoffs offers a most plausible excuse for renewing the *pourparlers* broken off a year ago. Unlike the Tzars, the Russian Republic has no old-standing quarrel with Sofia. M. Miliukoff would find himself a *persona grata* among many Bulgarian circles. The United States could assist; there has never been bad blood between Washington and Sofia, and the Balkans are sown thickly with the results of American Methodist and Congregational Missions. There are still a fair number of Bulgarians who were educated at Robert College, and these are usually level-headed and far-seeing men.

The dynasty presents a difficulty, but yielding to our prejudices and giving way to ill-humour will not help us. Ferdinand Coburg may not be all we want, but in what respect he has played the traitor, or to whom, those who persistently miscall him would be hard put to it to prove. He was as much at liberty to choose a side as was Italy, and chose the one which promised him most, and which seemed to be winning. Let us be fair and keep our tempers. Epithets make difficult diplomacy. To insist upon his abdication might protract or nullify our efforts. If the Bulgarians *like* him, why not leave him upon his throne? He may be at least as satisfactory a ruler as any we could substitute, and as stable as a rowdy uni-cameral republic composed of a dozen parties. In the recent past Ferdinand has been an excellent ruler and a fosterer of forestry and agriculture, and may settle down to another fifteen or twenty years of similar beneficent activities. I venture to suggest guaranteeing him his present frontiers—with or without Monastir and the Northern Dobruja; assisting him to regain his Austrian estates at the general peace, and granting him Kavalla and the facilities of free port at Salonika and monetary assistance to get lines built to both places, and running powers over the Serres-Drama railway, which, I think, is French-owned. The details of the proposed agreement need not be discussed yet, but in principle should be the inclusion of all Macedonians, and should be designedly generous; for it is of the first importance that *other minor States* of the Central Bloc should awaken to the possibility of surviving with Bulgaria as an alternative to perishing with Prussia. Let us eat the enemy artichoke leaf by leaf, and let diplomacy do its best, and not as hitherto. . . .

I am, etc.,

H. M. WALLIS.

Reading, April 18, 1917.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Whether in the vain hope of Magyarizing the Serbian capital, or merely as a further annoyance to the unhappy Serbians, I cannot say, but I learn from the *Budapest Hirlap* that "Magyar schools have been opened in Belgrade." It is scarcely necessary to add that in these institutions the study of the Magyar language is compulsory for Serbian children. From a trustworthy source I learn, further, that "there is no native Magyar element in Belgrade, and that the Magyar pupils—children of Magyar settlers—attending these schools make up less than 10 per cent. of the total. It looks to me as if there were a good deal of effort running to waste here. But the most astonishing point about the whole business is to find that military men are appointed (in some cases, at least) as directors of these schools. One of these gentlemen is described as "a captain of Honveds," and it is expressly mentioned that "he is not a pedagogue by profession." Presumably, what he lacks as a teacher he makes up as a disciplinarian!

***

Apropos of the teaching of young Serbians, I observe that an Englishman who is, or was, working for the Serbian War Victims' Relief Committee at Oxford, and whose age is 23, appeared before the Oxford Local Tribunal recently. He based his objections to serving his country (as a soldier) upon conscientious grounds; and on that point I do not propose to comment, holding that any other man's conscience is too delicate a machine for me to investigate. But I notice that an official of one of the Serbian Relief organizations is reported to have said that "the Serbian Government attached enormous importance to this work"—*i.e.*, the help with their lessons that the Objector was rendering to the Serbian boys. Is that not rather muddle-headed? The man is called on to help *his own* country; and refuses, preferring an occupation of his own choice. That is all as may be; but surely older men—and women—could do the "clerical work and helping the boys in their lessons" just as well as this young man. If so, the Serbian Government's views on the matter are not of any help in reaching a decision. I am not surprised to read that "the certificate was withdrawn."

***

From Indian papers to hand by the last mail I learn that the Madras Gardeners' Corps—to which I referred in these notes on February 23, has left India for Mesopotamia. The corps is under the command of Captain Kirwan, who has as his assistant Lieutenant Fraser; and before it left Madras it was inspected at Government House by Lord Pentland, Governor of Madras and President of the Madras War Fund. His lordship told the members that they were going to do valuable service for their brothers who were fighting in the field. That, I think, cannot be doubted. The speaker might have added that the gardeners would also do yeoman service for the people of Irak Arabi, or Lower Mesopotamia, if they showed them new methods of cultivation and introduced new varieties of vegetables into the country. But doubtless that prospect would appeal far less to the hearts of the gardeners than the idea of benefiting their own countrymen.

***

The *Englishman* reports that there is a "fan famine" in Calcutta, owing to shipments having been delayed; and the city and its suburbs are clamouring for fans. I am sorry for them, but what interests me most in the *Englishman's* announcement is the report that of 1,500 ceiling fans ordered for the military establishments in Mesopotamia "only about 150 could be scraped up in Calcutta." That is bad news, indeed, for the hot weather is just about setting in in earnest along the lower Tigris and Euphrates, and a 90 per cent. shortage of fans will mean a terrible increase of discomfort for our men during the next six months. Again, we know from Sir Arthur Lawley's letter to the Red Cross headquarters that a Hun submarine had sunk a ship that was taking out a good deal of the ice-making plant that had been ordered for military hospitals in Mesopotamia. Our forces in that region are certainly having their share of ill-luck in being done out of their comforts.

***

Omdurman, I am glad to observe, is shortly to have the boon of shade trees in its principal streets. Just what a blessing this will be sure to prove to all who have to pass along those streets in the hot hours of the day and in the hot season can only be fully appreciated by those who have stepped into the shade of trees after a spell in the grilling heat of the Oriental sun. Perhaps the glare of the sun is even worse than the heat; and the green of a tree is always a pleasant sight for sun-strained eyes to rest upon. So Omdurman may well congratulate itself on the coming change, which is really an "improvement," and one on which the local municipal authorities are to be unreservedly congratulated.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A GLORIOUS TRAMP.*

To plan a journey on foot, and without any European companion, from Samsun, on the Black Sea, to Tarsus and Mersina, on the Mediterranean, argues no small share of originality; to carry it through successfully, and to add to it side-trips to Konia, Zeitun, Aleppo and Alexandretta requires other enviable characteristics. Mr. Childs planned the journey and carried it out, and in this goodly volume, with its singularly attractive pictures, he enables us to share many of the pleasures of his tramp, without having to endure any of its inconveniences and risks. Half-way through his book he tells us, incidentally, how he regarded the journey:—

Every morning I set out with keen anticipation of what was to follow: each evening I looked forward with pleasure to the next day upon the unknown ways of an ancient land. There was ever speculation as to what might be behind the next hill, what behind the next mountain ridge, and beyond each succeeding turn or dip of road seemed to lurk endless possibilities of scene and incident and adventure. . . .

And, again, we find him writing, in more subjective vein, of his feelings in the region of the Cilician Gates:—

The spirit of an immeasurable antiquity seemed to pervade the scene, an influence making known its presence and nature, and yet subtle as the diffusion of reflected light. This indefinable surviving influence—as one likes to think it is—may be perceived wherever men have lived throughout long ages with stirring and striving of mind and body, with strong hopes and fears, with vivid consciousness of success and failure. For millions who had passed this way the Gates marked definite exit or entry; they came in anticipation, with dangerous purpose before them, or a sense of safety happily reached; they had fears and hopes, and left, by long succession, a subtle impress of their feelings. At least, if one can hold some such theory of the long dead past influencing present scenes, one travels in old lands with added pleasure.

Is the last sentence a mere sop to the matter-of-fact man who hates subtlety? At any rate, it gives us an insight into our author's character, and makes us value his company the more highly; and, moreover, it conveys a truth.

Mr. Childs, however, is no mere dreamer. He has an excellent memory for the Past, and gives us the benefit of it frequently, but he is not blind to the Present or the Future either. His interest in the associations of the Cilician Gates does not debar him from studying the construction of the great Baghdad Railway; on first coming across that much-boomed road, he shows a very clear consciousness of being "a British tribesman with a bird's-eye view of subtle hostile operations contrived by German tribes for the undoing of my own"; and, later, when a newly-recruited Arab soldier takes a liberty with him, he shows himself at once no dreamer, but a man of very prompt action. He is, in short, a delightful travelling companion, and if, now and then, he seems to be somewhat too particular in the matter of his cooking, we can readily forgive him that nice failing; for he takes us along a fascinating road and introduces us to not a few pleasant acquaintances. Quite often, too, he calls our attention to points we had not noticed when we travelled in those parts by ourselves. As, for example, this strange fact about caravan camels:—

Camels travel tied head and tail, from saddle to head-stall, in sevens or eights. The halters of horsehair rope are of great strength, but in the coupling between each pair of animals a link is provided, breakable by slight strain. You may see a camel suddenly fling his head into the air and snap this link, the wisp of wool by which his halter is tied to the saddle of the next in front. That is as it should be, what the weak link is for, and the camel-man comes back presently and restores the lashing. You are told that, had nothing given way, the beast would have gone mad, and begun to plunge and scream, and set the whole group doing likewise, with broken legs and necks as the result. But the irksome tether broken, the beast is satisfied at once, and goes forward without faltering in his lurching stride.

At several points of his journey the author was the guest of American missionaries, and he tells us much that is interesting concerning them and their work. Like almost all other travellers, he realises that the hospital is, and must be, the most effective factor in any mission's work in this land, and his admiration of the American surgeons and nurses at Marsivan and other centres is very sincere and very well earned. All this notwithstanding, it seems that the American Missions are sometimes very badly imposed on by those they benefit. At Marsivan, for instance, Armenian students actually ran a revolutionary printing press in the mission compound, and on another occasion they sheltered Armenian revolutionaries in the college, secreting and feeding them all unknown to the College authorities!

Of all the places visited and described by the author, Amasia makes the strongest appeal to us. It is, he tells us, "called the most romantic and picturesque city in Asia Minor"; and both his descriptions and his photographs offer strong testimony in support of the claim thus advanced. We are ready to accept the prophecy: "When better conditions exist in Asia Minor, and railways and good roads make journeying easy, foreign visitors will come to Amasia in numbers and declare that in wonder of situation, combined with haunting charm, they have never seen anything quite its equal." Sivas, on the other hand, a place of which we have heard much lately, and are likely to hear more in the near future, appears to be a dull and unattractive city, with nothing handsome about it save the old Seljukian buildings. It is pleasant, by the way, to find Mr. Childs frequently paying well-deserved compliments to the architects and builders of the Seljuk period, whose work is often not appreciated as it should be.

From Injesu, south of Kaisariyeh, the author turned aside for a short trip into "the land of the cave-dwellers." The two chapters in which he describes his experiences in this extraordinary region are by no means the least interesting in the book; yet we must confess that we read them with but little pleasure, for the troglodytes and their dwellings fail to arouse our enthusiasm, though they stir our wonder; and we should certainly have shared the aversion that Mr. Childs confesses he felt to examining the remote interior of the underground dwellings without trustworthy companions. The region, indeed, appears to be not unlike one of those fantastic countries of the imagination that Sir Rider Haggard and Mr. H. G. Wells are—or used to be—fond of describing.

We would fain write more concerning this delightful book, and gladly would we reproduce some of the quaint stories, shrewd comments, and interesting information with which it is packed so full. But space forbids, and we can only mention briefly one or two points more. The subject of the Baghdad Railway crops up frequently, as one would expect, especially in the latter half of the book; and what the author has to say regarding it should be read by all who are interested in the great project—of which we have not yet heard the last, in all probability. Of the various races that are to be found in this oft-conquered region, the author tells us many things of interest, and writes with much sympathy upon the whole. Of Greeks and Armenians we hear more than of the other folk, perhaps, and some of it is pleasant; of Kurds and Circassians there is little that is pleasant; but of the Turks what we read is, upon the whole, not unfavourable, the Turkish peasant especially coming in for a good deal of friendly praise. "All the varied inhabitants of Northern Anatolia," the author tells us, quite early in the book, "live in expectancy of Russian annexation, an event which each race sees from a different point of view." Such annexation he himself appears to regard as inevitable. It may be probably is; and doubtless it will make for stability and progress. But one has an uneasy feeling that it will result in the destruction of much that is picturesque and attractive in the land as it is.

We are grateful to Mr. Childs for giving us one of the most fascinating books of travel that we have read for many a long day. He had a glorious tramp, and in this book he enables us to share in its pleasures, his descriptions and his photographs being alike admirable.

* "Across Asia Minor on Foot." By W. J. Childs. (Blackwood and Son. 15s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The New Map of Africa. By Herbert Adams Gibbons. (New York: The Century Co. $2.00 net.)

Bulletin of the Imperial Institute. Vol. XIV. No. 4. October-December, 1916. (John Murray. 2s. 6d. net.)

Miss Haroun-al-Raschid. By Jessie Douglas Kerruish. (Hodder and Stoughton. 5s. net.)

Glory of Youth. By Temple Bailey. (Richmond. 6s.)

The Journal of the Manchester Geographical Society. Parts I.-IV., 1916. (Sherratt and Hughes.)

Our Cairo "season" contemporary, *The Sphinx*, with its issue of March 31 suspends publication for the summer months. Next winter the journal enters on the twenty-fifth year of its existence. We are glad to learn that in spite of adverse circumstances our confrère has had a successful season, and records an increasing circulation.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. May.	1917. April.		1335 Rejeb.	5677. Iyar.
4	21	Friday	12	12
5	22	Saturday	13	13
6	23	Sunday	14	14
7	24	Monday	15	15
8	25	Tuesday	16	16
9	26	Wednesday	17	17
10	27	Thursday	18	18

To-day is the birthday of Princess Catherine of Greece, third daughter and sixth child of King Constantine and his consort.

To-morrow is the birthday of Queen Milena of Montenegro, who was born at Cevo in 1847.

Prince Paul Karageorgevitch of Serbia has arrived in London.

Lady D'Abernon has left Esher Place for Italy, and will be absent some months.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling left London on Tuesday for the Continent.

Madame Take Jonescu returned to London from the country last week.

M. Pierre Plamenatz, formerly Minister for Foreign Affairs for Montenegro, arrived in London from Paris last week.

Lady Murray, wife of General Sir Archibald Murray, Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, was one of the ladies who received Queen Alexandra on her Majesty's visit to the offices of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund. Lady Murray is a vice-president of the fund.

According to the *Lokalanzeiger*, Mr. Bonar Law's second son was captured by the Turks in the recent fighting in Palestine, says a Reuter's message from Amsterdam.

M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Prime Minister, has left Jassy for Petrograd.

The bust of the late Earl Kitchener, by Mr. Richard Belt, presented by the sculptor to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund, is now in his studio in London. It has been cast by the famous founder, Barbedienne, of Paris. The bust will stand on a pedestal cut from an oak raised from the bed of the River Mokaha, in Russia.

In view of the letter of thanks which Sir Stanley Maude wrote to the committee of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, and which was published on Tuesday, it is explained that Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund only filled requisitions from Mesopotamia until the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund had been thoroughly organised.

Among recent gifts received by the London Committee of the French Red Cross, 9, Knightsbridge, S.W.1, of which the French Ambassador is President d'Honneur, are £1,000 from Lady Ralli, making £7,362 given by her and by Sir Lucas Ralli.

Prince Dolgoroukoff, the general in command of the Roumanian front, lately visited Dr. Elsie Inglis's Hospital at Reni to confer the medal of St. George, for bravery, on two of the wounded soldiers. Afterwards he asked to see all the staff of the hospital, and when they had assembled he gave the medal of St. George to each, with the exception of Dr. Laird, who received the Service Medal. She joined the unit after the retreat in the Dobruja, and has not yet had the experience of working under fire.

Our Khartoum Correspondent writes on April 7:—

The annual sports were held at the Gordon College on April 5. There was a full programme, and events followed one another in swift succession. At the end of the sports the prizes were given away by Mrs. Stack, who was presented by the head boy with embroidery in the native style, made in Omdurman. A large number of the residents were present.

Colonel Hilaire, the Governor of Wadai, arrived at el Obeid on the 6th, and inspected in Khartoum on the 8th. He will stay a few days there, and then continue his journey to France, *viâ* Cairo. It is not unlikely that many French officers may find this route shorter and more convenient than the western road through Nigeria. From Abesha to el Fasher is a journey of some twelve days, thence to Nahud is ten days, from there to el Obeid is four or five days, and then the traveller can get the train and reach Khartoum in thirty-eight hours. Thus it is possible to go from Abesha to France in six weeks. The journey westward takes nearer three months, so that there is a very emphatic saving.

Major W. T. C. Hibbert arrived in Khartoum from Mongalla Province and proceeded North for change of air.

Mr. C. H. Thomson has arrived in Khartoum for the Arabic and law examinations. Another competitor is Mr. E. G. Coryton, from el Obeid.

It is anticipated that the Acting Governor-General will proceed with Mrs. Stack and his staff to Erkowit at the beginning of May.

The marriage arranged between Captain H. A. B. Johnson, Cavalry, Indian Army, only son of Brigadier-General Sir Henry Johnson, Bt., of 60, Lexham Gardens, Kensington, W., and Dorothy Nora, younger daughter of Mr. Martyn Cecil Gurney, C.M.G., M.V.O., H.B.M., Consul-General at Marseilles, and Mrs. Gurney, of Beauplan, Mazargues, Bouches-du-Rhône, and Château St. Laurent, Nice, will take place, very shortly, in Egypt.

The will, dated October 23, 1907, with codicils of April 11, 1908, May 28, 1909, and December 31, 1915, of Evelyn, first Earl of Cromer, O.M., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., of 36, Wimpole Street, W., British Agent and Consul-General in Egypt from 1883-1907, who died on January 29, in his 76th year, has been proved by his nephew, Lord Revelstoke, the value of the estate being £117,608, with net personalty £116,670. The testator bequeathed to his wife £1,000 and the income from £10,000; to the executor £500; to his wife's maid an annuity of £25; to his butler an annuity of £40, to be continued to his wife should she survive him. All stocks, shares, and securities are left as to two-thirds to his eldest son, Lord Errington, he bringing into account £34,000 already settled on him, and the remaining one-third for his son, the Hon. Windham Baring. The residue of the property goes to the eldest son. Lord Cromer also directed that the funds passing to him under the will of his father, the late Mr. Henry Baring, are to follow the trusts of his first marriage settlement.

Mr. Joseph Trewby, of Langford Lodge, New Park Road, Brixton Hill, late Deputy Chairman of the Ottoman Railway and Chancellor of the Ottoman Embassy, London, who died on March 26, in his eighty-first year, left estate of the value of £47,310.

The offices of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund have been removed from Church House, Westminster, to 110, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Major Robert Mervyn Richardson, late 14th Hussars, of Offley Holes, Hitchin, who saw much service in Egypt and South Africa, left property of the gross value of £44,585.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Captain N. A. G. Quicke, Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and Captain B. Biggar, Royal Army Medical Corps, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service officers with the rank of Bimbashi and posted, the first to the 2nd Battalion and the second to the Medical Corps.

Kaimakam Lord Bey, of the Sudan Government Railways, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

The *Gazette* announces that Major W. A. Kenny is placed on the half-pay list, and is continued in the service of the Egyptian Government (February 13).

Bimbashi H. B. Sayer, R.E., has been appointed Deputy-Assistant-Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sudan Government.

The appointment of Miralai R. M. Fielden Bey, Governor of Bahr el Gazal as Civil Secretary, has now been officially confirmed with effect from April 1, 1917.

Mr. V. R. Woodland, 1st Inspector White Nile province, has been transferred to Kordofan province as Senior Inspector, to replace Mr. E. N. Corbyn, appointed Assistant Civil Secretary. Mr. Woodland has in turn been succeeded by Mr. E. W. Drummond Hay, 1st Inspector Berber province.

Bimbashi A. Wyllie, 11th Sudanese, has been transferred to the Eastern Arab Corps.

Captain R. P. Mahaffy, Devonshire Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer. He has been promoted to the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

Captain E. C. Mylne, Northamptonshire Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and has been attached to the 10th Sudanese for duty.

Bimbashi T. A. Nicholas, Bimbashi P. G. W. Maynard, Bimbashi E. D. Bally, and Bimbashi R. S. Hart, Sudan Government, have been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

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OBITUARY.

SIR MARC ARMAND RUFFER, C.M.G.

A Reuter's message announces the death of Sir Marc Armand Ruffer. He was at the time on his way back to Egypt from Salonika, where he had been assisting in the organisation of the medical and sanitary service of the Greek Provisional Government's forces.

Sir Armand was President of the International Quarantine Board at Alexandria for many years, and had done invaluable work in that position, especially in regard to sanitary measures in connection with the Hajj. He was knighted last year in recognition of his services.

He was a son of the late Baron Alphonse Jacques de Ruffer, was born in 1859, and was educated at Oxford (Brasenose) and University College, London. He was formerly Director of the British Institute of Preventive Medicine, Professor of Bacteriology at the Cairo Medical School, and a member of the Indian Plague Commission.

Referring to his work in Egypt, the *Times* says:—"Sir Armand Ruffer showed great tact in the management of the International Quarantine Board. Owing to its efforts, and especially those of its President, Egypt has been immune from cholera of recent years, while the whole of the Eastern Mediterranean has on several occasions been infected by the disease. Sir Armand Ruffer, besides being an able administrator and something of a diplomatist, was also a great bacteriological expert, and there are probably few authorities with greater knowledge of cholera and kindred diseases and of the best method of combating them.

"He attended a number of international conferences at Paris and elsewhere as representative of the Egyptian Government, and his European reputation gave much weight to any opinions and recommendations that he put forward.

"Sir Armand Ruffer performed most useful work in connection with the Red Cross in Egypt, and was chief of the Red Cross administration in Alexandria, where an enormous number of wounded have passed through during the last year, and especially immediately after the landing at Gallipoli."

He held the Grand Cross of the Order of the Mejidieh, and was a Commander of the Order of the Redeemer (Greece), of St. Anne of Russia, and of the Cross of Italy.

MR. ALPIN ALEXANDER RAMSAY.

News has been received in this country of the death in Constantinople of Mr. Alpin Alexander Ramsay. Mr. Ramsay, who was the son of the late Mr. Alexander Ramsay, well known in Constantinople engineering circles half a century ago, had for many years held a responsible position in the Régie Ottoman des Tabacs, and was much esteemed and respected in business circles. He had a very strong sense of duty in things both great and small, and though his health had been far from robust during the last few years, he never failed to attend at his office. As his name implies, Mr. Ramsay was a thorough Scotsman, with the reserve and tenacity characteristic of his race. A man of striking merits, enjoying the respect of the British community in Constantinople, he will be missed by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Ramsay leaves a widow and five children, three daughters and two sons, the eldest of whom, Lieutenant F. R. E. Ramsay, left England a few days ago for the front.

The death occurred on Monday, at Cheltenham, of Colonel Charles Cooch, M.V.O., late H.M. Body Guard, in his 88th year. He served during the Crimean War, and was made town major in Sevastopol for his services during the siege and final assault. He was awarded the Crimean, Sardinian, and Turkish medals, and was nominated Knight of the Imperial Order of the Légion d'Honneur and the Mejidieh.

Lieut.-Colonel John Willoughby Scott, D.S.O., Somerset Light Infantry, who was killed on April 23, was born at Ramleh, Egypt, in 1879, and was the youngest son of the late Sir John Scott, K.C.M.G., former Judicial Adviser, Egypt, and of Lady Scott, 17, Cowley Street, Westminster, and the only surviving brother of Mr. Leslie Scott, K.C., M.P. Educated at Rugby, he entered Woolwich in 1895, and passed into the Royal Artillery in 1897. He served in the Boer war, receiving both the Queen's and the King's medals, and being mentioned in despatches. In 1908 he retired from the Army as captain, and, after being called to the Bar at the Inner Temple, joined the Northern Circuit in 1912, and by August, 1914, had begun to make substantial progress in his new profession. When war broke out he was captain in the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, and he went to the front with that regiment in September, 1914, being promoted major during the autumn. He was gazetted temporary lieutenant colonel in the Somerset Light Infantry in January, 1916, and in July of the same year he was wounded and was invalided home. He returned to the front in September, 1916. Since the outbreak of the war he had been twice mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the D.S.O. on January 1, 1917. In January, 1916, he married Madeline, eldest daughter of Canon Worsley, Canon of Peterborough and Vicar of Evenley, Northamptonshire.

Madame Devitch, the sister of Mr. Cheddo Miyatovitch, for many years Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James's, died in London last Friday. She was buried on Tuesday, the first part of the funeral service being held at St. Saviour's Church, St. George's Square, Pimlico. Father Nicolas and Father Safrome officiated. The principal mourner was M. Miyatovitch, and among others present were the Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch, the personnel of the Legation, representatives from the Serbian Relief Fund, and members of the colony. The interment took place in West Norwood Cemetery.

The death is announced of Captain Leo L. Ralli, A.S.C., the younger son of Sir L. Ralli, Bart. He was born in London, 1884, and educated at Eton, and New College, Oxford. He joined Sir Edward Ward's staff at Scotland House at the beginning of the war, and worked there at the organizing of the special constabulary. He subsequently became Sir Edward Ward's private secretary, a post he relinquished to join the A.S.C. His work during the last six months was in Paris, when an affection of the kidneys, from which he had suffered from childhood, had become acute, and he had to go to the South of France in search of rest and warmth. It was, however, too late, and, after an illness of three weeks, he succumbed on April 20.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATHS.

RALLI.—On April 22, at 351, West End Avenue, New York. after a short illness, Julia, aged twenty-eight, daughter of the late Anthony P. Ralli.

RALLI.—Died abroad, after a short illness, Captain Leo L. Ralli, A.S.C., beloved younger son of Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli. of 2, Park Street, W., in his thirty-third year.

RAMSAY.—At Constantinople, on March 29, 1917, Alpin Alexander Ramsay. Deeply regretted.

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FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1917.

KING CONSTANTINE AND THE ALLIES.

King Constantine of Greece is not the only Sovereign who has summoned to his aid forces that have ultimately proved too strong for him; but few have cut such a sorry figure in challenging fate. Apart from the brief interlude of the early days of last December when he and his army had the satisfaction of killing some Allied bluejackets and taking vengeance on political opponents among their own countrymen, there has been little of the heroic in the attitude which, under his direction, the Greek Government has maintained since M. Venizelos was excluded from office. Frequent changes in the Premiership have testified to the increasing embarrassment in which the Athens Administration found itself; and the pressure exerted by the Allies, though fitful, together with the standing reproof of the Salonika Government, has prevented either the King or his Ministers from posing for any length of time as successful statesmen upholding the national dignity. Such glory as King Constantine may consider that he has won for himself will have had to be concealed within the precincts of the Athens Palace, where German agents and Greek officers trained in Germany have formed an appreciative audience, and the questionings of democratic Greece have been unable to penetrate. But the fallacy of the King's reasoning has found him out. Instead of remembering that he existed for the Greek people, he imagined that the Greek people existed for him; his own predilections were allowed to determine the policy of the country, with the result that he has been in conflict not only with the Allies, but with his own subjects as well. An honourable neutrality for Greece was just possible; but it would have been difficult, in view of the fact that she had deliberately allied herself with Serbia. At the outbreak of the war, however, it was recognized that she could serve the alliance best by remaining out of the struggle and by keeping a watchful eye on Bulgaria. When Bulgaria attacked Serbia, Greece could still argue that she was not prepared for war, and that no help that she could give was likely to affect the scale against the combined strength of Bulgaria and the Central Powers. Her alliance with the Serbians at least compelled a friendly candour in the negotiations. But it was King Constantine who decided that Greece should act otherwise. He proved deliberately false to his pledge to Serbia both before Bulgaria declared war and when the Serbian Government appealed for aid. From that time not only has he maintained a double attitude in his dealings with the Entente Powers, but he has also been guilty of the betrayal of his country, by surrendering troops, territory and war material to its hereditary enemy, and by dividing the nation into hostile camps.

At one time we were ready to admit that King Constantine's path had been rendered difficult by the equivocal action of the Allied Governments. If his intentions had been honourable, that stage would soon have been passed. He elected, however, to adopt a policy of treachery, and in spite of the amazing forbearance of the Allies has persisted in it until the present time. Telegrams sent from Athens during the past week declare that the Palace continues to be a rendezvous for German officers, among them von Falkenhausen, the former German Military Attaché, who has been returning regularly through the neutral zone and has been as regularly received at the Palace. One of the objects of these visits, it is stated, is to supply the Greek Reservists' League with funds from Germany, and it is impossible that King Constantine should not be privy to what is taking place. On more than one occasion an undertaking to disband the Reservists' societies has been given by the King and his Government. They have not been disbanded, but have become more active than ever. They are now reported to be patrolling the streets of Athens, especially after dark, and to be in possession of arms and ammunition. In Thessaly and Epirus their activities have taken a more serious phase. They have attacked and massacred a French patrol, and the extent of their movements points to a widespread organization inspired by, if not actually under the orders of, the Athens Government. The situation in Greece as a whole appears to be as dangerous as it was when Admiral du Fournet made his ill-starred march upon Athens, and found the Greek army waiting to attack him. If the weakness then shown by the Allies is to be repeated, we may expect the same regrettable results.

Public opinion in the Entente countries is unable to find any justification or excuse for the policy hitherto adopted by the respective Governments. The doctrine propounded by a member of the British Government that there can be no question of a British or a French policy, but that individual opinion must be sacrificed to the harmony of the Alliance as a whole, has hitherto found expression, as far as Greece is concerned, in a policy at variance with common sense, the interests of the Allies and the principles for which they are fighting. Various explanations of the anomalous state of affairs have been advanced—all of them derogatory to the prestige of the Entente Governments and to the reputations of their responsible heads. It was hoped that the Rome Conference had cleared the way for sane action in Greece; but the situation has continued to be mishandled, and is admittedly becoming worse. Within the last two weeks, however, the British Prime Minister has met the heads of the French and Italian Governments in the Savoy and has now left for a second conference on the Continent. The elimination of autocracy from Russia has disposed of the theory that the unreasoning support given to King Constantine could be traced to Petrograd. The participation in the war of the United States, and President Wilson's pronouncement that the fight is for democracy against autocracy, have thrown a somewhat sinister light on the methods adopted by the Allied Governments to help Greece's autocratic and militarist King in his quarrel with the man who enjoys the support of the majority of the Greek nation. A policy of detachment would at least have allowed the issue in Greece to be decided by the people themselves; but the Allies' action has had the effect of bolstering up King Constantine and enabling him to defy the expressed will of the country. Little wonder if the Governments responsible have shrunk from the glare of the American searchlight on this peculiar feature of their joint diplomacy. To the majority of Britons we believe it to have brought a keen sense of disgust to find that, in spite of the change of Government, the blunders of the old regime, which were based on profound ignorance of the Near East and its peoples, have been perpetuated. There can be no doubt that Greek opinion is overwhelmingly opposed to King Constantine's policy, and that the bulk of those who are capable of appreciating the situation realize that he has shown personal traits during this war which unfit him for a position of trust and responsibility. It is not suggested that the Allies should cap their former mistakes by deposing King Constantine. They have only to stand aside to allow the leaven of constitutionalism to do its own work; but in order that the balance may start equal, they must make sure that their past action does not give an initial advantage to the forces of autocracy and reaction.

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A NEW SITUATION IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA.

By H. CHARLES WOODS.

Events which have taken place in, or connected with, the Balkan Peninsula since the outbreak of hostilities may be divided into three phases. The first covered the entry of Turkey into the war and extended until, or almost until, Bulgaria threw in her lot upon the side of the enemy. During this period, had not the Allies ignored the all-preponderating importance of the Near East, diplomacy might, perhaps, have prevented Turkey from joining the Central Powers. Moreover, had this been impossible, if the requisite negotiations had been inaugurated at the right time and in the right way it would almost certainly have been feasible to secure the neutrality, if not the actual support, of Bulgaria, and thus to neutralise the effect of any policy adopted by the Ottoman Government.

The second phase lasted from the moment when it became impossible to achieve this object, that is from the time immediately preceding the rupture with Bulgaria until the advent of events which may be said to have begun to develop during the closing days of last year. During that time, the Central Powers having won a diplomatic victory, the temporary importance of which it is difficult to exaggerate, there was little if anything which could be done by the Allies except to await a moment when diplomacy might once more be employed either alone or in conjunction with military action. Though the actual advent of that moment was not at first clear, and though it is, therefore, difficult to define what constitutes the precise beginning of the third phase in Balkan war history, it is now perfectly clear that the various Notes which have passed between the Allies and President Wilson, the Russian Revolution and the entry of America into the war swept away many of the obstacles in the way of a settlement of the Balkan question, and that they have led up to and created a situation in which the ground may once more be favourable for a campaign based upon strategic diplomacy of a kind which would not have been conceivable under former conditions.

In order to understand the present Balkan position and to realise what might be done to alter it, we must of necessity go back to events which preceded and immediately followed the wars of 1912 and 1913. In the former year, as a result of negotiations which had been in progress for some time, the Balkan Alliance was formed. That Alliance depended largely upon a treaty, or more correctly upon a series of treaties, between Serbia and Bulgaria. The most important of these was the document and a then secret annexe signed early in March. This annexe defined the manner in which any territorial gains acquired by combined action were to be repartitioned. Subsequently (May, 1912), Bulgaria and Greece arrived at a defensive alliance, and just before the outbreak of the war concluded a Military Convention, neither of which agreements contained any definite stipulations as to the future division of territories. On the strength of these agreements the first Balkan war was fought.

Early in the year 1913, and before the conclusion of that war, Serbia and Greece came to a secret understanding at Salonika. On the initiative of the latter country, it is now well known, it was agreed that the Greeks would raise no objection to the Serbian retention of Monastir, allotted to Bulgaria by the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty of 1912, provided the Government of Belgrade were willing to sanction the incorporation of Salonika in the Hellenic Kingdom. This arrangement was followed by a more formal Græco-Serbian Treaty, made during the early months of that year—a treaty which, to say the least of it, was in part the cause of the second war.

That war, commonly accepted as having been actually begun by Bulgaria, was terminated by the fatal Treaty of Bucharest, which unfortunately won praise even in now Allied countries. That treaty was arranged with the idea of maintaining an equilibrium in the Balkans and of preventing the advent of a fancied Bulgarian hegemony—a hegemony which would never have been possible—for, including the Serbs and Roumanes of the Dual Monarchy, the Serbians and Roumanians would always be more numerous than all the Bulgarians of Bulgaria and Macedonia put together. But instead of achieving the object for which it was intended the Treaty of Bucharest, favoured as it was by Germany and other events which took place about the same time, led not to a settlement but merely to a holding in suspense of the numerous Near Eastern questions which had already been the means of shaking the European Concert to its very foundation. In short, these events created a situation in which it was certain that the losses then suffered by Bulgaria would lead her to seize the first opportunity to try to regain her coveted territory, perhaps in Thrace, but certainly in Macedonia, either by peaceful negotiation or by war.

The existence of this situation—the rivalry between Serbia, Greece and Roumania on the one hand and Bulgaria on the other, and particularly the bad relations between Serbia and Bulgaria and between Serbia and Austria—left the way open for and rendered possible the present war. So far as Serbia was concerned, as no satisfactory settlement of many of the important questions for which the Balkan wars were fought was arrived at, the real source of danger lay in the impossibility of the development of the national aspirations of the people, and of an advance towards the Adriatic, without a conflict with the strongest of their enemies—Austria. Instead of considering this danger and of preparing to meet it by endeavouring to improve its relations with Bulgaria, the Serbian Government, relying upon the support of Autocratic Russia and upon its Treaty with Royalist Greece, closed its eyes until too late to the necessity of making the concessions required to secure the support of a State which could attack the Serbian rear at any moment. Bulgaria, on the other hand, who had every reason to distrust the Government of the Romanoffs, was in a position which rendered it certain that she would not throw in her lot with any side or countries which did not insist upon some form of compensation for the way in which she was treated immediately prior to and after the second Balkan war.

This was the key to the situation which existed up to the entry of Bulgaria into the war. Tardily, and when the time had all but passed, the Allies no doubt entered into negotiations with the object of securing concessions from her neighbours—concessions which at one moment would have won the neutrality, if not the active support, of Bulgaria. But no Balkan statesman, be he Serbian, Greek, Roumanian or Bulgarian, can or will make sacrifices, however advantageous to his country, until he finds himself compelled to do so. Equally, no Balkan Government can or will accept less than it demands, until the *necessity* for the adoption of such a course arises. It was largely because this fundamental condition of things was not realised, or because no steps were taken to meet it by the Allies, and particularly because the negotiations were placed in the hands of the then Russian Government, which was distrusted in Bulgaria, that those negotiations failed, and that Germany secured an Ally whose army and territory, the latter constituting the one and only bridge between Berlin and the East, have been invaluable to her.

From a local standpoint the diplomatic situation is practically the same to-day as it was early in October, 1915. But looking at the question from the larger or international side, the position has been changed by the three events or by the results of the three series of events to which I have already referred. Thus in replying to the German Peace Note of December last, the Allies declared that their war aims included the reorganisation of Europe guaranteed by a stable regime and based on respect for nationalities. President Wilson, in addressing Congress, said that the Americans were but one of the champions of the rights of mankind, and that they would be satisfied when those rights were as secure as fact and the freedom of the seas can make them. M. Miliukoff and M. Karensky have pronounced themselves to be in favour of the principle of nationalities. It is these changes and these declarations which may make

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the present a favourable moment for a reversal of Allied policy in the Balkans—a reversal, perhaps, destined to detach Bulgaria, and consequently sooner or later Turkey, from their alliance with the Central Powers.

Bulgaria has conquered from her neighbours, and especially from Serbia, the districts which she claimed (in some cases much more than she claimed), but she knows as well as we do that the future ownership of Macedonia depends not so much upon its present occupation as upon the distribution of territory sooner or later to be decided upon by the Allies. The Allies on their part have declared themselves in favour of the principle of nationalities. If this declaration is to be adhered to, and we must presume that it will be adhered to honestly, it means, whenever the time comes, that the peoples of Europe, including the Bulgarians, are destined to get what they deserve and to be allotted to the Governments to which they belong. The only questions to be decided are, therefore, the true nationality of the peoples inhabiting doubtful or disputed areas, and the proper moment for the taking of diplomatic or other measures necessary to arrive at and to enforce the results of such a decision.

In the case of Macedonia, and particularly so far as it concerns Serbia and Bulgaria, there are three ways in which the question of nationality can be solved—according to language, by taking a plebiscite, or upon the basis of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty. If the first of these means were chosen the necessary measures would have to be taken to ascertain the areas of Macedonia in which the forms of speech particular to Bulgarians or Serbians are employed. Upon this question the information given by "Balcanicus" in his Serbian book, "The Aspirations of Bulgaria," is most important, for he admits the post-position of the article in the Macedonian dialect. Though the author endeavours to explain away this fact, his evidence is conclusive, for Bulgarian is the only Slav language in which the article is post fixed.

In theory the taking of a plebiscite would be a satisfactory manner of arriving at a solution of the question. But to enable the people to vote freely, a plebiscite could only be conducted under the direct auspices of the Allies, or better still under the control of the American Government. In such circumstances it is certain that the Serbians would lose heavily. Indeed, if proof of this contention be required, it can be found in the various concessions made by the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid and his predecessors to the Bulgarian Exarchate; for the Turks have never admitted the jurisdiction of any Church in areas in which its members did not constitute an overwhelming majority of the population.

The third and last suggestion for a solution of the Macedonian question, therefore, seems to be the one by far the simplest and fairest of adoption. It is the simplest because the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty and its annex of 1912 were arranged by the two contracting parties, without foreign interference, only five years ago, and when the question was looming not in the distance, but at a moment when a redistribution of territory was actually foreseen. To take that agreement as the basis for, though not necessarily the actual text of, a future arrangement would be the fairest settlement of the problem, for it allots to Bulgaria far less than she would have got from the Treaty of San Stefano. Moreover, for the reasons already given, the Serbians would certainly secure from it a settlement much more favourable to them than any which could result upon the language basis or follow the taking of a plebiscite under the conditions which I have indicated.

There are questions connected with the future ownership of parts of Greece and of Roumania now occupied by Bulgaria. In regard to those areas annexed to Greece after the wars of 1912 and 1913, measures would have to be taken to safeguard the prestige and, so far as possible, to secure the consent of M. Venizelos. But in this connection it must always be remembered that the Great Man of Modern Greece was at one time in favour of the concessions necessary to secure the support of Bulgaria, and that since his unconstitutional removal from office the Greek Government, in opposition to the wishes of the Allies, has voluntarily sacrificed large tracts of country to Bulgaria. The delimitation of the Roumano-Bulgarian frontier of the Dobruja would be more difficult, but here again we have as a guide the arrangement made between the two countries themselves by the Protocol of Petrograd signed in May, 1913—an arrangement which might in its turn constitute the basis of an agreement destined to secure a lasting understanding between the parties concerned.

The position of the Allies is perfectly clear. There can be no bargaining with their enemies at the unjustifiable expense of their smaller friends or of statesmen who have loyally supported their aims. But as they have taken their stand upon the principle of nationalities, and as that principle must obviously be the same to-day and after the war, it may conceivably be possible to listen to overtures enabling Bulgaria and consequently Turkey now to detach themselves from their alliances with Germany and Austria. The successful termination of overtures of that kind would mean for us a *coup* the diplomatic and military advantages of which it would be impossible to over-estimate. On the other side, the favourable termination of such negotiations would secure the termination of a war in which the Bulgarians have suffered heavily, and from which they have nothing to gain. Moreover, the moment is so favourable that it is probably unique in the history of a people one of whose outstanding characteristics is materialism. Indeed, Bulgaria always having lived on the most cordial terms with America and having no disagreement with the new Russian Government, the present is a time in which the Government of Sofia may well consider it desirable to take stock of the position before the advent of forces at present unforeseen—forces which might well prevent it from securing all that it really deserves after the war.

As a man who endeavoured to explain the interests and the merits of the Serbians during the period which followed the terrible events of 1903—a period in which it was almost impossible to get a hearing for a good word about a people whose merits have always been apparent to those who knew them—I know that I have made suggestions which if realised would entail a considerable concession by a race who have fought bravely for the Allied cause. But Serbia is one of the Allies, and her future prosperity depends upon, and her primary interest must, therefore, be bound up with, an Allied rather than a local Serbian or Balkan victory. She can play her part not only upon the field of battle, but in the arena of diplomacy. By agreeing voluntarily to allow Bulgaria to retain certain areas of Macedonia now occupied by her, Serbia would be making a temporary sacrifice. Such a sacrifice, difficult as it might be, would be less bitter now than were it later on to be forced upon her, by the promised redistribution of territory upon a nationality basis at a moment when the time had already passed for compensation in the establishment of a favourable position for the Southern Slavs as a whole.

NEW EMIR OF KOWEIT.

A Cairo correspondent writes on April 3:—The last mail from Busreh brought news of the succession to the Emirate of Koweit of his Highness Sheikh Salem Aal Sabah, the second son of the late Sheikh Mubarak, following the recent death of his elder brother, the late Sheikh Jaber. The ceremony of *Mubaya'at*—akin to the feudal ceremony of swearing of allegiance—was performed by the leading sheikhs and tribal chieftains in the presence of his highness Sheikh Khaz'al Khan, Emir of Mohammerah, and the delegate of Emir Abdul Aziz Aal Saoud, the Emir of Nejd, as well as of a deputation sent by General Maude to tender his condolences to the new Emir on the bereavement he had just sustained in the loss of his elder brother, and his congratulations on his succession to the Emirate.

The new Emir of Koweit is in his forty-fifth year, and already during the rule of his father he had established for himself a reputation for prowess in the battlefield and for coolness of judgment in critical moments. During his brother's tenure of the Emirate he held the command of the Koweit army. He is tall and full-limbed, and his dark eyes express intelligence and decision. He embodies the traditional qualities of the great Arab ruler, being a patron of poets and taking particular pleasure in the company of men of letters. He is especially fond of Arabian history, and spends much time in the study of works on this subject.

Arrangements have been made for British postal orders to be paid at the British Army Post Office at Salonika when presented by civilians.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Kinship of Jews and Arabs.

Under the above title, *Palestine* (April 28) publishes an interesting article. The writer begins by saying:—

The spirit of the times points towards the reconstitution of nationalities, that is, towards the creation of such political conditions as will enable individuals belonging to one and the same nation to unite freely their efforts for the realisation of their common aspirations and ideals. The carrying out of this general nationalist programme will, it is hoped, greatly reduce the future possibilities of such conflicts as the one which is at present devastating the world. It cannot be doubted, however, that the maintenance of peace will only very inadequately be ensured if the reunion of individuals and communities within their respective nationalities is not supplemented by the simultaneous establishment of relations of tolerance, of goodwill, and of friendly collaboration between the various national groups in their turn. It is obvious that such relations can most easily and most permanently be established between nations which geographically are close neighbours, and which at the same time are united by bonds of common origin and by similar traditions and parallel economic interests. Amongst the nations which satisfy these requirements none is more conspicuously marked out for future collaboration to the profit of humanity as a whole than the two foremost families of the Semitic race, the Jews and the Arabs.

Jews and Arabs alike, the writer goes on to say, have their descent from Abraham; and he proceeds to show how many customs and characteristics they had (and still have) in common. The article concludes:—

So we see that both the Hebrew and the Arab peoples owed their birth as a nation to the appearance of a great principle strong enough to gather round its banner the scattered tribes, and to weld them suddenly into mighty social organisms. Why should not history repeat itself in this matter as it does in many other matters less deserving? Why may not both the Jews and the Arabs re-assemble each their scattered tribes under their own honoured banner, and take up again their own national life each in their own national home, the Jews in Palestine, and the Arabs in Arabia, each nation according to its own ideals and aspirations, but both together in peaceful and friendly collaboration for their own advantage and for the advantage of the whole civilised world?

On the Salonika Front.

Pressure on our space has prevented us from referring earlier to an extremely interesting article in the April *Blackwood*. It is entitled "The End of a Long Pause," and its author, "H. R. W.," appears to be an officer till recently serving on the Salonika front. He tells us many quaint things regarding life under war conditions in that region; and we feel now and then, with the author, that the field would have afforded magnificent scope to W. S. Gilbert. For instance, certain Greek "guards" at a bridge "received a firm request to retire with obvious relief," and "went off without the slightest idea where any of their comrades were, and probably buried their uniforms and went back to civil life." But the writer has a good word to say for the other type of Greek soldier:—

For the justification of the nobler portions of the Greek Army, that much-tried but potentially gallant force, let it be said here that no army in the world—not Napoleon's Old Guard, let its discipline and courage be what it may—could have maintained its *morale* untarnished after the corrupt, chaotic, and callous ordeal through which it had had to pass. Many times I have sympathised with the Greek Army of Macedonia, especially its officers, loyally standing by their miserable monarch, and refusing to follow the primrose path of dalliance with their allegiance, yet who knew they were fulfilling a shameful, farcical, and useless rôle, when often enough their real sentiments would have sent them flying at the throats of their hereditary foes. I have seen a Greek officer, with tears in his eyes, deplore his nationality, and a man's heart must be almost broken before he can do that.

And here is another picture, less cheerful, but typical of the chronic state of lack of security in the Balkans. The writer had just had the task—painful and unpleasant—of clearing out a village which had been sheltering many refugees. As he was preparing to leave, "a very old gentleman appeared out of a farm driving his donkey before him. He waved to me cheerily and said," Finnish, Johnny," and that seemed to sum it up.

That is war in the Balkans, an accepted endemic evil to be cheerfully endured and made the best of. Some of these people I had just driven out had come all the way from the shores of the Black Sea in a series of enforced migrations, each time seeing their little store dissipated, their hard toil wasted, their little preparations ruined, their little enterprises failures. "They shall flee and take to the mountains." Yet some people wonder why Macedonia is not a flourishing land. I hope with all my heart that one day these poor folk will come back to repeople A——, that there will be again a cheerful hum around their threshing-floors, and that they will grow old in prosperity and learn to laugh over their last "three hours' notice."

A Separate Peace for Bulgaria.

The *Gazette de Lausanne* of April 4 contained an article by Maurice Muret, in which he discussed the influence of the Russian Revolution on "Mitteleuropa." He devoted special attention to Bulgaria, as may be seen from the following extracts from his article:—

The Russophil and pacifist overtures of the Bulgarian Prime Minister spring from the necessity of retaining the goodwill of the nation; but while Count Czernin's flattery will have no success with the new *régime* in Russia, it is not quite certain that Radoslavoff's appeal will not rouse an echo of sympathy in Russia. So far as we understand, negotiations to this effect have already begun, unless we are misinformed, in our own country, in Switzerland.

In the meantime, on October 12, 1915, Mons. Viviani solemnly declared that the Allies had decided to uphold the Treaty of Bucharest to the advantage of Serbia, Roumania, and Greece. It is open to doubt whether that Treaty was at the time a masterpiece of policy, but the behaviour of the Bulgars during the war should render a revision of the Treaty of Bucharest in their favour inconceivable. Thus the pledges of Mons. Viviani remain in full force. And no man could understand why the Allies should not keep those pledges. The success of the Berlin-Baghdad plan depends upon many things, but in the first place upon a Bulgarian hegemony in the Balkans. A separate peace with the Bulgars, a peace which would virtually bestow that hegemony upon the Germans, would be a fatal mistake on the part of the Allies. Everything leads us to understand that the new Russian Government is quite alive to all this, and that it will pay no attention to either the intrigues of Radoslavoff or the overtures of Count Czernin.

Arabs of the Tigris.

In its issue of April 30 the *Liverpool Daily Post* gave a sketch of Arab manners and customs, in an article headed "Tribes on the Tigris." This famous stream, says the writer, "is a river of great tribal confederations, immigrants from the deserts of the Arabian peninsula. Names that ring through the heroic legends of Arabia—Bani Tamin, Bani Rabi'ah—are to be found among them, and historical record confirms their claim to such high ancestry." He continues:

No structural alteration in the nature of their social organisation differentiates them from the Bedouin of to-day, but their long sojourn in the Irak has been productive of outward changes. They have become cultivators, or they take toll from the cultivation of smaller tribes, some of whom may represent an earlier stratum of population, while some are sections detached from other large Mesopotamian units. They have been affected by local religious influences, and have turned from the Sunni tenets of the desert to the Shia's creed, which centres in Nejef and Kerbellah. Physically they have profited by ampler conditions of living, and the powerful, big-boned type common among them contrasts with the hungry slenderness of the Bedouin. But if they have gained in worldly prosperity they have lost in honour. Their brothers of the wilderness will neither give their daughters in marriage to the Irak tribes nor take wives from among them. They are "Ma'dan," a loose denomination which applies generically to the social level below that of the speaker.

Life on the Bosphorus.

The April number of the *Badminton Magazine* contains a pleasant article on "The Bosphorus," by "A Naval Officer," who, by the way, provides his own illustrations—and remarkably good ones they are, too! Here is a typical passage, which follows the mention of Candilli, a village on the Asiatic side of the great waterway:—

This was a favourite place of residence for those of the English community who were not of the diplomatic circle, and who had made very delightful homes in old Turkish-built wooden houses, with gardens behind them, the Bosphorus at their doorstep, and most of the luxuries of life within their walls. The exterior aspect of a residence on the Bosphorus is no index whatever to the status or circumstances of its occupants. Nearly everyone lives in wooden houses, most of them warped, decayed, and unpainted. But it is one of those Oriental surprises to discover how extensive a suite of spacious and luxurious apartments may lie behind the most unpromising frontage. People who would keep a pair-horse brougham or a 20 h.p. motor in other countries keep their private caique with two or three rowers, and, in place of a coach-house or garage, the houses that border the water are constructed with a boathouse in the basement, like some of the Venetian houses. Moreover, the decay and dilapidation one meets with in nearly everything Turkish is, by some miracle, missing altogether in the caique of the Bosphorus, in which the limit of Oriental luxury is manifested.

M. Venizelos and His Sovereign.

Professor Nicholas Eumorfopoulos contributes to the *Pall Mall Gazette* (April 27) an article, "A New Greece," with the sub-title, "Will King Constantine be Deposed?" The writer holds that the dynastic question in Greece has been greatly modified by the disappearance of the Tsar, and adds that "Constantine is again attempting the game of reconciliation between himself and Venizelos." He goes on to say:

Apparently there are still responsible people in Athens who believe that a policy of reconciliation between Constantine and the Nationalist Leader is possible. No such attempts on the part of the murderer of the British and French soldiers and sailors should be tolerated for a single moment. Constantine has in no way changed his predilections or opinions, and his co-operation with Venizelos is absolutely impossible.

We must remember that Venizelos has not hitherto given an anti-dynastic character to his movement, because the Entente

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Powers insisted that he should not do so. It is, perhaps, to be presumed that since the Tsar has disappeared from the realm of political consideration, the Greek statesman will be given a free hand. Indeed, he should be empowered to deal with the whole situation in Greece as he may think fit, and all so-called "neutral zones" should be abolished.

Professor Eumorfopoulos holds that King Constantine's conduct has set the Entente Powers free to repudiate any past agreement with him, and regards the creation of a Greek Republic as the only solution to the problem. He concludes his article:

M. Venizelos has long dreamed of a Confederation of Republics in the Balkan Peninsula, and the deposition of Constantine will bring it a step nearer realisation. The fact that the New Russian abjures all claim to Constantinople renders the solution of the Balkan question easier, if the idea is taken up as a definite aim on the part of the Entente. Constantinople would be the capital of the Balkan Confederation.

The Armenian Tragedy.

Mr. Lewis Einstein, who was till recently attached to the staff of the United States Embassy at Constantinople, and whose name is familiar to many of our readers, contributes to the April *Contemporary Review* a weighty article on "The Armenian Massacres." Very early he chronicles a curious fact:—

To the Western mind a massacre presupposes a prior condition of hatred so intense as to cause men to forget their normal restraints. In no other way is it explicable. There have never been wanting apologists who, while deprecating excesses, professed to understand the occasional outrages of the Turk, indignant at being exploited by the more economically developed Armenian. But though the Armenian is more developed, such a conclusion by no means follows. There is no evidence to indicate the existence at any time in Turkey of any widespread hatred or resentment. On the contrary, abundant testimony from the interior of Asia Minor shows that never had there been less fanaticism than in the period immediately preceding the massacres. Armenians and Turks were everywhere living side by side, usually on the best of terms.

The massacres were due to the Government, and "in the Orient," says Mr. Einstein, "in spite of the new Parliamentary veneer, Governmental ideas are not unlike what they were in Europe centuries ago, in the days of the massacres of the Albigenses, or even when St. Bartholomew was a policy of statecraft." The Young Turk leaders "had been bred in Macedonian adversity. They had seen the principle of nationality run riot over that distracted province, and had been the great losers in its name. . . . The new Turkish nationalism, built up in the dress of Europe, but with the spirit of Asia, was to prove far more ruthless than Hamidianism." There was, too, a question of revenge for the alacrity with which the Armenians had, so to say, thrown in their lot with Russia. Talaat, says Mr. Einstein, attributed the disasters that befel the Turks at Sarikamish, in Azerbaijan, and at Van to Armenian volunteers. And the native Press and Turkish officials sedulously spread tales of Armenian outrages on Moslems. As to the responsibility for the massacres, we read:

Talaat stands out as the directing power in this policy. From him emanated the vast organisation, the details of execution, the oral and written instructions. But though the major guilt is his, though it is impossible for those who saw him during all those terrible months not to realise that he was himself in monstrous sympathy with the policy of extermination, yet he shared this fully with the other members of the Committee, Doctor Nazim and those who worked in the dark and held the leash over Talaat as he held it over Turkey—for his position was by no means so omnipotent or secure as many believed abroad, nor was the policy one so universally endorsed.

Of Germany's share in the ghastly business we find Mr. Einstein in agreement with most other writers on the subject:—

The Germans have declared that their efforts herein were powerless, and that the Turks would not listen. It is altogether likely that to justify these statements the German Government will one day publish copies of its notes and memoranda on the subject, notes of a kind which those who have had experience in Oriental diplomacy appreciate at their true value, but which may satisfy their own people. The guilt was deeper, and, under the plea of not interfering with the internal affairs of an ally, nothing effective was done. That the German Embassy inspired the policy of deportation, as many Turks believed, is unlikely, though it was carried out under the plea of military necessity, and the military direction was theirs. But that German officials were well aware of what the deportations meant, and with nervous apprehension refused to take effective steps to stop the massacres, is certain. . . . The German official view was to obtain from Turkey the fullest possible assistance she could render, and to do nothing which could in any way impair this. Such assistance had already exceeded all expectations, and the success of the Ambassador's efforts was great enough to cause his admirers to discern in him the next Chancellor. But the price paid for this assistance included the blood of some six hundred thousand murdered Armenians.

Turkey's Fear of the Allies.

In an earlier part of Mr. Einstein's article a curious light is thrown upon the deterrent effect exercised upon the Turkish hotheads by France and Great Britain, even after war had broken out between Turkey and the Allies. The delay in the massacres after all things were ready for their perpetration is accounted for in the first of the following paragraphs; the second paragraph explains how the respite came to an end:—

Turkey, who had been ready to stake her all against Russia, was by no means so eager for war with England and France. Months after the rupture arms had not been measured. The fear of the English Navy was immense. The expedition against Suez had ended in disaster. The Persian Gulf and Busreh were lost. An entire army had perished in the Caucasus. The prestige of the Committee was then at its lowest ebb. Turkey, left to her own devices, with the burden of an unpopular war, with an unpopular and unrepresentative Government, face to face with seething discontent within, an uncertain Bulgaria threatening from the North, and the menace of Russia, was in no condition to enforce any such wholesale policy of murder as the Committee had in mind. When in February, 1915, the Allied Fleet battered down the ancient walls of Seddulbahr, a semi-panic seized the capital, and every preparation was made for transferring the seat of government to the interior of Anatolia. Even the Embassies of the Central Powers had selected their residences at Eski Shehir. The Turkish treasure and archives had been despatched, and at Haidar Pasha, on the Asiatic side, trains were in readiness for instant departure. It seemed at the time only a question of hours before the British Fleet would sail up the Marmara.

Then came March the eighteenth. The attack, half driven home, ceased with the loss of three battleships. They were old and of slight value, save for the lives of gallant sailors. But the historical test of great occasions is rarely measured in terms of men or of material. One great overwhelming fact impressed itself on the Turkish mind in such a way as to form a basis for all future reasoning. The Allied Fleet had failed to force its way through the Dardanelles, the Straits were impregnable, therefore they could do what they liked. The tragedy of the sinister policy was contained in this deduction, for "what they liked" meant the extermination of the Armenians.

THE ADVANCE IN PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Before Gaza, April.

I had quite a good time in the recent "scrap-victory," as they call it. It was a battle of movement in the good old style. Our cavalry advanced at a gallop, well peppered with shrapnel over a beautiful rolling open country, in the Eastern sunset glow. Our troops had various serio-comic adventures, but I fear the Censor would hardly approve of my describing them. Suffice it to say that we all got back to camp in safety, and are now sitting down before the town where Samson pushed the pillars over, and within a long day's ride of Jerusalem. The whole country is covered with grass and fields of barley, while the wild flowers are a glorious sight—acres of yellow, white and blue, reminding one of Surrey meadows in June. We are now encamped by the sea, and I managed a dip, drying off afterwards on the beach. It was just splendid to feel clean again, as I had not had my clothes off for four days.

MOSLEM LEADERS AND GREAT BRITAIN.

The British authorities have received cordial letters from the Mujtahids (religious leaders) of Kerbellah and Nejef, and the following telegram has been addressed to the King by one of the principal Mujtahids of Kerbellah:—

"I and all the spiritual leaders of Islam here offer your Majesty our heartfelt congratulations on the capture of Baghdad, Dar-es-Salaam (the City of Peace)."

His Majesty has been pleased to reply as follows:—

"I have received with pleasure your congratulations on the brilliant achievements of my troops, whose victorious arms will assure the security of your famous shrines. My earnest desire is for the wellbeing of Irak (Babylonia) and its people, the preservation of its holy places, and the restoration of its ancient prosperity."

The Postmaster-General announces that a mail from the Salonika Force, despatched on April 8, and probably containing five days' correspondence for the United Kingdom, has been lost at sea through enemy action, also mails for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, containing correspondence (but not parcels) for that Force, which reached London for despatch on March 31, April 1, 7 and 8.

The transmission of merchandise by letter post to Russia and Northern Persia is strictly prohibited, the Postmaster-General intimates. Packets which contravene this prohibition will be stopped and may be confiscated.

A Vienna telegram reports the arrival there on Tuesday of Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Grand Vizier and Minister of Finance, on his way back from Munich.

The Anglo-Hellenic League learns that the island of Ithaca is the latest to join the movement of National Defence, and its adherence is notified in a telegram of confidence addressed to M. Venizelos by Dr. Collyvas in the name of the united inhabitants.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

My readers will recall that some time ago THE NEAR EAST discussed the amazing attitude which British firms of exporters have adopted towards the postal "cash-on-delivery" system. Hitherto, most of the complaints have come to us from Egypt, but one has just reached me from Cyprus. Some months ago a reader of THE NEAR EAST recommended to a firm in Nicosia a Glasgow firm of shippers, and an order—the value of which was about £11—went forward with the request that the goods should be sent by the parcels post cash-on-delivery service. Back came the reply, "*On receipt of a remittance* we will forward the goods by *passenger train*." The clerk on the banks of the Clyde apparently did not realise that Cyprus is an island, and at least forty miles from the mainland! It is really difficult to understand how the railway journey could have been accomplished.

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In the result the man who recommended the firm had to send to England his own cheque because the Nicosia traders had no representatives in the United Kingdom, and several weeks of delay ensued. "I am quite unable" (he wrote when sending the cheque) "to perceive why you did not despatch the goods on receipt of order by parcels post, *cash on delivery*. You would have received your money by return mail, and it would have reached you a fortnight ago. Local merchants, with no representatives in England, have a good deal of difficulty in transmitting money to England, and had I not intervened you might have lost the order altogether." Have Scottish firms so great a connection abroad that orders may literally be "thrown away"?

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Another question is raised in the same case. The correspondent who sends me the facts writes:—"The Cyprus firm asked them to send the goods 'C.O.D.,' but the reply was, 'per passenger train.' The Cyprus firm then tried to get a bank draft, but the *commission was outrageous*! For many years the Cyprus firm have dealt exclusively, when possible, with British people. King George's words, 'Wake up, England!' are as needful as ever." I agree with my correspondent: the sooner the causes for these complaints are removed the better it will be for British trade. That seems commonplace, but in the face of such crude methods what can be said, indeed?

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Greek trading firms, I learn, continue to look to the United States for supplies which the war has cut off from the Continent of Europe and Great Britain. I observe in an American official report that a Consular officer in Greece has reported to the Washington Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce that a firm is in the market for woollen, cotton, silk, satin, and linen dress goods of all kinds; roller and spring blinds, window curtains of all kinds, silk and cotton for curtains, and other furnishings, "Wilton" rugs, plush table-covers, piqué bed-covers, etc. In this pretty comprehensive list are articles for which, in normal circumstances, no American house could compete with British firms of standing. Must trade of this sort be lost because we are at war? The answer to the question is worth looking for I think.

British manufacturers must not imagine that trade will wait for them. As a matter of fact a considerable bulk of that which belonged to Germany has passed beyond, and Continental firms are increasingly looking to the United States for their supplies, as the following, taken from a similar document, will serve to show:—"A firm desires to secure an agency for the sale of chemicals and drugs, such as aspirin, antipirine, benzoic acid, acetone, aniline colours, aniline arseniate, betel leaves, benzonaphthol, benzoates, bromide of potassium, pure bromide, chloroform, carbonate of guaiacol, cocaine, hydrochlorate and muriate, fluoric acid, heliotropine, camphor oil, mercurial preparations, naphthol, menthol, opium, iodine, iodate of potash, oxide of bismuth, iodoform, ipecac, urnate, etc. Quotations should be made c.i.f. destination. Correspondence may be in *English*. References." It is a warning.

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Russian economic writers, as is perhaps only natural, are paying earnest attention to the trading possibilities of Persia just now. I have just read an interesting summary of an article in the Russian *Official Gazette*, in which M. G. J. Ter-Gusakoff discusses the question at considerable length and in somewhat frank terms. He concludes that the success of the development of Russian trading relations with Persia should stimulate Russians now to further progress, particularly because "the present moment is very critical." He observes that although at present 63 per cent. of the trading balance falls to Russia, the position may alter, because, besides England, there is a systematic and insistent penetration into the Persian market by Germany. This danger, he writes, ought to impel Russia to pay more attention to Persia and to turn to new and practical ways. Roads and transport, he believes, are keys to the question. The first do not correspond to the requirements of the trade, and transport is very expensive.

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Banking is another of the keys. He insists that Russian credit establishments should be given the same wide rights as are possessed by the British banks of issuing notes in the country. "If," he writes, "twenty-five years ago, when Russian trade was less important than English, the grant by the Persian Government of the concession to issue bank notes was not of moment to Russian trade, it is so now when the Russo-Persian trade amounts to 63 per cent. of the entire volume of foreign trade and English to 22 per cent. only." M. Ter-Gusakoff discusses other matters, of more political than commercial interest, but he expresses the belief that "Russia is fated to play in Persia the rôle of pacifier and bearer of civilisation." I believe that this bold pronouncement is open to considerable qualification; nevertheless, the Russian point of view of Russia's future in the territory is worth remembering. There will be many problems for the Allies to settle between themselves after the war, but they are facing so much in the way of common sacrifice now that they are not likely to quarrel seriously then.

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Djavid Bey is a young Turkish genius! So at least we learn from Dr. L. Stein, a Hun genius, who surveys in the *Vossische Zeitung* a speech delivered by the Turkish Minister in the Chamber. Stein tells us that Djavid has cleared away the fog that brooded over Ottoman finance and has revealed its abysses with the unsparing hand of a true reformer. When Turkey joined the Central Powers (we are told) the cupboard was bare—£T.1,212,000 in the Imperial Ottoman Bank represented the whole of its available credit. Djavid procured financial assistance from Germany and Austria, Germany coming forward with a loan of £T.142,000,000, while another for 240,000,000 kronen was floated in Austria. Turkey's total indebtedness was then as follows:—War debt, £T.180,000,000; pre-war debt, £T.150,000,000; a grand total of £T.330,000,000. At 6 per cent., the debt charged on this amounted to 20,000,000 in Turkish pounds. To meet this expenditure Turkey's pre-war receipts averaged £T.30,000,000 per annum; for the years immediately after the war Djavid estimated them at £T.26,000,000 to £T.27,000,000. In other words, genius was wanted to grapple with the uncertain future.

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Is Djavid Bey the genius which his brother Hun declares him to be, however? By his fruits ye shall know them; and from all accounts the fruits of Djavid's financial operations are suspicion and distrust among his own brethren. It was not so long ago that we were told that in Constantinople two one-pound notes were about the equivalent of a pound in gold, and we all recall the lament of Djavid Bey himself that the people were so stupid that they declined to believe his promises of German sympathy and assistance. The fact is, that the Turks have never had much use for paper money, and their experience since their leaders plunged them into the vortex of disaster has converted their suspicion into absolute unbelief. Djavid Bey's enraptured claim that Turkish paper money is of such value that it is regarded as good collateral security by the Deutsche Bank does not deceive the Turkish people and is not likely to bluff us.

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A new edition has been published of Dr. Preyer's book, "Egypt and India." An added chapter thereto is entitled "World Power Twilight," and, after reading it, one is impelled to ask, whose? The author apparently wrote this twaddle before certain events had transpired on the Western front, in Palestine, and in Mesopotamia, else how are we to account for the following conclusions:—(1) British supremacy on the Nile will no longer be what it has been; (2) Egypt's Eastern frontier is in a precarious condition; (3) Egypt's fate will be settled by Turkey in union with her Central European Allies; (4) France is played out; and so on. I am only concerned here with the economic side of this business, and, frankly, the Herr Doctor does not convince me. Admitting that the Allies are confronted with the very acute submarine problem, what then? Taken at its worst it might delay the end of the war; we shall have increasing difficulty in feeding our people, and scarcity of luxuries may, indeed, develop into actual privation. All that, however, in face of the great determination of the Entente to fight until it has won, will not give Germany the victory. It will only delay her defeat.

COMMENTATOR

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Egypt's Resources Increased by War Conditions.

The Financial Adviser's Estimate of an Addition of Thirty Millions Sterling.

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

The Financial Adviser's Note on the Budget this year is signed by Mr. Ronald Lindsay, who is acting for Lord Edward Cecil during the latter's absence in England on leave. The Note, which has just been published, is somewhat shorter than usual, but at the same time it is more precise on various points than its predecessors.

It is pointed out that the statement in last year's note to the effect that "the economic and financial conditions of Egypt must continue to be subject to vicissitudes during the war and probably for some time after it" has in no wise been disproved by the course of events during the past year, when the fortunes of the country took another unexpected development, which albeit it may have been a favourable one belongs nevertheless to "the category of the abnormal and fortuitous effects of the world-wide struggle which is taking place."

The extraordinary impulse given to the price of cotton by the demand for war purposes—a demand which has caused the crop to realise more than £40,000,000 or double the value of the preceding one—and the continued presence in the country of a large British force, drawing in every conceivable manner on local resources for its requirements, have been the two predominant factors in the extraordinary prosperity which Egypt has enjoyed during the past year, and they have combined to add greatly to the financial strength of the country as a whole. This increase in financial resources is susceptible of approximate measurement and from various calculations the Adviser arrives at the figure of £E30,000,000 as the total additions to Egypt's capital resources since the commencement of the war.

Some Problems—Raw Materials.

For the time being the difficulty of obtaining materials is preventing any fresh development of the country's economic resources being undertaken as a result of this considerable accession of wealth, and this difficulty is actually bringing about a tendency to retrogression by delaying very necessary up-keep work. It is, however, very satisfactory to note that these adventitious profits are being devoted to the repayment of debts abroad and to the relief of an overcharged financial situation.

The Acting Adviser refers to the previous occasion when Egypt had a similar sudden and unexpected increase in her wealth, and to the disastrous consequences which resulted from the wave of speculation which it brought about amongst the people, and he expresses a hope that "the country has learned from the past a lesson of prudence which will prevent the recurrence of such misfortunes when circumstances allow of the expenditure of the capital now accumulating." To this hope everyone will certainly subscribe, but it should be pointed out that the elements responsible for this wave of speculation still exist in the country, and that an avoidance of its recurrence will entirely depend on the attitude adopted by the local financial and credit establishments.

General Improvement.

The improvement in the general situation of the country is evident from the import statistics, which have increased enormously during the past year, thereby demonstrating the recovery in the purchasing power of the people. The Adviser points out that this development must not be assumed to indicate lavish expenditure on the part of the public, seeing that although the value has increased, the actual quantities have fallen off very considerably.

This is clearly seen from the figures quoted, which show that on the basis of the prices ruling in 1913 imports have risen by 69 per cent. and exports by 45 per cent. in value. Allowance made for the all-round increase in prices and for the commodities imported for the special needs of the military forces, however, he considers that "the amount of the imports gives no cause for uneasiness," and he hopes that "the reflection that the country is thus profiting from the terrible conflict which is convulsing the world may well exercise a restraining influence on any tendency to waste those profits on extravagant living."

Nevertheless, those of us who have been watching events have remarked that there is in certain circles, especially amongst those who have made profits in one way or another out of the war, a decided tendency to luxurious living, and there is certainly room for retrenchment in this respect.

Attention is drawn to the need for protection from the dangers of a high flood, which was emphasised during the past year, when the measures that had to be taken "made it apparent how great will be the advantage of the control of the river which it is expected to obtain from the works now under consideration in the Sudan."

Supplies.

Some idea of the exceedingly fortunate circumstances under which the country has dwelt during the past two and a half years is afforded by the statement, firstly, that, although Egypt has always been dependent on flour imports to supplement the home production of cereals and meet local requirements, and although such imports have dropped to practically nil, no serious shortage is anticipated until the forthcoming harvest, and future supplies will carry the country on to the spring of 1917; and secondly that the general level of wholesale prices of commodities produced in the country, as compared with July, has only risen by about 32 per cent., of which half was during the past year.

A warning is delivered that "if the war continues the diminution of the productive power of other countries will become more marked, and it may become necessary for Egypt to assist the Allied cause by contributing from her comparative abundance, even though to do so may entail on her further sacrifices." Considering what benefits Egypt has derived from the war, there should be no objection to the rendering of such assistance, within certain limits, though for more reasons than one it is sincerely to be hoped that it will not be necessary.

The Profiteers.

A well-merited, though mild, rebuke is administered to the element which, for its own interests, has been calling for control of prices of breadstuffs, and the impracticability of such a measure in a country like Egypt is clearly shown. Indeed, in regard to supplies, the country appears to be exceedingly well off, and both the avoidance of scarcity and the maintenance of relatively low prices, accompanied by the removal of the restrictions imposed in the early days of the war, whilst they are eloquent of the great resources of the country, at the same time speak volumes for the manner in which the situation has been watched throughout by the responsible authorities.

As the Adviser says, strict economy will have to be observed in the consumption of food as in other matters, but provided the same able supervision is continued in the future there is in the present situation little cause for real anxiety.

Notes and Currency.

The note issue, which, under the regime of forced currency, has replaced gold as the circulating medium, has continued to expand. Whilst the amount in the hands of the public in January, 1915, was £E7,751,000 and in January, 1916, was £E11,455,000, in November last it had risen to £E20,807,000. This was of course due to the rise in the price of cotton, but the remarkable feature in the situation is that during the spring and summer, when the needs for currency diminished, the contraction was very slight, showing that "the notes so retained represent the profits of the people from their crops and are hoarded in the same manner as gold was hoarded before."

The Adviser very rightly points out that this substitution of notes for gold in the hoards of the people is a distinct economic gain for the country, since the capital they represent is being usefully employed by the State; and he adds that it is to be hoped that after the war the process will be voluntarily continued.

It is to be feared, however, that the people will never give up their predilection for holding wealth in the form of gold. Indeed, there are signs that that tendency is as strong as ever. Premiums are actually being offered in the bazaars for bullion for gold ornaments, whilst the returns of the Assay Office show that during the six months from September 1, 1916, it hoarded gold ornaments amounting to no less than £E760,000,000, most of which represented newly manufactured articles.

As Mr. Lindsay remarks, "there can be no doubt that had gold been more freely obtainable, this popular form of hoarding would have been practised to an even greater extent." Notes have only been issued in response to the legitimate demands of trade and their equivalent has been automatically deposited in the form of liquid security in London.

The exchange with London has been maintained at or close to par., thus showing that there has been no inflation.

In regard to the reserve against the note issue the Acting Adviser points out that until last September the statutory minimum of one-half reserve in gold was maintained, but that in view of the expected expansion last winter and of the inexpediency of causing further withdrawals from the reserves of the Bank of England the National Bank was authorised to keep a lower proportion in gold.

The gold holding at present is £E5,500,000 against an issue of £E20,000,000, the balance being represented by British and Egyptian Treasury Bills and other first-class securities.

Last autumn a new coinage was introduced, and the opportunity was taken to make certain minor improvements in the existing monetary system, the status of the British sovereign and of the 20-fr. piece being definitely regularised, certain coins being abolished and others altered in size and composition. The committee which recommended these alterations also discussed the old question whether the British sovereign, which is the real gold basis of the Egyptian currency, and the legal equivalent of which is at present 97½ piastres, should be made equivalent to 100 piastres. The committee, however, concurred with the opinion of the Monetary Reform Commission, which had considered the question in 1885, and had recommended "that the advantages of the reform did not appear sufficient to justify the considerable temporary inconvenience and confusion which would attend its introduction." It was therefore decided not to alter the existing monetary standard.

Public Finances.

Turning to the public revenues, the Acting Adviser mentions the fact—already apparent from the periodical analyses of the monthly accounts in The Near East—that, as a result of the improvement in the general economic conditions, the total receipts for 1916-17 will reach a figure never before attained, and that there will be a substantial surplus; but he points out that "this accession of financial strength to the Government, considerable though it may appear, is by no means commensurate with that realised by the country as a whole."

This is due to the fact that under the existing fiscal system the revenues do not participate properly in the increased wealth of the country. The share of the State is limited to what it may derive from Customs and other indirect taxation, from the profits of the State Domains and from the expansion of the paper currency, but there is no means, as has been pointed out in these columns, of tapping the very large increments of profit made by the cultivators out of their cotton and other products or by contractors and traders.

The Future.

The situation after the war cannot be foretold. Both revenue and expenditure have been inflated by the present abnormal conditions, but whilst it is unlikely that they will remain in the near future, especially after the war, at their present high levels, it is highly

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probable that expenditure will not be reducible in the same measure as the revenues will diminish.

Some other means of obtaining further revenue will have to be devised, for it is apparent—in view of the fact mentioned by Mr. Lindsay that the budget for this year was only balanced by the inclusion of balances of certain funds accumulated in past years, i.e., non-recurring items—that the revenue resources of the country as at present organised will not be adequate to permit of the execution of the various projects on which the future welfare of the country depends, or to meet the calls which the imperative extension of elementary and technical education, the administrative reforms attendant on the abolition of the Capitulations, and delayed maintenance works will make upon the Egyptian Exchequer.

Very rightly deprecating any recourse to the Reserve Fund, which, though increased beyond its pre-war figure by the recent surpluses, has certain heavy contingent liabilities chargeable against it, and in any case must be kept as a provision against unknown contingencies of the future, the Acting Adviser foreshadows an enlargement of the basis of taxation and some scheme which will call for "a better adjustment of burdens at the same time as . . . a larger contribution from the tax-payers who have been enriched by the war."

There should be no genuine objection to such a step as that indicated, for the inequality of the present system of taxation, recognised by a few before the war, must to-day be apparent to everyone. A rectification, without being unduly pressing on any element, should guarantee to the Government adequate revenue to enable it to meet all the calls which may be made upon it in the near future. Egypt as a whole will, in all probability, have at the end of the war, as Mr. Lindsay points out, a considerably greater reserve of financial strength than before, and, all things considered, the outlook for the country in general, and for the Government in particular, must be regarded as favourable.

LESSONS FROM HUN METHODS.

The following extract from a pamphlet issued by the Economic Service of the Residence-General in Morocco is published in the journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt, which states that the remarks apply equally to that country.

The success obtained by German importers was chiefly due to the following reasons: (1) the activity of their commercial representatives and local agents, who frequently and regularly visited their customers (native and European); (2) the cheapness of the articles offered (generally of very poor quality), and (3) the favourable conditions of despatch and packing, combined with facilities for payment, including long credits.

German firms endeavoured to persuade their customers that they could give a much more expeditious delivery of goods than their competitors in other countries. As a result of the organisation of the transit of goods and postal parcels, German and Austrian merchandise was, as a matter of fact, delivered speedily and these deliveries compared advantageously with those from other European countries. Freights were generally low, and were automatically diminished by rebates.

With regard to facilities for payment, German business houses would not protest a bill when the customer furnished a sufficient guarantee for its eventual settlement; the minimum interest for deferred payment was at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, whilst the German firm was able to obtain advances from German banks at from 4 to 5 per cent.

Most of the Austro-German houses engaged in the import trade were agents for either German or Austro-Hungarian manufacturers, but, more frequently, for large commission houses located in Hamburg. These shipping houses endeavoured to keep their customers in ignorance of the name of the maker and of the place of manufacture of the goods they sold. Frequently, those articles bore only the label of a commision agent in Hamburg or some other town, who worked in connection with German firms abroad, and it was therefore impossible to tell the name of the manufacturer of the goods. The price was generally an inclusive one for delivery in the roadstead of the port most convenient to the purchaser.

LANCASHIRE COTTON REPORT.

Involved Situation in Egyptian Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

Prices in the market during the past week have tended to harden, but it cannot be said that buyers have been stimulated to place orders on a freer scale. The outlook remains uncertain and both buyers and sellers have been afraid to arrange contracts of weight. Demand from certain of our outlets abroad is undoubtedly looking up. Further developments in connection with the demand of the operative weavers for an advance in wages are expected to take place during the next few days.

Definite arrangements are now being made to deal with the Government restrictions upon the use of wood cases for packing goods. It is understood that the cotton industry will not be affected by the recent changes in the reserved occupations list so far as the Army is concerned.

The Egyptian raw cotton situation is very involved. The selection in Liverpool is very poor and the stock is much smaller than twelve months ago. Without there being any general buying movement in piece goods for Egypt the undercurrent of demand remains healthy. Merchants want to be sure of shipping facilities before committing themselves to lines of weight with manufacturers.

Operations for India have been irregular. Here and there fair lots have changed hands in light fabrics, and some improvement has taken place in the bids for grey shirtings. China, after being rather more active, is now not giving quite so much support. Printing cloths can only be sold at low rates. A fair inquiry has come through in sateens. Grey staples are still doing badly.

Some special contracts have been reported for the French Government. American yarns have been in slightly improved request, but orders have been placed very unevenly. Spinners are quite unable to lift prices on to a more remunerative basis.

Egyptian yarns have been very uncertain. Some mills are finding it increasingly difficult to secure supplies of the raw material. Export yarn business has been generally dull.

MOROCCO TRADE.

The British Consul-General at Tangier has sent to the Board of Trade some interesting statistics, from which we gather that in 1916 the trade of French Moroccan ports underwent a great expansion. Imports rose to 177,578,294 fr., from 144,254,087 fr. in the previous year.

Details of the figures of each port for three years are as follows:—

—	1914. Francs.	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
Rabat	18,940,851	25,981,102	32,361,755
Kenitra	3,965,027	19,412,585	14,001,275
Fedalah	311,616	560,910	195,071
Casablanca	47,007,746	59,844,409	85,366,776
Mazagan	10.976,826	13.080,526	16,592,598
Saffi	11,744,888	11,909,830	12,771,243
Mogador	11,268,246	13,464.725	16,289,576
Total	104,215,200	144,254,087	177,578,294

The principal imports were:—Rabat: Refined sugar, cotton, wool and silk textiles, tea and candles; Casablanca: Building materials, carriages, machinery, sugar, textiles, petroleum and motor spirit, preserves and wine; Mazagan: Sugar, cotton and woollen textiles, provisions and candles; Saffi: Sugar, cotton and woollen textiles, tea, candles and provisions; and Mogador: Sugar, cotton textiles, tea and candles.

Exports, too, largely increased in value, as the following comparative statement will show:—

—	1914. Francs.	1915. Francs.	1916. Francs.
Rabat	1,613,262	1,347,225	3,295,042
Kenitra	49,013	1,102,748	1,118,144
Fedalah	—	805,088	229,099
Casablanca	8,668,021	17.558,905	21.324,556
Mazagan	5,243.008	12,597,793	21 497,738
Saffi	1,706,069	8,793,019	11,905,045
Mogador	4.598.064	6.585,204	8,497,164
Total	21,877,437	48,789.982	67.866,788

The principal exports were:—Rabat: Wool, hides and various seeds; Casablanca: Wheat, barley, hides and wool; Mazagan: Eggs, hides, barley, wheat, various seeds and almonds; Saffi: Barley, wheat, various seeds and hides; and Mogador: Almonds, gums, hides and eggs.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The British Consul at Fez (writes the Board of Trade *Journal*) reports that an agent, who corresponds in French, seeks agencies for United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of the following goods:—Superfine cloth, fine woollen cloths (cashmeres), cottons, teapots, kettles, pails, enamelled ironware, candles, soaps, confectionery, coffee, and tea. In the case of such goods as are at present prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom, it is suggested that negotiations might be entered into now, with a view to making arrangements for trade after the war. The inquirer also desires to get into touch with United Kingdom purchasers of untanned, salted hides and skins (cattle, goat, and sheep), and beeswax, which he would buy on commission. United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of the goods mentioned, and importers of hides, skins, and beeswax, desirous of being represented in Morocco, may obtain the name and address of the inquirer on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education invites tenders for the supply and delivery of clothing materials for the pupils of the Bulac Elementary Training College for Women Teachers—viz., 5,600 metres of flannelette, 8,400 metres of printed calico, 4,800 metres of coloured zephyr, 3,200 metres of veil muslin, 2,400 dozen of white press buttons, and 800 pairs of girls' shoes. Samples may be inspected, and specifications and forms of tender obtained, at the Central Stores, Ministry of Education, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo. Sealed tenders, accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer, will be received at the Central Stores of the Ministry of Education, as above, up to May 24. Local representation is necessary. The Ministry also invites tenders for the supply and delivery of 750 litres of black ink in accordance with sample. A sample of the ink required may be inspected at, and copies of the cahier des charges obtained from, the Central Stores, Darb el Gamamiz, Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received up to May 20. Tenders must be accompanied by a deposit of 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer.

Applications have been recorded by the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade during the past week for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (amongst other) articles. British manufacturers or producers of these articles now in a position to supply are invited to make application for the names of the inquirers—Brushes (tooth, hair and clothes) for Egypt, button (all kinds) for Egypt, fittings for manicure cases in bone and ebony (cheap), machinery for combining thin sheets of tortoiseshell to form thick sheets, machines for cutting-out and sewing fabric gloves, machines for filling quilts by air pressure, machines for making drawing-pins, pebble-grinding mills.

Exports to Greece.

The Director of the War Trade Department announces that all "recommendations" issued by the British Minister at Athens before October 1, 1916, have been cancelled. Exporters who desire to despatch goods under licence to that portion of Greece which is not under blockade, and who do not hold recommendations dated subsequently to October 1, 1916, should instruct their consignees to approach a British Consular Officer or the British Diplomatic Agent at Salonica, with the view of applying for the issue of a new "recommendation." The document will, if approved, be issued by the British Legation at Athens.

Cancelled Black List.

The *London Gazette* announces that all persons or bodies of persons in Porto Rico, in the Philippine Islands, and in the United States of America are by an Order in Council omitted from the Trading With the Enemy statutory list proclamation.

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MANCHESTER AND EGYPT.

Work of the Importers and Exporters' Association.

We take the following from the report, for the year ended February 28, of the Manchester Association of Importers and Exporters :—

The Executive Committee of the Egyptian Section have had many meetings. The freight agreement for the conveyance of fine goods and yarns from Manchester warehouses to Alexandria during the year 1917 was arranged in the last months of 1916. The rate of freight that was finally agreed upon was 75s. per ton of 40 cubic feet, less a rebate of 5s. per ton, making a net rate of 70s. per ton. This was a marked increase on the previous contracts; but considering the unprecedented and uncertain state of freights and shipping it must be conceded this was a fair rate for all concerned.

The members of the section received a notice from the carrying contractors of the Conference Liners intimating increased rental and second handling charges to operate on and after January 1, 1917. This change in the forwarding arrangements was taken up vigorously with the Conference Liners, and it was shown that the limitation of the carting and warehousing services by one contractor, instead of allowing each shipper to employ whatever firm was able to take away the goods, had the effect of blocking their warehouses and restricting their output. It was explained that much of the confusion that had taken place was caused by the Government requisitioning space without notice; but the Conference and their contractors would do all in their power to avoid inconvenience and expense to their shippers.

In response to representations made by the Committee, the Conference wrote to the effect that in view of the hardship to shippers of fine goods under the contract which expired at the end of 1916, in not having a sailing, they decided that any goods in their possession ready for shipment at the end of December would be accepted at the 1916 rate. Unfortunately, no sooner had this letter been received than the collection of cargo was stopped, leading to much confusion, and the Committee is still in communication with the Liners with the view of clearing up the position.

There was some delay in the payment of claims for war risk insurance in connection with the s.s. Sebek, which was torpedoed. The question was taken up with the War Risks Insurance Office, with the result that the payment of the claims was at once expedited.

The Committee had gone into the question of folding and lapping of piece goods, between October, 1912, and November, 1913, and as the Manchester Chamber of Commerce are now taking this up with Government, all the transactions of the Committee, including correspondence with the British Chamber of Commerce in Alexandria, the British Diplomatic Agency in Cairo, and the late Lord Kitchener, were handed over to the Chamber so that they might be embodied in their negotiations.

The risks that shippers are liable to whilst goods are lying at quays awaiting shipment, on a warehouse to warehouse marine policy, are at present having the Executive's attention. Many other matters of minor importance have been dealt with to the satisfaction of all concerned.

BRITISH TRADE CORPORATION.

It is officially announced that the names of the first directors of the British Trade Corporation are :—

Lord Faringdon	Mr. F. Dudley Docker
Mr. F. Huth Jackson	Mr. W. H. V. Goschen
Mr. Arthur Balfour	Mr. J. H. B. Nobel

and Sir J. Hope Simpson.

The nominal capital is £10,000,000, divided into one million shares of £10 each.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that the President of the Board of Trade had undertaken to lay the charter before the House.

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

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Everything in Pure Wool.
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Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
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The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
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Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Flax-Working Machinery.

Owing, evidently, to the high price of flax and linseed the cultivation of flax in the East has been greatly increased this year; farmers are discovering that it is one of the most profitable crops at the present time. According to recent information there is a great demand for flax-scutching and flax-threshing machines, but there is the usual difficulty of finding manufacturers in this country, much to the disappointment of the farmer and the local merchant who, until recently, depended on the visits and services of the German manufacturers' representatives, now, of course, engaged elsewhere. However, some orders have reached the United Kingdom recently, and a firm of flax-working machinery in Ireland is, we hear, exceptionally busy on orders from Egypt, the Ægean Islands, and British East Africa.

Water Power in Russia.

The Russian Ministry of Communications has prepared a Bill, at the request of the Duma, for the notification of centres of water power—waterfalls or stretches of water suitable for supplies of national or public importance. The Duma, apparently, recognises the necessity for the organisation and development of the water-power resources of Russia, and, with this end in view, legislation is to be introduced. The Bill proposes to empower the Government to declare any waterfall or stretch of water capable of being used as a source of water power as being of national importance, and to take possession of such source of power, either for direct Government use, or with a view to granting concessions for its use in industries which it is desirable to foster. Water-power resources are numerous in Southern Russia, a region which is very closely connected with commercial and shipping interests in the Near East.

A Tree Stump Burner.

It is well known that the appalling destruction by fire of forests, olive groves, and other plantations which occurs annually in the East is due more often to the ignorance and carelessness of the native agriculturists than to any other cause. For the rooting up, for instance, of an old tree, the removal of which is needed, after the trunk has been felled all kinds of implements, and often explosives, are used for the extraction or destruction of the stump, over the remains of which, as a rule, a fire is lighted to complete the work of uprooting. During the latter operation a light breeze is often sufficient to set fire to the neighbouring trees, and the result is obvious. A new device, therefore, which has recently been used with success will be of much interest to landowners, as well as to governments which control forests, etc. This is a stump-burner of an ingenious design. The burner is a portable stove, and is placed on a stump, which is then subjected to slow combustion until entirely charred, during which time the heavy oils from the wood are collected. When these operations have been completed on one stump they are repeated on another.

Clearing Facilitated.

The invention is said to be capable of rendering a great service on cleared forest land to be brought under cultivation, as it greatly facilitates clearing, which the laborious rooting-up of the stumps by ordinary means generally makes so expensive. It destroys the stumps to a sufficient depth to allow of ploughing without needing to cut roots or carry out any preparatory soil work. At the same time the process is advantageous from an economic point of view—provided the stumps are thoroughly dry—as it yields products the value of which may entirely cover the cost of extirpation. It is said that an ordinary pine stump, so treated, gave, in addition to excellent quality charcoal, about fifteen gallons of heavy oils.

Cyprus Olive-Stones.

From 2,000 to 3,000 tons of crushed olive-stones, together with all the residue of the olive after pressing, valued at from 18s. to £1 per ton, are exported annually from Cyprus to the Piræus, in Greece, for further crushing and the submission to an acid process, by which some 8 to 10 per cent. additional oil is extracted, which is used in the manufacture of soap, while the residue is used for fuel purposes. In Cyprus the olive crushed stones have been used as food for pigs, as fuel, and often as manure. It is strange, however, why the Cypriotes, who are almost experts in the manufacture of soap, instead of sending away that valuable material, do not utilise it themselves, as it is done at Piræus, and establish a modern soap manufactory in Cyprus, which will find a ready market throughout Asia Minor, Egypt, etc.

Artesian Well-Boring in Egypt.

According to recent information, artesian well boring has lately created a large demand for pumping machinery and pipes from Egypt, and orders have also increased for agricultural tools and appliances. Fortunately, the preoccupation of the Germans has prevented as many of these orders finding their way to Continental makers as usual, and British makers have distinctly benefited. In other lines, too, including tools of all sorts, the demand from Egypt for British workshops has very considerably increased since the war.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Bank of British West Africa has established a branch at Mazagan, Morocco.

An Alexandria telegram, dated April 25, stated that the cottonseed market was still rising on shortage of supplies, and spot was quoted 165p., and May, 160p.

There was a slight decrease in the value of the currants invoiced at Patras, Greece, for the United States during 1916, the total value being £246,428, compared with £262,007 for 1915.

A Budapest telegram states that large areas of the occupied districts of Roumania have been planted with corn and vegetables by Austrian and Hungarian soldiers. Vegetables are already being sent to Vienna.

The authorities have arranged with representatives of the export packing business of London and Manchester that the use of wooden cases for the packing of cotton goods shall be limited to certain of the finer fabrics. This, it is estimated, will effect a saving on wood of 50 per cent.

An interesting book describing the journey across Canada, illustrated with over 100 drawings, has been issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Charing Cross, London, S.W.1. It is supplied free on application to school-teachers and other interested in the Dominion of Canada.

At the last meeting of the council of the London Chamber of Commerce a proposal by the Russian Section that the Chamber should approach the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office, with a view to organising an exhibition of British industries in Russia, preferably in Petrograd or Moscow, after the war, was unanimously approved.

COMPANY MEETING.

Aboukir Company, Ltd.

Mr. Arthur W. Ballance presided at the annual general meeting of the Aboukir Company held on April 30. He said that up to June 27 the manager had reported that the cotton crop promised well, that water was abundant, and the cotton worm, though found everywhere, was not severe. On July 10 they had their first warning that there was a shortage of water in the Mahmoudieh Canal, and the shortage developed. Eventually some water was obtained, but too late to benefit the cotton crop, and owing to the fact that they received what was called flood or "red" water, it was absolutely harmful. If water were not forthcoming at the proper season the crop weakened and flagged, and became the special prey of insect pests. He expressed regret that the report was not better, but the outcome was not so bad as it looked, and there were reasonable grounds for expecting a better result for the current year. According to their reports there was a good Nile this year, and the company ought not to have to suffer again for the bad misfortune of what he would call an inopportune supply of water. They were advised that the Irrigation Departmentment were taking measures to assure a good supply of water for 1917. The enforcement more vigorously of the order for the compulsory burning of all infected bolls before the cotton sticks—where the boll worm deposited its eggs—were uprooted was also a good feature. The fact that land would come under cotton this year that had not had that crop for two years, but had had a change and rest, was also a promising factor in the outlook. Also there was the probability that high prices for cotton might still obtain in the autumn.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd.

The directors announce that in consequence of delays arising from the war in obtaining the necessary returns from foreign stations and Administrations, it will be impossible to present the accounts and balance-sheet duly audited in respect of the year to December 31, 1916, during May, when it has been usual to hold the annual general meeting. The directors, however, having satisfied themselves that the net earnings of the year will be sufficient for the purpose, have decided to make an additional payment to the stockholders on May 15 on the ordinary stock equal to a dividend of 1½ per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., making the distribution for the year 1916 8 per cent. free of income tax, the same rate as was paid for the previous year. The usual distribution at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less income tax, on the preference stock for the first quarter of 1917 will be paid on the same date.

Eastern Extension Telegraph.

The directors of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, announce that in consequence of delays arising from the war in obtaining the necessary returns from foreign stations and Administrations, it will be impossible to present the accounts and balance-sheet duly audited in respect of the year to December 31, 1916, during May, when it has been usual to hold the annual meeting. Having, however, satisfied themselves that the net earnings of the year will be sufficient for the purpose, the directors have decided to make an additional payment to the shareholders, free of income tax, on May 15, of 7s. per share (equal to a dividend of 1½ per cent., and a bonus of 2 per cent.), making the distribution for the year 1916 8 per cent., tax free.

R. OTT AND CO.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(An Anglo-Swiss Firm.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
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PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK
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KHARTOUM.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway Four and a Half per Cent. Bonds.—The coupons and drawn bonds due on April 15 are now being paid at the office of Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, and must be left three clear days for examination.

The Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt gives notice that the debenture interest coupons and also the debenture bonds (drawn for redemption), due May 15, 1917, will be paid on or after that date by the Bankers of the Company, Barclay's Bank, Limited, 54, Lombard Street, E.C.

The directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway have declared a dividend of 2½ per cent. on the common stock for the quarter ended March 31 last (being at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum) from revenue, and 3 per cent. per annum from special income account.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah week, 22 tons (against 23). Hurgada, 2,058 tons (against 1,833).

Baku Russian.—Week ended April 21, 74,500 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended April 22, 62,033 poods (1,001 tons).

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Week ended April 21, 21,795 poods.

British Maikop.—Week ended April 21, 2,307 poods.

Cheleken.—Fortnight ended April 21, (n.s.), 422 tons.

European.—Week ended April 22, 83,000 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Week ended April 21, 15,110 poods

New Schibaieff.—March, net 221,090 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended April 11, 24, 649,116 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended April 21, 49,000 poods.

SUDAN COTTON DIFFICULTIES

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, April 7.

Reports from Tokar state that the cotton is all ripening at the same time, and difficulty is being experienced in finding enough labour to pick it. The price has already gone from two to three millems a rotl (½d. to ¾d. a lb.), and the normal price is one millem a rotl (½d. a lb.). The demand for labour has been continuous this year, and it is impossible to find enough. There is a considerable number of persons employed here in picking senna, which is practically a new industry, so that the difficulty is increased.

HUN CAPITAL IN THE BALKANS.

The Hungarian paper, *Pesti Naplo*, writes:—"The banking magnate, Engelhardt, has, with German capital, founded a company for agricultural exploitation under the name of 'The Bulgarian Agricultural Association.' The company has acquired a large number of estates in New Thrace, Macedonia, and the Morava region. The company also wished to rent the State-owned estates in the districts of Adrianople and Demotika, but the concession of these properties had already been granted to a Bulgarian company. German exploitation in the Near East, it will be seen, has thus begun even during the war."

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended April 20.	1917. Week ended April 19.
Cattle markets	577	825
General markets	309	360
Cattle markets closed	66	28
Receipts (£)	886	1,185
Total from commencement of year (£)	20,897	24,901

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.—The Ordinary General Meeting of the above Company will be held in Cairo on May 31, 1917. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their share warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than May 16.

ON 'CHANGE.

By Our City Correspondent.

Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

Business has been interfered with this week by the usual Stock Exchange holiday on May 1, and by the closure of the House on the preceding Saturday. Work, therefore, had to be crowded into the remaining days. The arrangement to close on Saturdays, I may say, is to hold good until further notice. The interest in Egyptian securities has continued to develop, but business is still restricted by the lack of sellers. The Government bonds have remained strong and constantly in demand, with few transactions.

National Banks have risen ¼ to 13⅝, some 200 to 300 shares having changed hands. Agriculturals are slightly quieter at 5 15-32, about 500 shares having been done between 5⅜ and 5½. Anglo-Egyptians have again advanced ⅛ to 12⅛, and Land Banks have also improved from 5 to 5⅛ on a persistent demand.

Some transactions have been carried through in Delta Lands round 9s. 3d., and a feature has been the continued demand for New Egyptians, which are 9d. higher at 10s. 3d. Several thousand United Egyptian Lands have also changed hands in the neighbourhood of 9d. Behara are wanted round 7½.

Salt and Sodas have been big buyers, and after business round 21s. 6d., close 1s. up at 22s. Khedivial Mail have been active up to 33s., closing unchanged at 32s.

In Greek securities Monopolies have been inquired for at the advanced price of 49, and some further business has been done in Rentes round 44½.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations on the Paris Bourse on Wednesday included: Egyptian Unified, 92.25 (against 92.95); Turkish Unified, 62.95 (against 62.75); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 667 (unchanged); Ottoman Bank, 420 (against 425); Suez Canal shares, 4,335 (against 4,358).

THE MONEY MARKET.

(By Our City Correspondent.)

London, May 3.

Towards the end of the week settlements which involved the payment, approximately, of £20,000,000 cleared the market of surplus credits; but yesterday the position had been restored somewhat and supplies were larger. Short-period loans were in fair demand, and early in the day 4 per cent to 4½ per cent. was the controlling rate; later, however, it came down to 3½. Weekly loans were in some demand at 4¼ to 4½ per cent.

Bills have been firm, and the Continental exchanges generally steady. That on Alexandria remains at 97 to 97⅝ piastres to the pound sterling.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
April 23	260,000	180,000
April 24	490,000	380,000
April 25		
April 26	310,000	120,000
April 27	400,000	690,000
April 28		
April 29	330,000	150,000
April 30	200,000	200,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for eleven days ended March 31, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
March 21-March 31	5,376	6,127
April 1-March 31	187,735	215,107

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price April 27.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % United Debt	98	83½	83½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70	70½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	53	53
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	53	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	48	49
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44½	44⅝
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	51	53
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71xd	71xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75½	75½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	77⅛	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69	68xd
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	12⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	4	4
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	5	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	13⅜xd	13⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅛	5⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2½	2½xd
Béhéra Co.	8½	7½	7⅞
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9/-	9/3
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	5/8	6/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅝	1⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	9/6	10/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	¾	¾
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1½
Unified Egyptian Lands	1/9	3/2	9d.
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅞	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅛	21/-	22/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	33⅛	32/-	32/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON APRIL 12.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	13⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Priviligiée	Frs.	62
	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	76
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	84½
Privilégiée		72
Land Bank of Egypt	£	4⅞
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	2¾
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		28/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		6⅝
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	4½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	103
" Jouissance	Frs.	160
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	290
" Div.	Frs.	230
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	184
Egyptian Salt and Soda		20/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	610
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	338
" 1903 "	Frs.	267
" 1911 "	Frs.	263
United Lands	P.T.	—

Cotton Ginners	7/16
Port Said Salt	—
New Egyptian Co	—
Levant S.S. Co.	—
" bond	—
Delta Lands	—

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to Issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:

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CENSORS:

DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU, C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:

AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Lt. Col. J. LEIGH WOOD, C.M.G. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bart.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 5 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	**485,580**
RESERVE FUND - - - -	**65,000**

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Apart from the possible attitude of New Russia towards the future of Constantinople—a subject discussed elsewhere in this issue—it would be idle to ignore the fact that events in Petrograd are occupying much attention in the Allied countries. The test now imposed upon the Russian people is the harder by reason of the absence of a numerically strong middle class, which could rally to the support of the exponents of moderate views in the capital. On an occasion such as the present the obvious virtues of the Russian peasant prove a grave hindrance to the adoption of wise counsels. His instinct may not be much at fault; but his inexperience leads him to imagine that the most visionary ideals have merely to be enunciated to secure their immediate application, not only in Russia, but in the world at large. Great-hearted, generous and open-minded, he has all the qualifications which offer the most favourable ground for German intrigue, and nothing is calculated to appeal more strongly to him than a scheme for sharing with both his friends and his enemies the real blessings of which he has so suddenly become possessed.

As on previous occasions during this long war, when something has occurred to place the whole issue seemingly in the balance, the Allies are able to fall back on a profound belief in the justice of their cause, which has weathered Germany's preparedness, von Moltke's legions and Hindenburg's hammerings. Russia may not yet be out of the wood, but the national sanity is showing very satisfactory vitality, and there is some ground for the belief that the worst of the crisis is passed. Germany's reading of the psychology of foreign nations has proved so often wrong that we may regard it as of good augury that she still clings to the belief that the balance of probabilities in regard to the Russians is in her favour. There have been no great military operations on the Russian front; on the contrary, both men and guns would seem to have been withdrawn for service in the West, and the German authorities are staking much, if not all, on the success of Socialist agents and political intrigue among the Russian people. As soon as New Russia finds herself, she ought to be able to turn to good account the military respite thus allowed by Germany's miscalculations.

M. Zaimis is once again Prime Minister in Athens. He has played a consistent rôle in relation to King Constantine's conscience during this war. The Devil was sick, the Devil a monk would be. King Constantine, in a similar predicament, sends for M. Zaimis. The Devil grew well, the devil a monk was he—M. Zaimis resigns office. How often the comedy can be repeated with impunity remains to be seen. M. Zaimis is the only politician among those at the King's beck and call who commands any respect. On each occasion he has taken office, as far as is known, in a genuine endeavour to retrieve an almost hopeless situation and with the idea of serving his country's interests. He has resigned twice, because he found it impossible for Greece to make any real headway against the King's wilfulness and subserviency to Germany. A very marked change in the position in Greece to-day has probably impelled him to yet another effort on his country's behalf; but whether he hopes to bring about a reconciliation between the two hostile camps in Greece or is merely concerned to soften the impending blow to the dynasty is probably a matter which he keeps to himself.

The most noteworthy development in the Greek situation since M. Zaimis was last in office is the distinctly anti-dynastic character now given to the National Movement, which has its headquarters at Salonika. Parental tenderness on the part of the Allied Governments towards a spoilt child continues, although it has recently been tempered by an ostentatious exchange of confidences over his extreme naughtiness in his hearing, through the medium of newspaper correspondents. These *bourgeois* methods are no doubt supposed to be in keeping with the democratisation of foreign policy; but they are calculated in the long run to make things worse for King Constantine than the adoption of a firm attitude from the beginning. A report to the effect that an aide-de-camp of the King had left Athens on an unspecified mission to the National Government has been followed by an account of a mass meeting at Salonika, at which the deposition of King Constantine and his dynasty was proclaimed. There seems to be little doubt that a strong body of public opinion which a few months ago could not bring itself to take sides definitely against the King has been steadily veering round to the conviction that the only solution of an impossible situation is to be found in the abolition of the monarchy.

A problem of this nature must be left to the Greeks themselves to settle. But at this particular moment the Allied Governments can hardly fail to reflect upon the

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disservice they have done King Constantine. In his obstinate resolve to thwart them as a champion of Germany, he has failed to realise how the breach between himself and his people was gradually widening. The Allies' tolerance made it possible for him to pack his Court with German agents, until neither his words nor his acts were his own. Even to the Greeks among whom his popularity was tinged at one time almost with religious belief, he showed himself more and more a German vassal rather than a constitutional sovereign trying to serve the country's interests. Such stupendous folly has been laid to the charge of King Constantine that it is charitable to suppose that he has to bear the blame for the shortcomings of others as well as for his own. He cannot, however, divest himself of responsibility for the policy which has brought both him and royalist Greece to the present crisis.

In a cogent letter to *The Times*, Dr. R. M. Burrows supports the contention repeatedly advanced in these columns that the present problem in Greece is one for which the Greeks must find their own solution. The Allied Governments have to stand aside, but in so doing must make it known that they have withdrawn the guarantees given to King Constantine that the Venizelists would not be allowed to encroach upon his domains. Dr. Burrows suggests, indeed, that the neutral zone should be transferred to south of Thessaly, in order that a plebiscite may be taken to determine whether the province wishes to transfer its allegiance to the Provisional Government. As the latter has removed one of the last obstacles to the extension of its jurisdiction by declaring that the population of any territory seceding to the National Movement will not be mobilized, it may be doubted whether in the case of Thessaly the formality of a plebiscite would be necessary. If there be any truth in the statement that the Royal Family were seriously considering last week the question of abdication, it is clear that M. Zaimis, provided he is equal to the occasion, could render the country a great service. In spite of the great disadvantages under which it has laboured, the National Movement is too strong to be ignored, and there is now no common ground for it and the King. The Germanophil party at the Athens Court may adopt a " die-hard " attitude, but can no longer claim to be master of the situation. M. Zaimis, with no personal interests to advance, is marked out as the ideal go-between for all the parties concerned. If the Allied Governments make it clear that they do not insist upon King Constantine's retention of the throne in the face of the wishes of his people, negotiations might be begun without delay. The prospective regime in Greece, however, may well claim that the Entente Powers, being in part responsible for the mismanagement of the Greek situation, are under an obligation to set the country on its feet again, by removing the effects of the blockade and by replenishing its depleted exchequer.

A somewhat pathetic appeal from the semi-official Press Correspondent with the British Army in Macedonia urging upon the consideration of the public at home the difficult conditions under which the operations of that front are being carried out misses the point of such criticism as has been levelled against the Salonika campaign. One thing that the war has taught us is that under modern conditions of fighting the most heroic troops can achieve little or nothing unless adequately supported by careful preparations and ample supplies. The chief ground for regret in connection with this front is that a large fighting force should have been virtually immobilised for so long without being in a position before now to assume the offensive. The fault does not lie with the troops or the command on the spot, but with the policy which has refused to recognise the potentialities of a vigorous campaign in the Balkans, and consequently has not taken the steps to enable the Army to advance. Without doubt the resources of the Allies have been hard put to it to maintain the efficiency of their armies at the high point actually reached; but it is only necessary to recall the strong objections urged against a landing at Salonika to realise how powerful will have been the influences at work to place obstacles in the way of the unrestricted equipment of General Sarrail's force. That the landing has justified itself up to the hilt is now universally admitted. In the light of recent developments, it becomes something of a nightmare to think of what the position in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean would have been if an Allied force had not kept the Germans from reaching Salonika.

It is only too evident that General Sarrail's force, even when adequately equipped, has a hard task before it. The terrain it is called upon to attack is all in favour of the defenders, who have had ample time to make it as nearly impregnable as any position can be. So far, indeed, the enemy has revealed no shortage of men or munitions. The Bulgarians are excellent fighters, and any ground won from them has been the object of counter-attacks almost as fierce as those to which the Allies are accustomed on the Western front. But in the tactics now being adopted by General Sarrail it is possible to detect an echo of the master-policy which has achieved such signal success in France, and there is consequently the more readiness to await patiently the next developments.

A question put by a shareholder at the recent general meeting of the Deutsche Bank elicited the information, from Herr von Gwinner, that it had already been announced that it was impossible to go on with the construction of the Baghdad Railway. The Four per cent. Turkish Loans which were to provide the money could not be placed, and owing to the increased cost of money and of materials the terms of the Baghdad Railway concession of 1903 were entirely out of date. An amendment of the concession was, therefore, necessary, and in this matter Herr von Gwinner regarded it as certain that the Deutsche Bank would be supported not only by Turkey, but by the German Government. The statement seems to dispose of the various reports regarding the animated construction of the railway during the war. On the southern section we have seen that the railhead does not extend beyond Samarra; it is possible that by tearing up the rails of some French concessions the railway has been extended beyond Ras-el-Ain; but the announcement that the great Taurus range had been pierced must still be received with reserve.

Another phase in the kaleidoscopic history of Albania has to be recorded in the establishment of the microcosm of an independent State at Koritza under the presidency of Essad Pasha. The President belongs to Northern Albania, but the appointment is said to have been received with local satisfaction. Koritza was the channel of communication between Royalist Greece and Germany, and was for some time in the hands of the former. When it was occupied by the French as a measure of defence for the Allies' Army of the Orient it was found that operations on two fronts would be necessary, against King Constantine's irregulars on the south and against Albanian bands acting for Austria on the north. As the Albanians take kindly to no foreign control, the plan of handing Koritza back to them was adopted, in order that they might of their own accord keep the Greeks out of the district. A further result has been that the northern bands, attracted by the existence of an independent Albanian community, are showing a disposition to leave Austrian service. The simplicity of the device, however, has led to imitation in the Austrian sphere of Albania, with a view to keeping the northerners true to their allegiance to the Central Powers. Probably any experiments of this nature will prove useful training to the Albanians. The future of their country can hardly be evolved piecemeal, but must come up for settlement at the end of the war. Essad Pasha's presidency of Koritza will, perhaps, serve as an indication of the extent to which his leadership is likely to be accepted by Albania as a whole.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 17.

H. H. The Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan resumed his residence at Abdin Palace this week. He returned from Heliopolis sooner than had been intended, owing to an outbreak of measles there; but I understand, from people who have seen him since his return, that he is very much improved in health and spirits. His Highness has resumed his receptions, and one of the first to call on him at Abdin was the High Commissioner. H.H. the Sultana has now developed symptoms of measles, and the Grand Chamberlain has issued a *communiqué* warning ladies not to call at her villa at Heliopolis, where she is remaining for the present. The latest news is that her Highness is making satisfactory progress.

The Adviser to the Interior.

Mr. James Haines, the Adviser to the Interior, has returned from an extended tour in Upper Egypt. He visited practically every important centre and held meetings of the officials, notables and fellaheen. At these meetings various questions of general and local importance were discussed, and a free interchange of views took place, the Adviser making it clear, however, on what lines his policy would be based. The tour was a success from every point of view, and I gather that it has afforded intense satisfaction to the people in the districts.

The Greek Community.

The period accorded under General Murray's proclamation to the members of the local Greek colony to declare their adhesion to the Salonika Provisional Government and accept his protection expired last week. At the last moment a great rush took place on the part of those who had delayed making the requisite declaration, and even now registration notices are dribbling in. Throughout the month the Royalists have employed every means in their power to prevent the Venizelists from registering, but their efforts have proved unavailing. The number of persons who have officially adhered to the Provisional Government and accepted General Murray's protection is over 63,000. At the last census, taken in 1907, the Greek colony in Egypt numbered 62,973. Since then its size is admitted to have increased, and, making allowance for departures owing to the war and for adhesions received from Greek-born and Greek-speaking persons belonging to districts the nationality of which has not been regularised, it is officially computed that at least 90 per cent. of the Hellenic colony has declared itself for the Provisional Government. This is a decided victory for the local Venizelist committee and a corresponding defeat for the Royalists, who have been vigorously aided and abetted in all their campaign by the official representatives of Athens. Incidentally, since this adherence to the Salonika Provisional Government is accompanied by acceptance of General Murray's protection, the result of this "referendum" may be regarded as a demonstration of sympathy with and confidence in Great Britain. In conclusion, it is to be noted that the Greek colony has conducted itself with praiseworthy orderliness in spite of the great provocation offered by the Royalists.

The publication of the commissions empowering the representatives of the Provisional Government to convoke and hold the necessary courts and transact all the legal business connected therewith is momentarily expected. The judicial staff is already here, and is only awaiting authority to start work. There is considerable speculation as to what will be done with the Royalist representatives and their adherents. If their courts are allowed to carry on side by side with those of the Provisional Government, it looks as if the Mixed Courts will have to deal with cases which are bound to arise between Venizelists and Royalists. It is understood that the Anglo-Egyptian authorities are considering what steps should be taken in this connection, and it is to be hoped that they will succeed in avoiding for the Greek colony what will otherwise be a ludicrous state of affairs. It would certainly be more satisfactory if the Royalist authorities were relieved of their authority, especially their legal jurisdiction, even over the Royalist members of the local colony. It has been proved that their adherents constitute but a very small percentage of the community, and it is known that their activities are merely directed to the creation of dissension amongst the Venizelists. In other words, their actions are entirely anti-Ally; and on the ground of the necessity for preserving public order and safeguarding the interests of the Allies in this country, the elimination of the Royalist element and the proclamation of the Provisional Government representatives and courts as the sole Greek authority having legal and civil jurisdiction over the colony in Egypt, would be fully justified.

The Commerce of Egypt.

On Friday last a highly interesting paper on the commerce of Egypt and a comparison of its methods with those existing in other countries was read before the Sultania Society of Political Economy by Mr. C. W. Twelves, late President of the British Chamber of Commerce of Belgium and a member of the Imperial Council of Commerce in London. Mr. Twelves is at present attached to the Ministry of Finance in the War Trade Section, and during the time he has been out here he has, amongst other things, carried out a thorough investigation of local commercial conditions for the Commission of Industry and Commerce, of which he is a member. His practical business knowledge and his experience of commercial conditions in other countries, and especially of German methods, are proving of great utility to the Egyptian Government in their efforts to eradicate the Teuton influence on trade in this country and give a stimulus to local industries and a healthier complexion to commercial relations with other countries.

Amateur Theatricals.

The Cairo Amateur Repertory Players, who have for some time been indefatigable in their efforts to entertain our troops, gave a performance at the Sultania Opera House on Friday evening in aid of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The audience included H.E. the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate. The piece chosen was Robert Marshall's "Duke of Killiecrankie," with Gertrude Jennings' "The Bathroom Door" as a curtain-raiser. The performance was in every respect a success. The acting was admirable, the *mise-en-scène* most artistic, and at no time had one the impression that one was watching amateurs. Where everyone was so uniformly good, it would be invidious to single out anyone for special praise. I therefore merely append the cast of the principal play:—

The Duke of Killiecrankie	E. W. Gandy
Mr. Henry Pitt Welby, M.P.	A. K. Barton
Mr. Ambrose Hicks	G. Storey
Alexander MacBayne	W. Webb
The Countess of Pangbourne	Miss Gretton
Lady Henrietta Addison	Miss Taylor
Mrs. Mulholland	Mrs. Ballon
Mrs. MacBayne	Miss Carr

(Produced by C. V. W. Grose; stage manager, Mrs. Gandy.)

It is to be hoped that the Cairo Amateur Repertory Players will long continue their activities, for they are certainly the most talented troupe we have seen on the boards for a very long time.

PUBLIC WORKS IN EGYPT.

SIR MURDOCH MACDONALD'S REPORT.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

II.

With regard to the principal irrigation and drainage projects, Sir Murdoch Macdonald is of opinion that there are probably no serious technical difficulties in the way of their completion in a comparatively short period of time, and that "control of the river, with the assurance of a sufficient supply of water for the final limits of Egyptian cultivation at all times of the year, independently of natural conditions, is, so far as the engineer is concerned, a possibility already within sight."

Assuan marks the southern limit of the area where, whether in Egypt or the Sudan, cultivation by the river alone without the assistance of rain is practised on any important scale. The only exception to this is the Gezira, where irrigation from the Blue Nile is being arranged for. The Upper Nile projects were referred to in detail last year, but Sir Murdoch has some remarks to make on the subject of the Blue Nile portion which merit attention. The scheme is to construct a weir across the river at Sennar, about 120 miles south of Khartoum, and from upstream of it to cut a canal, which is already being excavated, to a point where it will deliver water to an area of some 300,000 acres, of which one-third will be put under green crop, one-third under cotton, and the remainder will lie fallow every year. It has been proved that cotton can be grown as a winter crop in the Sudan by contrast to Egypt, where it is a summer one, and thus its cultivation will not interfere with any summer requirements which Egypt may want to meet from the Blue Nile.

The maximum quantity required for these 300,000 acres is less than the lowest natural discharge recorded in the river at the critical period. Although the river has never been known to fail altogether, nevertheless failure is a contingency which must be reckoned with. But even if it did occur, and even if it lasted for as long as two months, Sir Murdoch says that it would be possible to counteract its effects, for the design of the weir provides "a height of building capable of dealing with the highest conceivable flood, and, though storage is not the object of the work, it

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would be possible to impound, by the aid of this high structure, sufficient water to meet fully the requirements, not only of the 300,000 acres mentioned as necessary to a commercial enterprise, but of considerably more, without any assistance whatever from the river during these two months." Thus, the almost impossible contingency of a total failure of the Blue Nile is provided against. Incidentally, this extra storage would provide for an actual area of 500,000 instead of the original 300,000 acres mentioned, and if eventually further development takes place, then, says he, "during the period of greatest need recourse can be had to storage which will have been provided elsewhere on the Blue Nile." Sir Murdoch Macdonald does not, for obvious reasons, give any details of where this storage will be, but those who have followed irrigation developments in Egypt of late years will have no difficulty in putting their fingers on the spot on the map.

Of course, although the Sudan at present takes no summer water the time may come when she may require a certain quantity, but long before that day dawns Egypt will have made all her arrangements to meet her summer requirements, with ample margin to spare, so there is nothing to fear on this score.

The City of Cairo.

The Adviser makes an unusual departure by devoting some considerable space to the question of improvement in the town planning of Cairo, which has been occupying the attention of the engineering service controlling the city. He opens with a description of the city, the older and more densely populated quarters of which lie at the foot of the Citadel, where narrow, crooked streets, blind alleys, and covered pathways abound in a dense maze, with but one or two thoroughfares in the modern sense of the word. Undoubtedly this is the most picturesque part of the city, but it is, at the same time, entirely at variance with our own ideas of hygiene. "How to preserve the charm of the old town while introducing modern ideas is the not easy problem before the city engineer."

The introduction of improvements is, in the circumstances, a costly matter, but the local law is, in a certain degree, helpful in getting schemes through. "The making of new streets and squares, the cutting off of corners, the transformation of blind alleys into thoroughfares can be decreed by the Government on the recommendation of the Minister of Public Works. . . . The decree need not be enforced until the proprietor is actually reconstructing his property, and so it often happens provision need only be made for the value of the ground." Street widening in a tropical city has to be carried out on a different basis to what might hold in European cities. "It must not be forgotten "that a good street has not necessarily to be a straight street, and that the widening of a thoroughfare need not rule out the irregularity that largely gives it its character. Also, under a glaring eastern sun, too great width is sometimes most objectionable, as when it unduly exceeds the average line of shadow which is cast by the houses and gives instant relief, like a shadow of a great rock. Cairo, being in the latitude of 30°, the sun in midsummer stands at no great distance from the zenith; thus streets running east and west are, most of the day, in nearly full sunlight, and should not be too wide. It is not the same with those running north and south, and, besides, the prevailing wind is from the north, and thus a draught of fresh, cool air can be introduced through these avenues."

Sir Murdoch dwells on the value to health of the introduction of macadamized surfaces and tarred macadam roads. As yet, however, relatively few of the streets in the native quarters have been thus treated. Fortunately, wheeled traffic is light, but there is little doubt that the sooner the macadamised system is introduced generally throughout the city the better it will be for the health bill of the population.

Modern Cairo lies directly between the more ancient quarters and the river, whilst on the west bank of the Nile is the more important residential quarter, which is served by first-class roads and broad avenues lined with shady trees. With regard to future projects to provide for the expansion in population, Sir Murdoch writes as follows:—"To the north and east of the congested areas of the city lies a gravelly plateau partly occupied by the tombs of the Caliphs, and at present cut off from direct contact with the town by a line of hills or mounds composed of ancient débris. This area it will be possible to lay out for the future extension of middle-class property. With its clean soil, relative eminence, and northern exposure, it should form an attractive and very healthy suburb. To the south of the city is the district known as Old Cairo, the abandoned scene of the earlier Arab settlements, now a wilderness scattered over with small hillocks of ancient remains and pitted with the irregular excavation of old quarries. Here probably lies the area most adaptable by the hand of the engineer for the reconstruction of extension on modern lines of a poorer quarter. With its growth, population would flow back towards the neighbourhood once occupied by Fustat, and the associations of an historic site might join with the claims of health and education to require that, though poor and populous, the new quarter should be generously planned with houses of stable design."

The Year's Irrigation.

The 1915 flood was very low and very late, and, as forecast by the Ministry, resembled in most respects that of 1907. There were no untoward incidents, and, altogether, this eccentric flood was handled with exemplary ability on the part of the responsible irrigation authorities. Only 44,000 acres went unwatered, the greater part lying outside the main systems in isolated basins or on islands and foreshores of the Nile in Upper Egypt.

Projects in Progress.

Work in connection with the two projects for the improved drainage of about 1,000,000 acres in the Central Gharbia and Western Behera areas of the Delta, which has been interrupted by the war, has since been confined to that which was necessary to consolidate and turn to the best advantage the work already accomplished. There is no necessity to carry the main drains down to their designed depth until the pumps are installed, but dredging has been continued to carry them at least to levels which secure a fair drainage by free flow. Out of the £E2,446,000 marked down for these two enterprises, so far £E1,053,000 has been expended; of this but a small amount has been incurred during the year under review. "The provisional results already obtained are, however, important and convincing. In Gharbia . . . the drainage levels have been lowered by upwards of a metre in the main central zone served by the new branch drains. . . . As far north as Salahib land that was previously flooded for the greater part of the year now has drainage of from a half to one metre. A number of private drainage pumping installations have stopped working because they are no longer wanted, and considerable areas of new lands have been rendered cultivable, and are being put under crop by the fellahin."

As regards the Sudan irrigation works, drawings have been got out for the distributary system and the regulator in connection with the Sennar Weir and the Gezira canalisation scheme. Excavation of the main canal has been quietly carried on, but all the labour is manual and represents only the provisional carrying out of work during the war. This as well as the other projects are hung up until the necessary machinery can be got out, which will, of course, not be until after the conclusion of peace.

Public Works other than Irrigation.

All the other departments of the Public Works Ministry have been active during the year under review. The State Buildings, Mechanical and Physical Services, have all done considerable work for the Army in addition to carrying on their normal duties, whilst the Main Roads Department, which was created in 1912, and which is "one of the most interesting of Government Services," has completed its control by taking over from the Irrigation Department the agricultural roads of Upper Egypt. The total length of the main and agricultural roads managed by it is now 2,355 miles, on which 148 gangs are employed. The average Egyptian road, in its normal state, is quite unfit for wheeled traffic. All this is being changed, however; the surfaces are being put into a fit state for light use, the dangerous points are being rectified, and sign-posts are being erected. Altogether this department is doing a deal of important and useful work in this country, where roads as a quick means of communication have been lamentably lacking, but its sphere of usefulness will not receive its rightful expansion until it can obtain an adequate staff and a proper budget.

Personalia.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald pays a feeling tribute to Mr. W. R. Williams, who retired last year from the position of Inspector-General of Irrigation after fifteen years' service. "His experience and technical knowledge were closely associated with all the great works," and "his administrative work was conducted with a sympathy and understanding which made his departure a matter of wide personal regret." He also refers sympathetically to the deaths of Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff and of Sir Gaston Maspero, both of whom are too well known to your readers for there to be any necessity to dwell on the great services rendered by each of them to Egypt. Attached to the report is a list of the officials of the Ministry who have served or are serving with the Allied Armies. These number eighty-two, of whom fifty are with the British forces, twenty-five with the French, six with the Italian, and one with the Russian. In addition, temporary and local commissions have been held by twenty-nine officials, whilst several are doing work with the Red Cross or in a civil capacity connected with the war.

[*The first part of this article was published in* THE NEAR EAST *of April 27.*—ED.]

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Fears for the Harvest.

The Greek Easter has been celebrated with a certain amount of gaiety. Races, athletic sports, dances, and other entertainments have taken place.

There is much fear that the cereal harvest, instead of being an excellent one, as had been confidently expected, will be, after all, a very bad one. Not only has no rain fallen for weeks, but summer heat has lately prevailed. The critical period is passing rapidly, and unless rain comes speedily the present gloomy outlook will be realised. It is disheartening to feel that, however abundant the early rains may have been, and however favourable the winter distribution, failure of the spring or "second" rains may in any year ruin all the prospects. Cyprus is no nearer to the realization of any scheme of artificial irrigation which should, and must, some day render husbandry independent of the seasons and restore Cyprus to agricultural prosperity. In this vital matter the island remains in the condition to which it has been reduced by centuries of misrule; though it must be added that there has been a considerable change for the better, as regards the rainfall, during the British occupation.

The Waste of Water.

During the winter months immense volumes of water run to waste in the sea which could be collected in reservoirs and stored. Again, underground water could be raised to a very large extent for irrigation. As regards storage, the works carried out in the east of the island, out of the loan sanctioned by Mr. J. Chamberlain, have not proved a success; and consequently similar works which might, under different circumstances, have been carried out in other parts of the island are not likely to be undertaken in any near future by the Government. It is needless to say that the investment of private capital in such projects is at present out of the question.

The prospect of artesian supplies is not encouraging, for the half-hearted experiments in boring which have been carried out by the Government have had no promising results, and it is unlikely that Cyprus will be blessed with help from that source.

A great deal could be done by means of water-lifting appliances. The water-wheel is used to a certain extent, but much more should be done in this direction. Sir Samuel Baker in 1879, and others since, have strongly advocated this system, so largely used in Egypt, especially for the Great Mesaoria and Morphou plains, where water lies but a few feet below the surface. In some places the *shadoof*, or pole and bucket contrivance, might also be used with advantage by hard-working farmers.

Again, subterranean aqueducts were at one period common in Cyprus. A number of wells are sunk, and these are connected by subterranean tunnels, the water being conducted by this chain of wells to given points. This system, which was formerly elaborated with great skill by Cypriots, has been practically abandoned; but it might be revived with advantage in many places. No doubt loans to the peasantry would be necessary for any of these works, and unhappily the problem of how to provide cheap credit, the solution of which appeared hopeful some years ago, has not yet been solved. On the contrary, it is feared that the people are being again driven by present difficulties into the hands of the moneylenders. The time is one of general suspense, and it follows that for any organised progress in artificial irrigation the agricultural class must wait in patience. Also one always comes back to the unfortunate fact that the sparseness of the population is one of the principal bars to progress. In the time of Strabo the population of Cyprus is said to have been about 1,100,000. It was self-supporting. According to the computation of M. Gennadius, the first Director of Agriculture, the yield of wheat was in Strabo's time probably about 10,000,000 bushels, whereas it is now about 2,000,000, or one-fifth. Even now the cereal harvests might under improved methods be doubled.

The third congress of the Czecho-Slovak societies in Russia has opened at Kieff. Three hundred delegates were present, as well as representatives of the Czecho-Slovak volunteer detachments and of Czech prisoners of war.

Two Greek torpedo-boat destroyers are to be handed over by the French authorities to the Provisional Government at Salonika. They will be manned by Greek officers and sailors, and will be used for assuring communication with the isles under the authority of the Provisional Government.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY JOSEPH OFFORD.

It is probable that some very important archæological discoveries will be soon reported from Alexandria. For some time past M. Etienne Combe, who during the absence in Italy upon military service of Dr. Breccia, director of the Alexandria Museum, has been acting for him, has been carrying on excavations beneath the playground of St. Andrew's School. Accidentally a large shaft or descending approach to a series of subterranean chambers and passages was come upon, and workmen are now clearing some of the galleries of the débris with which at present they are filled. Other shafts are known to exist in the neighbouring Coptic graveyard and in the grounds of Victoria House near by. It is to be hoped these remains will prove to be those of the long-lost and celebrated Cæsareum, or of the tomb of Alexander the Great.

An American scholar, Mr. Paton, is publishing a most costly and elaborate series of volumes giving in full every ancient Egyptian record concerning any connection of Egypt with Western Asia. In the January number of the *Journal of Egyptian Archæology* Dr. Alan Gardiner gives translations of a most interesting series of hieroglyphic texts found in the tomb of an old Egyptian official named Akhthoy, who terms himself a "sea captain." He, however, like most ancient Egyptians employed by Pharaoh, or the State, at different times held various and divergent positions, and seems to have been chiefly an inspector, or a governor, of mining stations, for most of his eulogistic biography concerns mining operations. Dr. Gardiner calls him a "much-travelled Theban official." This is because he mentions mining of such varied character. His record gives the titles of the different sites from which he obtained turquoises, lapis lazuli, and various precious metals and copper; but these names we cannot at present identify with their localities. One was almost certainly in the Sinai peninsula, and as Akhthoy boasts of having "punished Asiatics in their countries," it is probable that all the mining regions that he visited were in that direction or in Arabia. Of course he may have obtained some of the articles he enumerates by purchase. Upon his return home with the riches he had accumulated at various mines and times, he tells us "he filled the heart of his king with their preciousness," so he was awarded a sinecure, being appointed to look after the saloon in which the Pharaoh performed his toilet. Probably this office carried with it no remuneration, and so he was also made "Recorder of the Cattle Lists of Upper Egypt." He appears to have been something of a "ladies' man," for he mentions, in addition to the treasures he brought back from his expeditions for the king, that he also gave ornaments to the Court ladies and veils to the beautiful women." These veils would be of the lovely loom work of Babylon or Damascus, whose productions were world-famous; and the gifts show that he certainly had business relations with the caravan merchants who came into Syria and Palestine from places farther east. This new inscription, which comes from a sepulchre excavated at Thebes for Earl Carnarvon, will form an interesting addition to records edited by Mr. Paton.

The famous Babylonian Code of Laws of King Hammurabi became so universally recognised as binding in Mesopotamia that legal documents and deeds merely referred to one or two words indicative of any particular clause, in order to invoke the binding direction of such clause as being that upon which the signatories to the transaction relied. An interesting instance of this practice can be given from a tablet concerning a loan, which was engrossed as far away from Babylon as Susa, in Persia, thus showing how widespread was the recognition of Hammurabi's laws as being binding. In the transaction referred to, Iluhasami was borrower of a sum of five silver shekels from Nursamas; and as security for repayment of the loan he handed over to Nursamas certain fields, that the latter might cultivate them and pay himself out of the produce, after making allowance for the cost of raising the crops. The loan tablet condenses the part of the deed of agreement concerning the letting of the fields and hypothecation to the lender of their next crop to but few words saying it was to be in accordance with the Ezip-tabal—that is to say, harvest and taking therefrom of its grain. This is a reference to the 49th Clause of Hammurabi's Code, which, somewhat condensed, is as follows:—

> If a man borrows money and has given for it a field cultivated for grain, and said to the lender, "Plant the field and gather the wheat and sesame produced," and the planter causes them to be produced, at harvest the owner may take the crop, but shall give to the lender for his silver and for his interest (thereupon) which he received, and for the cost of the cultivation.

This, which may be termed an agrarian law concerning the mortgage of a crop, is a simple but significant specimen of the juridical acumen of the founders of early Mesopotamian legislation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE ENTENTE AND BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The communications in your last issue from Mr. H. M. Wallis and Mr. Charles Woods call for a brief word of comment—brief because the subject has more than once been thrashed out, and because the ground advanced by the first-named for his special plea for Bulgaria is sufficient to put the case out of court.

In his second paragraph Mr. Wallis advocates diplomatic methods because the military policy is "very expensive." It cannot be denied that it is cheaper in some ways to sell your friends than to fight your enemies; indeed, the operation may sometimes be made a source of gain. The question at any given moment is whether anyone will make the proposition and whether, if made, any statesman can be found sufficiently base to carry it out. It is, perhaps, hardly worth while to discuss proposals introduced in such terms, but this much may be said, that if the Serbs, abandoned in 1915, have been sent forward to bear the brunt of the recent fighting and to reconquer Monastir at the expense of much of the manhood that is still left to them only that their allies should hand over the town to their enemies, then we shall have a reputation for naked perfidy and treacherous dealing second to none; for even Germany, so far, has confined her baseness to her enemies and neutrals. Not yet has she betrayed her allies on the field of battle, whatever she may do in the future. I can conceive of no course so cynical in its treachery—if we intended to give Bulgaria Monastir, we should have said so before we sent the Serbs forward to reconquer it for their foes. To abandon the Serbs now would be to destroy the last shreds of our reputation and honour in the Balkans. On one thing Mr. Wallis is to be congratulated—that he does not dissociate the Bulgars from the monarch whom he so admires.

I do not see why Greece, which would have been on our side had we treated M. Venizelos fairly, should be penalised for the sake of Bulgaria, which has actively fought us. We have supported King Constantine and then accuse the Greeks of the results. I suppose, however, that, once embarked on the course of abandoning friends to enemies, there is no particular term to be set to that course. It is a pity that Mr. Woods still continues to affix a strong protestation of his love for the Serbs to every proposal which he makes against them; the effect produced is not that desired. Mr. Wallis, at any rate, spares us this. He would be a bold man who should bank at this moment on M. Miljukov's position. Could not the war be cheapened by applying the same course to other quarters—*e.g.*, Alsace-Lorraine? Perhaps, on the whole, the best course is to be the friends of your friends.—I am, etc.,

A. H. E. TAYLOR.

Canterbury, May 5.

BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Feeling that many people who lived in Turkey before the war would like to meet, but have perhaps not had the opportunity of doing so, the ladies of the "British Refugees from Turkey Fund" and myself have arranged a social gathering at the Alpine Club Hall, Mill Street, Conduit Street, W., on Wednesday, June 6, from 4 to 6.30.

We should be happy to see anyone who would care to avail themselves of this opportunity, and would be most grateful to you if you would make our idea known to your readers and their friends.

Owing to the impossibility of our obtaining many of the addresses, would those who may not receive an invitation kindly communicate with the Hon Sec., Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, S.W.—I am, etc.,

ALICE LOWTHER.

23, Belgrave Square,
May 9, 1917.

Reuter's Salonika correspondent reports that on Sunday a mass meeting in that city proclaimed the deposition of King Constantine and his dynasty. Over 40,000 people assembled in the square of the White Tower, and were addressed by various speakers, and cheered themselves hoarse with shouts—"Long live Venizelos," "Long live the National Government," "Down with the King."

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The war has brought about many paradoxical situations and led to innumerable topsy-turvy proposals. Indeed, at the present time every crank and faddist seems to be moving heaven and earth in order to push through his—or her—pet plan, to get his—or her!—pet hobby adopted as a war baby, so to say. And owing to the disturbed state of affairs generally, quite a number of these astute and pushful individuals—to say nothing of "societies," "unions," "leagues," and so forth—have actually scored. This is not to be wondered at. The Fanatic knows what he, or she, wants; and with more than half the other folk *not* knowing what *they* want, except victory, the Fanatic is almost certain to get his way, whether that is desirable in the interests of the majority or not. A great many improvements have been brought about "to win the war." But I am not quite sure that all the changes made, or promised—I had almost written "threatened"—*are* improvements. And, at any rate, I dislike seeing the Fanatic getting his—or her—way by sheer cheek and clap-trap.

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That, however, is rather a digression from what I set out to say. I really had in mind a proposal that may not be quite so mad as it seems. Whence it actually emanated I am not certain. It has been fathered upon Constantinople, but I doubt whether (under the Germans) that city retains enough humour to produce such a joke. Now, you will have guessed, of course, that I refer to the suggestion that Abdul Hamid should be dragged out of the obscurity of his confinement, and entrusted with the negotiation of a peace favourable to Turkey. If only Abdul were in his old form, the suggestion might be, from the purely Turkish point of view, quite a good one; for he was undoubtedly a far cleverer man than any of the gang now nominally governing Turkey, and the Entente Powers would have to pick very wide-awake representatives to hold their own against him. But I take it that the ex-Sultan is very far indeed from his old form. Eight years' fairly close confinement, with the constant dread that "something may happen" (to you) at any moment, can hardly be calculated to improve your *finesse* or your ability to bluff unflinchingly. And it was those qualities that made Abdul Hamid.

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The *Egyptian Gazette* recently referred to a strange situation in which M. Metaxas, who has been appointed King Constantine's representative in London, found himself. The Minister, it seems, "has taken the oath of his appointment before M. Xydakis, Royalist Diplomatic Agent at Cairo," this being "the first occasion that a Minister has been sworn before his official inferior." As you may remember, M. Metaxas was nominated as Greek Minister to the United States; but the Messageries' steamer on which he set out from Athens to take the oath was torpedoed, and he, being rescued, was taken on to Alexandria. There he has since remained. When M. Gennadius resigned his position here, King Constantine appointed M. Metaxas to London instead of to Washington; but M. Metaxas was unable to get to Athens to take the oath because (to quote the *Gazette* again) "the Greek coast was blockaded." The end of the chapter of accidents is not quite clear—but M. Metaxas has seemingly made up his mind to face the risks of the deep once more, as the *Gazette* says that he "will leave Egypt in due course for England, to take up his new post."

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Apropos of the risks of the deep, I was a few days ago told a little story that goes to show that even the lot of a German U-boat commander is not always "a happy one—happy one." According to this yarn, a particular U-boat came to the surface only to find itself in the midst of quite a flotilla of our light craft, which instantly closed in on it. Of course, it dived at once; but after a good time it appeared on the surface again, only to find itself again the object of pressing attentions from our craft. Then, after a longer interval, up it bobbed once more—this time quite close to a torpedo destroyer. The T.D. commander hung over the side of his craft and hailed through his megaphone: "Do you surrender unconditionally?" Promptly came back the reply from a very hustled and angry German: "Of course, you fool. That's just what I've been trying to do for the past two hours." At any rate, that is the story as told to me. And, as the Arab story-tellers say, "Allah is all-knowing and all-merciful."

CORSAIR.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* reports that the Allied Ministers have handed a protest to the Government for hiding arms and ammunition at Chalandri, near Athens, and have demanded searches for other hidden arms.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE NEW MAP OF AFRICA.*

It is interesting to read an outside opinion of British administration in Africa, even though the writer appears hardly to be qualified to deal with this important subject. Mr. Gibbons, the author of "The New Map of Africa," is an American citizen who for some years has been Professor of History at Robert College, Constantinople, and is therefore presumably competent to deal with affairs in the Near East. But apart from certain visits to Egypt, both during and before the war, he does not seem to have the requisite knowledge of African affairs nor the needful appreciation of the difficulties of administration on the Dark Continent to speak with authority on the redistribution of territory after the war. Mr. Gibbons apparently lacks historical knowledge of African evolution; he certainly is wanting in historical perspective. His book is, in fact, singularly badly arranged, lacks cohesion, is full of errors, and, strangely enough, though the author will probably deny this statement, is characterized by sentimentalism. The author does not appear to have consulted the best books upon the subject, and writes without appreciating the main factors of African development. He wanders aimlessly from the Sudan to the islands of Africa, from the Boer War to Liberia and Abyssinia, from Algeria and Tunisia to Livingstone and Rhodes, from the Germans in East Africa to European rivalry in Morocco, and from Egypt to the Rebellion in South Africa, without once seizing upon the main and essential factors that would bind the whole together into a coherent book.

We do not wish to be unkind in dealing with Mr. Gibbons. By far the best section of the book is that allotted to Egypt, a subject on which he must be well informed. But although he gives full credit to the brilliant work achieved by the British administration, and advances the sensible thesis that material prosperity does not necessarily mean national contentment, he wastes much sympathy over the ex-Khedive and goes out of his way to depreciate the qualifications of those engaged in the work of administration. "The British officials," he states, "do not feel and care for Egypt and the Egyptians as it is essential that they should feel and care to fill properly their positions," and "the Egyptians are made to accept in many official positions men whose mental caliber would not enable them to fill similar positions in Great Britain." Mr. Gibbons, however, has a high opinion of the capabilities of the Colonial Civil Servants in Africa, but makes the ludicrous statement that it is the enjoyment of caste privileges that attracts them to the service. "In order to enjoy the privileges of caste," he writes, "young men of good families are willing to leave home and friends. . . . They are content with an occasional visit to England and with little or no money, if only they preserve their caste. The moment the Englishman of the upper classes considers business as desirable a vocation as Government service, Britain's colonial empire will resemble France's or Germany's—or will collapse altogether." Of the African colonial he has the worst opinion. "The latter are too frequently," he says, "bounders of the worst sort, intolerant and intolerable when they have a little authority in their hands." To support this thesis he gives an account of the Zululand Rebellion of 1906 in an entirely one-sided and *ex parte* statement. This chapter is marked by such extraordinary misstatements that one altogether doubts the author's competency to deal with South African affairs. Mr. Gibbons states that the Zulus lost 3,500 in a little over two months (the real figures are 2,300 in four months), and expresses the opinion that the expedition was "a disgrace to civilisation and Christianity." Moreover, forgetting that Pretorius at the Battle of Blood River had only three men wounded against 3,000 Zulus killed, he remarks that the figures are entirely disproportionate to the numbers engaged, and states that the expedition was "just as merciless and just as disastrous to the Zulus as the German campaign to the Hereros"—sufficient evidence that he has really no knowledge of the history of the German colonies.

It is, however, when one studies his remarks about the Germans in Africa that Mr. Gibbons' personal bias becomes most pronounced. "The South-West African Campaign," he writes, "demonstrated beyond the possibility of doubt either that Germany was not expecting a war with Great Britain, or that, in case of war, there was no intention to stir up the Boers. It is difficult to see how a General Staff such as the German one has proved itself to be would not have been organising and preparing thoroughly for years in South-West Africa, if South-West Africa had been in the plan of future military operations." We can only recommend Mr. Gibbons to study carefully all available material on this question, when perhaps his opinions may be modified. On the great question of "the new map of Africa" Mr. Gibbons has little to say, except that Germany should retain her colonies. This opinion cannot be controverted here, but it is apparently based upon utilitarian policy coupled with a belief that the Germans have behaved well, at least recently, in their colonies. "Aside from the argument of punishment," he writes, "the only justification of France and Great Britain for retaining the German colonies would be: economic necessity of keeping the colonies, or the claim that Germany has forfeited the right to them, through barbarous treatment of the natives or incapacity to administer and develop the colonies." Both these grounds, he states, are invalid. Of the numerous mistakes of fact we need not speak, save to call attention to two alterations which should be made in a new edition. The Union of South Africa is constantly called the Commonwealth, and the coloured maps showing Africa in 1850 and 1902 are incorrect in several particulars. Mr. Gibbons' book is an ambitious attempt to deal adequately with a great subject, but we are reluctantly compelled to the opinion that the author has completely failed in his task.

E. L.

* The New Map of Africa. By Herbert Adams Gibbons. (New York: The Century Co. 1916. 2s.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Chatto and Windus have published the "Serbske Pesme" of "Owen Meredith," which was first published in the middle of last century. Mr. G. H. Powell contributes a bibliographical note.

Amongst the "War Pen Pictures" written by Mr. W. S. Brown and published (at 1s. net) by McQueen and Co. are several from Egypt, some from the Gallipoli Peninsula, and others from the islands of the Ægean.

There is much matter of interest in Mr. Arnold Wright's "Early English Adventures in the East" (Melrose, 10s. 6d. net). The greater part of the book is given up to India, but there is an entire chapter devoted to the Persian Gulf.

Professor John A. Todd has written "The Mechanism of Exchange," which Mr. Milford will shortly publish. The work deals with such subjects as trade in peace and in war, currency and banking.

Messrs. Allen and Unwin have published recently M. Bogumil Vosniak's "A Bulwark Against Germany: The Fight of the Slovenes, the Western Branch of the Jugo-Slavs, for National Existence." The translation into English is the work of Miss F. S. Copeland.

Nat Gould's latest book, issued at the price of 6d. only, is entitled "The White Arab." The "Arab" referred to is, of course, a steed, not a descendant of Ishmael.

The latest additions to the Anglo-Hellenic League's publications are: "Venizelos and his Fellow Countrymen," by Professor P. N. Ure; "Addresses by M. A. Diomedes, February 16, 1917"; and "Italy and Greece."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Greek Ideals: A Study of Social Life. By C. Delisle Burns. (Bell and Sons. 5s. net.)

The Eastern Question: An Historical Study in European Diplomacy. By J. A. R. Marriott. (Oxford: At the Clarendon Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

The Swine-Gods. By Regina Miriam Bloch. (Richmond. 3s. 6d. net.)

NEW GREEK CABINET.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated May 3, announces:—The New Cabinet has been formed as follows:—

M. ZAIMIS	Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs
E. NEGRIS	... Interior
COLONEL CHARALAMBIS ...	... War
M. LIDORYKI	... Justice
M. GEORGE RALLIS ...	... Finance
CAPTAIN P. ARGYROPOULOS	... Communications
M. CALLIGAS	... National Economy
M. DROSSOPOULOS ...	... Food
M. DEMIRTDJI	... Marine
M. EGENITIS	... Education

According to the Athens newspapers of May 6, Colonel Charalambis has declined to accept the office of Minister of War in the new Greek Cabinet in view of the conditions imposed, preferring to keep his position in the Army.

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),

1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C. 2

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. May.	1917. April.		1335. Rejeb.	5677. Iyar.
11	28	Friday	19	19
12	29	Saturday.....	20	20
13	30	Sunday	21	21
	May			
14	1	Monday	22	22
15	2	Tuesday	23	23
16	3	Wednesday	24	24
17	4	Thursday	25	25

Next Tuesday is the birthday of ex-Queen Natalie of Serbia, who was born, in Florence, in 1859.

Thursday is the birthday of H.M. the King of Spain, who will then enter his thirty-second year.

Thursday is also the birthday of Princess Arthur of Connaught.

The Duke of Connaught has been staying with Lieutenant-General Sir John Maxwell at York while inspecting the Volunteers in the Northern Command.

The Maharaja of Bikanir left London recently for Folkestone.

Prince Paul Kara-Georgevitch of Serbia left town on Sunday for the country.

Lady Decies is leaving for Roumania, having joined the Scottish Women's Hospital Contingent.

Madame Take Jonescu has returned to town, and is staying at 23, Cleveland Square.

M. Constantin Olanesco, formerly Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Madame Olanesco left London for Paris last week.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling arrived in Rome last Saturday, and is proceeding to the Italian front.

Madame Misu and her daughter returned to London from Brighton last week.

The Dean of Rochester, who has been on a mission tour in Egypt and Cyprus, is expected to return to Rochester very shortly.

Father Nicolas Velimirovitch, of the Serbian Legation, left London on Monday for France, for the purpose of visiting Serbian refugees.

The marriage of Captain Gerald H. G. Williamson, younger son of Sir Archibald Williamson, Bart., M.P., and Miss Christian Forbes, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs. Edmund Forbes, was solemnized at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, last Saturday afternoon.

Baron de Kusel is lying seriously ill at his daughter's residence, Oak Cottage, Dormans Park, Surrey.

Captain R. C. Cumberbatch, Rifle Brigade, who was invalided home in November, is now in Athens as Assistant Military Attaché to H.M. Legation.

His brother, Lieutenant H. D. Cumberbatch, The Buffs, who was invalided home at the end of last year after being wounded for the second time, has been seconded for special duty under the Admiralty abroad.

Princess Mary will represent the Queen at the variety entertainment which the Duchess of Wellington is giving at Apsley House on Tuesday afternoon, the 15th inst., in aid of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund. Among the artists who have promised to assist are Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Violet Loraine, Miss Mabel Russell, Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Harry Lauder and Mr. George Robey, while Miss May Harrison and Miss Louise Dale have undertaken to play and sing. Tickets can be obtained only at Apsley House, where applications should be made by letter to Lady Hope or Mr. J. H. Mossop.

Pir Syed Ibrahim of Baghdad, who has been resident in Bombay since 1912, has, says the *Times of India*, received the following telegram from the Nakeeb of Baghdad :—"All of us are well, thank God. The threshold, together with the sacred Jama Mosque, is protected. Let us know how you are." The following reply has been sent by Pir Syed Ibrahim to the Nakeeb of Baghdad :—"Received telegram. Thank God. Rejoiced to learn all safe and happy."

Colonel Hilaire, whose arrival in Khartoum was recently reported by our Sudan Correspondent, left that city for Cairo on April 13. Colonel Hilaire, who was accompanied by Lieut. Mercier, was the guest of his Excellency the Governor-General during his stay at Khartoum, and visited all places of interest in Khartoum and vicinity.

Captain J. E. Ellery, of Hull, captain of a British steamer which was sunk in the Mediterranean some time ago, writes from Salzerbad, Austria, paying a warm tribute to Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P., who is also a prisoner there. Captain Wilson, it will be remembered, was captured by a German submarine in the Mediterranean nearly two years ago, as reported in THE NEAR EAST at the time. Captain Ellery says : "I lost everything but what I stand up in, and can obtain nothing here. I am greatly indebted to Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P., for his very great kindness. He is keeping me supplied with extra food, etc., until some parcels can reach me from home. He is the 'fairy godmother' of the camp to British unfortunates like myself. He shares his parcels with us all, and uses his wealth for our general benefit as far as it is possible to do so. I am glad to say we are well treated by the Austrian officials."

The Anglo-Hellenic League is informed from Salonika that the Greek Press devotes long articles to the services rendered by Sir Armand Ruffer during his career in Egypt and to his disinterested attachment to the cause of M. Venizelos. He was the first to receive the Military Medal instituted by the Greek Government of National Defence.

The late Mrs. Louisa Logie, of Cambridge, left £1,000 to Cambridge University wherewith to establish a prize or scholarship in Arabic, as a memorial to her brother-in-law, the late Professor William Wright, to be awarded for the benefit of graduates of the University born in the United Kingdom and not being Jews. The Council of the Senate, while gratefully appreciating the goodwill to the University implied by this benefaction, state that they do not feel justified in recommending the Senate to accept and administer a bequest under the conditions attached. They accordingly recommend that the bequest be declined.

M. Voislav Antonievitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, left London for Paris on Sunday.

Mr. Perceval Landon will give a lecture on "Mesopotamia" at the Royal School of Art Needlework on Wednesday, May 30, at 3.30 p.m., when Princess Christian and Princess Marie Louise will be present.

In a message dated May 5, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports :—Colonel Scoumbourdis, Aide-de-Camp to King Constantine, has left for Salonika. The purpose of his journey is not known, but has given rise to various speculations.

Sir Courthauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross for Malta and the Near East, arrived in Rome on Wednesday afternoon.

A Reuter's message from Jassy, dated May 4, states :—M. Beldiman, former Roumanian Minister in Berlin, having published in the German Press a letter addressed by him last December to M. Bratiano, the Roumanian Premier, in which he criticised the policy of Roumania in the grossest language, has been dismissed from the service of the Government. Ever since Roumania's entry into the war M. Beldiman has been acting like a veritable enemy of Roumania.

Talaat Pasha arrived in Sofia on Saturday. On Sunday he was received by King Ferdinand, and, after taking luncheon with His Majesty, left for Constantinople.

During his visit to Vienna, says the *Neue Freie Presse*, Talaat Pasha had several private conversations with Count Czernin. The two statesmen were found to be in perfect agreement on all points, the paper adds.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. E. Sabline, First Secretary to the Russian Embassy in London, is promoted Counsellor of Embassy in consequence of M. C. Nabokoff's appointment as Russian Minister in Berne. M. Sabline was for some time Russian Minister to Persia.

Capt. Basil A. Jarvis, Army Veterinary Corps, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army with the rank of Bimbashi and posted to the Veterinary Department.

Bimbashi E. M. Hutchinson, Eastern Arab Corps, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

Lewa C. H. Townsend Pasha, Sudan Government, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

The following transfers have been approved :—
Bimbashi A. C. Marsh, 2nd Battalion, to Equatorial Battalion.
Bimbashi B. de W. Weldon, Cairo District, to Blue Nile District.
Bimbashi H. Smedly, Transport, to 4th Battalion.
Bimbashi C. W. Ritson, Eastern Arab Corps, to 1st Battalion

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OBITUARY.

LADY MALLET.

Lady Mallet, widow of the Right Hon. Sir Louis Mallet, C.B., died at Clifton, Bristol, on Monday last, aged eighty-two. She was Frances Helen, the daughter of the Rev. the Hon. Edward Pellew, fourth son of the first Viscount Exmouth, and was married to Sir Louis Mallet in 1858.

MAJOR M. CORSE SCOTT.

It is announced that Major Michael Corse Scott, Royal Scots, attached Royal Scots Fusiliers, died from the effects of shell shock on March 29. The eldest son of Mr. John Corse Scott, of Synton, Hawick, he was born in 1882, and was educated at Eton. Early in 1900 he joined the Warwick Militia, and served through the South African War, receiving the Queen's medal with three clasps. In 1902 he became lieutenant in the 1st Royal Scots, and served in India for seven years. In January, 1912, he was selected for service with the Egyptian Army, and spent four years in Egypt, chiefly in the Sudan, where he commanded a company of the Camel Corps. He rejoined the 1st Royal Scots in September, 1916, and later was laid aside with shell shock, from the effects of which he died, while attached to a battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, of which he was at the time second in command. Major Scott was a great favourite with his men. He became captain in 1913, and major last February.

MR. W. E. SILLEY.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Walter E. Silley, which occurred suddenly at Limassol on the 7th inst. He was the youngest son of the late Edward C. Silley, of Constantinople. He joined the staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank as a junior clerk in 1882, and went through the various departments of that well-known establishment, acquiring a general and detailed experience of banking, which, in conjunction with his knowledge of languages, fitted him well for the several responsible posts he had occupied at the head office of the bank at Constantinople. He was controller of the Stamboul branch on the outbreak of war in 1914, when he was compelled to leave his home in that city. In March, 1915, he was appointed manager of the branch at Limassol.

A man of sound British principles, Mr. Silley was of an unpretentious and kindly nature, a good husband and father. He was gifted with musical and humorous talents which on many occasions he turned to account in the interests of charitable objects. He was for many years a regular member of the choir of the Crimean Memorial Church. Mr. Silley, who leaves a widow, two daughters and a son, will be sadly missed by many friends both in Constantinople and Cyprus, and especially by his colleagues, by whom he was much esteemed and respected.

A Reuter's message from Simla, dated May 2, says:—"All India mourns to-day with Lord Chelmsford, who has lost his elder son, the Hon Frederic Ivor Thesiger, R.A.—killed in Mesopotamia."

The Hon. Frederic Ivor Thesiger was born on October 17, 1896, and was educated at his father's old school, Winchester. Afterwards he entered Woolwich, and passed out into the Royal Artillery in April, 1915, and very shortly after went to the front. In March of last year he was wounded in the operations in Mesopotamia, but he recovered and rejoined his battery. Lord Chelmsford's second son, the Hon. Andrew Charles Gerald Thesiger, was born in 1903.

Lieutenant-Colonel Nugent Macnamara, R.M.A., died on the 3rd inst., at 22, Park Crescent, Brighton. He was the son of Commander Timothy Macnamara, R.N., and of Mrs. Macnamara, formerly Miss Wynne Aubrey, of Clonger Court, Hereford. Colonel Macnamara fought in the Crimea, and his family have long been associated with the Navy, one being under Nelson's command at the battle of St. Vincent. His eldest grandson, Lieutenant Aubrey de St. Croix, was killed at Kut in February.

Mr. George Pierre Hunot, late British Vice-Consul at Saffi, Morocco, has died at his residence at Lee, at the age of seventy-nine years. After acting as Vice-Consul from 1869 till 1872, he was appointed to the post in the latter year, and held the same till his resignation at the close of 1911. Mr. Hunot was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and had received the Netherlands Order of Orange-Nassau.

Egyptian papers received by the last mail announce that news has been received in Cairo of the death in Paris of Leon Meunier Bey, who was for many years in the service of the Egyptian Government as Inspector of the State Domains, and subsequently as Director of the Bulak Technical School. He retired some years ago and went to live in France.

HELP to meet the needs of the
SERBIAN ARMY,
and send your Donation for the
SERBIAN RED CROSS
— to the —
SERBIAN LEGATION, 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund has opened an orphanage at Alexandropol. Contributions will be received by the hon. secretary, Miss E. J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, London. Cheques should be made payable to the hon. treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Chambers, and crossed London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch.

"It is said that an important group of the Young Turk party are thinking of releasing the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid from his prison in order to put him on the throne again," says "The Clubman," writing in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. "They consider, I am informed by a neutral friend who had a talk with a prominent Young Turk in Switzerland a few days ago, that his return would alone be capable of ending the Arab separation, and prevent, by an accord with the Entente Powers, the breaking up of the Empire. In this connection it may be mentioned that Abdul Hamid has for some time enjoyed a certain liberty, and has received quite a number of visitors."

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

OAKES.—On April 29, at Port Sudan, Sudan, the wife of Francis Edward Oakes, of a son.

DEATHS.

HUNOT.—On the 5th inst., at his residence, "Asfee," Burnt Ash Hill, Lee, George Pierre Hunot, F.R.G.S., late British Vice-Consul at Saffi, Morocco, aged seventy-nine.

PALMER.—Died of wounds May 2, at Cairo, Surgeon-Major Palmer, Yeomanry, eldest son of Dr. Palmer, Barton-under-Needwood, aged forty-seven.

SILLEY.—Died suddenly, on May 7, 1917, at Limassol, Cyprus, Walter Edward Silley, manager, Imperial Ottoman Bank, aged 50.

KILLED IN ACTION.

DANIELL.—Killed in action, on April 24, George Francis Blackburne Daniell, Second Lieutenant Royal Fusiliers, and of the Egyptian Civil Service, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Blackburne Daniell, of 19, Nevern Place, London, S.W., and dearly-loved husband of Mary Blackburne Daniell, aged 38 years.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

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(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

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This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.
Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20
Dinner, P.T.25.

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OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—
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TROODOS—Olympus Hotel. 6,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.
Perfect situation. French and English Cuisine. Moderate Terms.
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FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1917.

NEW RUSSIA AND CONSTANTINOPLE.

The entry of the United States into the war and the revolution in Russia are developments of profound significance, but the tendency to accept first impressions as lasting factors is causing a few people to credit these events with a bearing on the issues of the war that they cannot and ought not to exercise. In his message to Congress President Wilson, speaking for the United States, said: "We desire no conquests and no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, and no material compensation for sacrifices we shall freely make." It is felt in some circles that such a declaration to a certain extent involves the Allies as well, or at least imposes upon them the necessity of revising any terms of peace they may have previously counted upon exacting from their enemies. Events in Russia, or rather in Petrograd, have given a special Near Eastern application to this doctrine of a no-conquest peace. Two schools of thought, as is known, are striving for political power in New Russia, one representing Liberal Democracy, the other Extreme Socialism. For the present the country speaks with no certain voice; there is a confusion of tongues as well as of issues in Petrograd, and it has been thought more necessary to define the principles upon which democratic Russia is to act in an unrealized future than to take the necessary steps to set her free, in order that she may become democratic. The announcement of the Provisional Government that "Free Russia does not aim at the domination of other nations, at depriving them of their national patrimony, or at occupying by force foreign territories. . . . The Russian nation does not lust after the strengthening of its power abroad at the expense of other nations," is taken to have special reference to Constantinople, and it is at once inferred that there can no longer be any question of the elimination of Turkish sovereignty from Europe.

Russia, it is very evident, is passing through a transition stage, and time must be given her to find herself after the great political upheaval which she has experienced. There is naturally a desire on the part of those who have made the revolution to dissociate themselves from any aggressive Imperialism to which the old régime may seem to have been wedded. But the interests of the country will hardly be served by turning from one extreme to another. The antidote to Pan-Slavism is not necessarily a resolve that Russia should henceforth live entirely to herself and emulate the exclusiveness of China a century or two ago. She may not aim at dominating other peoples, but presumably she still hopes to live as well as to let live, and recognition of the fact that it is essential to her economic development that she should have free egress from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean is a matter of geography rather than a political theory. However loudly Russia may proclaim the brotherhood of man in Petrograd these days, there cannot be the least doubt that, unless the army fights on until victory is achieved, she will find herself in no better plight in regard to an unrestricted right of way through the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles than she was in 1914. Ignorance of history in the streets of the Russian capital will not of itself secure lasting peace for the world. The Balkans have been a storm centre of European politics ever since the Turks crossed over from Asia Minor, and the last use to which their presence in Europe has been put is to provide the foundation for Germany's attempt to extend her domination as far as the Persian Gulf. Permanent peace for Europe can be attained only by finding a solution for this state of affairs. Nothing that has happened in Russia can alter the circumstance that so long as Constantinople and the Straits remain in the hands of the Turks Germany will derive encouragement for designs which are directed against the peace of the world. However weakened she may be as the result of this war, she will find in Constantinople a stimulus to fresh effort and the nucleus of a revived Central Block of Powers. Such considerations may seem too remote for the Petrograd Socialists in the early days of their new-won liberty, but they carry great weight with the settled countries of Western Europe, who sprang to arms in defence of Russia when Germany declared war upon her. Even if the Russians decide to dispense with freedom of navigation between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, Roumania, it may be pointed out, is not in a position to do the same. The future of Constantinople is a matter of vital importance to her, as her commerce, which is equal to that of all the other Balkan States together, is dependent on egress to the Mediterranean being freed from all possibility of the arbitrary restrictions imposed in the past.

When the initial difficulties of the Revolution have been overcome, Russia, we are confident, will realize that a further orientation of her foreign policy is necessary. In the meantime it is to be hoped that public opinion in the Allied countries, the United States included, will not lose sight of the great principles for which the war is being waged. First and foremost is a peace as lasting as human foresight can make it. To this end a solution must be found for the conditions which made the Balkans not only one of the main battlegrounds of Europe, but also a fruitful cause of its wars. For past discord among the constituent States the peace settlement should aim at introducing harmony on lines that will help the peoples to discover that their future lies in a confederation which leaves room for individual development, but acts as a deterrent to any neighbour who may be tempted to interfere in their affairs. In such a scheme, apart from other considerations, there is no room for a Turkey which has it in her power to thwart the progress of the Confederation. New Russia may not be as anxious as the Tsar's Government was to make sure of unimpeded egress to the Mediterranean by keeping Constantinople in its own possession; but she will recognize sooner or later that she is laying up for herself a heritage of considerable trouble if she refrains from dealing drastically with the causes which contributed to the war. Fortunately in this matter her Allies do not need to go to the streets of Petrograd for their policy, particularly as the Russian Provisional Government has shown that the march of events has not robbed the country of all statesmanship. President Wilson has announced that a menace to peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic Governments backed by organized force, which is controlled wholly by their will and not by the will of their people. He looks forward to a "steadfast concert for peace," and holds that "no autocratic Government could be trusted to keep faith with it." If these views are endorsed by the people of the United States, they must welcome a solution which eliminates Turkish rule from Europe (regretfully as many others who can distinguish between the Turk and his Government may have reached the decision), and they might even, in the compelling cause of peace, meet Russian scruples by accepting responsibility themselves for the administration of Constantinople and the Straits. The other Allied Governments have been more explicit. In their reply to President Wilson's appeal last January they pledged themselves to "the setting free of the populations subject to the bloody tyranny of the Turks, and the turning out of Europe of the Ottoman Empire as decidedly foreign to Western civilization." Such a policy is avowedly in the interests of Europe; and it can hardly be doubted that it is also in the true interests of the Turk, who will no longer be subjected to the slavery of a militarist tyranny for the defence of conquered territories, which have always been a thorn in his side and the proximate cause of his undoing.

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SHEIKH SIR ABD-EL-AZIZ IBN SAOUD, K.C.I.E.

By C. STANLEY G. MYLREA.

In the present world war the Arab is only indirectly concerned, but he has been forced to take sides and to show by the weight of his resources whether he wishes one European Power or another to be the paramount influence in his part of the world. Both England and Germany have their champion in the interior of Arabia, and the two Powers have been able to make use of the feud which has for so long existed between the house of Ibn Rashid, backed by the powerful and numerous Shammar tribe, having its capital at Hail, and the house of Ibn Saoud, backed by the rest of the Nejdi tribes, and having its capital at Riadh.

It was comparatively easy for the Turks, under German guidance, to win Ibn Rashid to their side, if only for the reason that Ibn Saoud seemed to be leaning towards the British. They could promise him unlimited supplies by way of Damascus, and, in the early days of the war, by way of Baghdad and Mesopotamia. Now, however, that Baghdad and Busreh have come under British control, Ibn Rashid can receive little or nothing from Mesopotamia, and Damascus remains his only certain source.

Ibn Saoud, on the other hand, is absolutely dependent on the ports of the Persian Gulf; and, indeed, since his capture of the province of El-Hasa from the Turks, in 1912, his own territory is now washed by the waters of the Persian Gulf.

Germany has spared no effort to keep the friendship of Ibn Rashid, sending him with liberal hand both money and munitions. She has also endeavoured to wean Ibn Saoud away from England, but her intrigues in this direction have met with no success. On the contrary, some of Ibn Rashid's best men are leaving him and coming over to England's side, a sure indication on their part that they believe that England will win this war. There is no doubt that in proportion to the vigour with which the Mesopotamian and Egyptian campaigns are prosecuted, will it become increasingly difficult for Ibn Rashid to get any benefit out of his alliance with Turkey and Germany.

The man of strongest personality in Arabia to-day is Abd-el-Aziz Ibn Saoud; and his loyalty to the British, in a country where self-interest is the first instinct, is undoubtedly equal to considerable strain. He is a man who has only of recent years come into prominence, and prior to 1897 was an emir without a dominion, for Ibn Rashid held his capital, Riadh. But in that year Mohammed Ibn Rashid died, and Ibn Saoud, backed up by Sheikh Mubarek of Kuweit, who furnished him with fourscore camels and riders, seized Riadh suddenly one night, completely overwhelming its defenders. From that time Ibn Saoud's star has been in the ascendant, since in force of character he far surpasses the successor of Mohammed Ibn Rashid; and to-day he is the strongest man in Arabia and the man of the hour.

It is now nearly three years since I first met Abd-el-Aziz Ibn Saoud. He was at that time in camp some twenty miles west of Kuweit, near a small town called Jahreh, and had come up from El-Hasa, which he had conquered from the Turks some two years previously. He wanted to discuss the then burning question of British and Turkish relations with Central and Eastern Arabia. He could not be persuaded to accept Kuweit's hospitality, most probably fearing Turkish treachery; for there were several Turkish agents in the town at that time, and Ibn Saoud's head was a tempting prize. In his own camp, however, he was absolute master, and could protect himself.

In response to an invitation from the Sheikh, I went out to his camp to treat him and some of his people professionally. Having come up from malaria-stricken Hasa, many of Ibn Saoud's men were down with fever, and needed the benefits of modern medicine. His camp was a fine sight, and the two hundred odd glistening white tents made a brave show in the strong sunlight of a May morning. I was rather surprised to find white tents, but "the black tents of Kedar" are going out of fashion among the aristocracy, and the "house of hair," the true Arab tent, is now the dwelling of the Bedouin only. As a matter of fact, the true Arab tent has been much overrated by travellers; for when it is a *little* bit old, it leaks like a sieve in a shower of rain.

The Sheikh's marquee was at the end of a long avenue of tents pitched much truer to line than one expects in this part of the world, where no one has a straight eye. On my arrival I was at once conducted into the presence of Ibn Saoud. He rose to welcome me as I entered, and pointed me to the seat of honour beside him. The tent was furnished in the typical desert style. Persian carpets covered the floor, and, for pillows, camel saddles overlaid with sheepskins were ranged along the sides of the tent. A pleasing dash of colour was added by the gaudy camel housings which hung from the tent poles; but the air of comfort was toned down by rows of exceedingly good rifles which were hung up ready for instant use.

The minute Ibn Saoud stood up, I was struck with the personality of the man. In stature he is a good six feet, and with his broad, powerful shoulders presents a truly athletic figure, clean cut and symmetrically developed. He has all the graces of a polished Arabian nobleman, and, in addition, his open countenance invites confidence. As he talks, you feel that he is sincere; there is a ring of truth in all he says. His frequent gestures accentuate the beauty of his shapely hands. Our conversation touched upon many subjects, but perhaps the following instance shows up the man's character in all its desert ruggedness. We were talking of the opening up of Central Arabia to the white men. He said: "They will be welcome, but on one condition only, that they do not interfere in religious matters. In Central Arabia, we are not only one religion, we are all one sect. In many parts of the Mohammedan world you have all the principal sects living together—Hanifi, Maliki, Shafi, Hanbali. In Central Arabia we are all Hanbalis, and there is absolute harmony in consequence. Introduce new faiths, and there will be an end of peace." (The Sheikh's idea of peace, when one considers the endless raiding and petty fighting for which the Arab is famous, is obviously relative.)

"Ours is the true religion," he went on, "but we must follow the teachings of the prophet Mohammed, on whom be prayers and peace. Only recently people have been inviting me to join my interests with theirs because they are Moslems." (The Sheikh mentioned no names, but was no doubt referring to the Turks who had been using the cry of Pan-Islam in order to induce him to come into their political schemes.) "But are these people Moslems? They have thrown aside all of the Prophet's ordinances, they neither pray nor fast nor give alms nor make the pilgrimage. They murder, they oppress, they lie, they steal. They have forsaken the old religion, they are infidels. I will have nothing to do with such people."

"Listen!" he cried, and he sat up straighter, and his eyes glistened. "I will tell you a story. By the orders of the angel Gabriel, a large idol was set up just outside the gates of Paradise. Presently a believer came along and was about to pass into Paradise when the idol's attendant stopped him and said: 'You must offer a beast to the idol.' 'I cannot,' replied the believer, 'for I do not respect idols. Allah has no partners; He is One.' 'Well, then,' said the attendant, 'you must offer a fowl.' The believer still refused. 'In any case,' the attendant went on, 'you must at least offer a fly.' This time the believer yielded, and at once came the order from Gabriel, 'Away with him to Jehannum.' After a while another believer came along, and again the attendant demanded: 'You must sacrifice a beast to the idol before you enter Paradise.' 'Never,' said the believer, 'I believe in Allah; He has no partners.' 'Then,' tempted the attendant, 'if you cannot afford a beast you must offer a fowl.' 'No,' persisted the believer, 'I offer no fowls to idols.' 'I really cannot let you pass unless you offer at least a fly to the idol,' the attendant maintained. But the believer was unshaken. 'Beast, fowl, or fly, it is all the same to me; I make no reverence to stone images.' This time came the order from Gabriel, 'He is a true believer; admit him to Paradise.' And," added Ibn Saoud, "I will follow my Prophet absolutely. Not even a fly will I offer to any other religion."

It was on November 19 of last year that Ibn Saoud next visited this part of the country. The circumstances were markedly different. On the former occasion the vague claims of Turkey to Kuweit were a subject of discussion, and the Crescent and Star still flew from Mubarek's flagstaff. At that time the decision of this question was of momentous importance to Ibn Saoud. England and himself regarded one another as unknown quantities, and the Turk was standing by, waiting to see how the sum would work out. Then Ibn Saoud would not trust himself in Kuweit.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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even with the powerful Mubarek as his host; but now he is not afraid to take up his residence in the palace, in the very centre of the town. A new standard now floats over the palace, a simple flag, the word "Kuweit" embroidered in white letters on a scarlet ground. As on the occasion of his last visit, he has come up from El Hasa, not overland as formerly, but by sea, an honoured guest on board H.M.S. ——, under the personal escort of the Commodore. The sea is a strange element to the Sheikh. As he himself puts it, he is a son of the desert, not of the sea. He is not a little impressed with the wonders of a modern ship of war.

The Chief Political Officer of the Persian Gulf, Sir Percy Zachariah Cox, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., had preceded Ibn Saoud by a day, and, in addition, Sheikh Khazal of Mohammerah, besides, of course, Sheikh Jab'r of Kuweit, successor to Mubarek, were all in readiness to receive the important visitor.

On the following day a durbar was held at the palace, and it was then that I had the opportunity of renewing my acquaintance with Ibn Saoud. Among all the richly dressed Arabs in the room, he was easily the conspicuous figure. His magnificent bearing still commanded the attention. The three years had only improved the attractiveness of his personality, and when presently the Chief Political Officer decorated him with the K.C.I.E., and the beautiful ornament glittered on his handsome brown cloak, he would have made an unusual subject for an artist.

There were several fine speeches made at the durbar, but that of Ibn Saoud was remarkable for its importance and transparent sincerity. He laid great stress on the fact that Turkey had no real love for the Arab, and that, amid all her pretensions of friendship, she had always sought to promote enmity between tribe and tribe. England, on the other hand, was doing all she could to unite the chiefs of Arabia into a powerful and harmonious confederacy.

Ibn Saoud is possibly quieter and more deliberate than he was three years ago, but his beautiful smile is scarcely ever absent from his face even when he is apparently engrossed in thought. There was never a trace of conceit in his kingly bearing, and I was reminded of Mark Twain's description of King Arthur where he made the King himself say: "Armour is a proud burden, and a man standeth straight in it."

After the durbar I saw Ibn Saoud twice in the Kuweit Sheikh's *mejlis* and once when he made a personal call, and I was able to chat with him informally and further study the man. It is always an extremely difficult thing to estimate Arab character from a political point of view; but a straightforward friendship will, without doubt, make a valuable ally of Ibn Saoud, and go a long way towards bringing all the chiefs of Arabia into harmony, an event far more likely to-day than yesterday. Once the Arab chiefs can be made to realise that their welfare lies, not in constant feud, but in peace and mutual confidence, what England desires for Arabia will be accomplished. It may be that Ibn Saoud is the instrument that can bring those desires to pass.

THE BRITISH IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The *Daily News* published recently an article, "Turkey's Time of Crisis," which, we are told, "represents the expressed views of a foreign official who has had recent opportunity of personally investigating the everyday conditions of life in Turkey." The whole article is full of interest, but for British readers the passage describing the lot of the British colony is the most interesting part of all. The writer says:—"Most of the members of the British colony at Constantinople left at the outbreak of the war, and those who remain—numbering from 100 to 150—have won the admiration of friends and enemies alike by their courage and dignity in very difficult circumstances. The British business houses in Constantinople are open as usual, and, generally speaking, the members of the present British colony are unmolested. About thirty members of the colony have undergone periods of internment inland in 'reprisals' by the Turkish Government for alleged bombardments of undefended towns by British and French aviators. All British subjects in Constantinople must be at home before nine o'clock in the evenings. About half a dozen members of the colony are at present 'interned' in a house in Constantinople. Their imprisonment, also described as a 'reprisal,' is a formal one, and they suffer no privations. The American Embassy at Constantinople looks after the interests of the British colony very thoroughly. The American Ambassador is on excellent terms with the Turkish authorities, and his tactful intervention often prevents internments."

An appeal was made in Birmingham on Saturday, through the medium of a street collection, on behalf of the Roumanian relief fund to provide Red Cross equipment and to relieve the distress among the wives and dependents of the Roumanian soldiers. About £800 was contributed in the streets, and with the subscriptions already promised a total sum of about £1,000 will be realised.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Deaths at Salonika. May 8.

Mr. Macpherson informed Mr. Outhwaite that he thought it was undesirable to publish figures as to the number of deaths from disease in the British forces at Salonika, but he would be happy to let him know privately.

Post to Mesopotamia.

Mr. Chamberlain, answering Mr. McCallum Scott, said he had reason to believe that during the last six months the postal service in Mesopotamia had been greatly improved, and that the arrangements now made for the return to India of letters and parcels addressed to men who had been invalided from the Mesopotamian Force and for their transmission to the addresses were now fairly adequate. The Director-General of Indian Posts and Telegraphs had personally inquired into the matter, and was giving it his close attention.

The Situation at Salonika. May 9.

Replying to a question by Sir H. Dalziel about the position of affairs in Salonika, Mr. Bonar Law said: The Prime Minister intends to refer to this subject at the private Session of the House to-morrow.

The Mesopotamian Theatre of War.

In moving a new Vote of Credit, Mr. Bonar Law referred to the Mesopotamia theatre of war. "That was," he said, "an operation which began very badly. It was one of our great reverses. All that has been changed. It is now—it is not too much to say—not only one of the most successful, but one of the most brilliant operations that have been conducted throughout the war. Not only have we succeeded in taking Baghdad, but after that was done the General Commanding our Forces has given the enemy no rest. He has seized every opportunity; he has used to the full the advantage which his interior lines give him; and again and again, by brilliant attacks between the Tigris and the Diala, he has defeated the enemy, with the result that now we not only hold Baghdad itself, but we practically hold the vilayet of Baghdad, and, what is more, we hold it securely. Part of the credit for this result, and not a small part, is due, as I think, to the work of our General Staff at home who made the arrangements, part is due to the splendid courage and ardour of our troops, but much is due to the British Commander in that theatre of operations, who has shown, if I may be permitted to express an opinion, military ability of the very highest order in all the operations connected with that campaign. I may add that the Cabinet only the other day sent out to him a message of congratulation and thanks."

THE MEVLEVI DERVISHES.

Last Sunday evening, at the headquarters of the Sufi Brotherhood, Professor Henri Léon gave a sympathetic and very interesting account of the Mevlevi, otherwise known as the "Whirling" or "Dancing" Dervishes. He said that, in common with the other thirty-three orders of Dervishes, the Mevlevi traced their origin back to Abraham and earlier. He told the Arabic tradition of the intended sacrifice by Abraham of his son, a story which is identical with the biblical story, except that it is more elaborated and that Ishmael takes the place of Isaac. Dr. Léon said that before the Mevlevi novitiate is accepted, the first ceremony of his initiation is the building by his own hands of a rough stone altar in commemoration of this incident in the life of Abraham and Ishmael, and in token of the immolation of himself and his devotion to the religious life. Thereafter, during a period of a thousand and one days, he passes from cell to cell in the Mevlevi monastery to the number of eighteen, every such transition having its own symbolical meaning, until, finally, he goes through a ceremony commemorating the building of the Kaaba by Abraham and his two sons. After this he is attired in symbolical garments, and is admitted to the order. Dr. Léon described the religious ceremony by which the Mevlevi are best known to the western world. It is performed, he said, in a building something like a large circus, for there is an arena in the centre, two tiers of seats around this for spectators, and a chamber in which concealed musicians perform mystic music upon drums and a kind of reed flute. The ceremony commences with a hymn in praise of the Prophet, after which the brethren come in quietly one by one and take their places around the arena. Then the Sheikh enters, bows to the brethren, and takes his stand on a goatskin mat, turns towards Mecca and offers a prayer to God, and in praise of the Prophet and of the founder of that order of dervishes. After he is finished he sits upon the mat, and the Dervishes advance and bow to him and one another. Then they take their places in the arena. In the centre of this stands the director of ceremonies, around whom they all dance, each Dervish continually spinning round and at the same time circling round the arena. Two, instead of circling, pass in an ellipse amongst the others, while one walks in amongst the dancers, going where he pleases. In spite of all this complication of modes of motion, no one collides with anyone else, and the Dervishes do not become giddy, although the dance is performed with an ever increasing momentum, and lasts about twenty minutes or half an hour before it stops. It is repeated three times. Dr. Léon explained the mystic dance as a relic of sun worship. The Dervish in the centre who does not move symbolises the sun, those who pass in a circle round him represent the planets, the two who go in an ellipse are comets, and the one who goes where he pleases is the lightning.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

General Maude's Achievement.

The following is the concluding paragraph from a leading article, "The Increasing Battle," in Saturday's *Times*. It is good to find our Mesopotamia Force receiving generous recognition at last from Press and Public:—

The great events in the West tend to overshadow the very efficient and successful campaign in Mesopotamia. This is natural, but none the less unfair to General Maude and his troops, who can have no higher praise than that they are worthy of their commander. It took General Maude from the middle of December till nearly the end of February to break the resistance of the Turks defending Kut-el-Amara. But it was time well spent. Since then he has given the Turks no rest, and has proved once again that, excellent as they are behind defensive positions, they have little rallying power when they have been driven out of their trenches and are forced to battle in the open. It was a routed Turkish army that fled beyond Baghdad without more than the semblance of a stand. It is in even worse position now. General Maude has thrown a column across the desert to the Euphrates, where he holds Feluja. His main body is operating in two columns. One has advanced up the Tigris and has driven the Turkish 18th Army Corps from the whole seventy miles of rail between Baghdad and the terminus at Samarra. This Turkish Army Corps, a much-battered survival, has now been forced fifteen miles beyond Samarra. The other British column has pushed up the Shatt-el-Adhaim, an eastern tributary of the Tigris, has attacked the 13th Turkish Army Corps in the foothills of Jebel Hamrin, and has scattered it into the hills. All this has been done with the heat increasing upon our men. It shows what British troops can do under a general who gives his enemy no rest when once he has him on the move. British prestige in Mesopotamia stands higher than ever before. The country, however indifferent it may seem to be just now, will assuredly not fail when the time comes to show its gratitude to General Maude and his men, Indian as well as British.

The Evacuation of Mush.

In a note on the operations in Mesopotamia, the *Nation* (May 5) expresses the opinion that while reports from our own front are most encouraging, reports suggest an unsatisfactory state of things on part of the Russian front:—

General Baratoff is in Petrograd when his co-operation is most needed on the Persian frontier, and apparently the Russians have evacuated Mush. There is no reason to think that this will affect the main position in Armenia. But it should not have been allowed when the British are advancing, and need security on their right flank. General Maude is still master of the situation in his neighbourhood.

"The Future of Palestine."

In an important article with the above title the *Spectator* (May 5) expresses strong disapproval of a suggestion put forward in the *New Europe*, that the Jews shall go back to Canaan and establish a self-governing Jewry under the British flag; and of the other suggestion that because our armies have gone to Palestine we shall insist on holding the country hereafter. Says the writer:—

We have never met any serious person who thought that the possession of Palestine was necessary to the defence of the Suez Canal or that it was desirable on other grounds. The Sinai Desert has not, indeed, proved an impassable barrier to would-be invaders of Egypt, any more than it was in the days of the Hittites or the Assyrians, and we, like Napoleon, have crossed it to attack the Turks in Palestine. But a belt of almost waterless wastes a hundred miles across is a far better defence than most frontiers have, and even in these days, with railways and pipe-lines and aeroplanes at a general's command, the Sinai Desert is a very awkward obstacle to overcome in face of a well-armed and vigilant defending force. We should need a good deal of evidence to convince us that the Suez Canal would be more easily and cheaply defended by holding the mountains from Mount Carmel to the Jordan Valley and the hills of Judæa than by watching the few tracks across the Sinai Desert.

There is, he adds, "not the least likelihood that Turkey will remain after the war either a vassal of Germany or the ruler of Palestine. . . . The alleged military necessity for annexing Palestine is thus disposed of." On other grounds, he considers, the project is wholly objectionable. We may have to assume the duty of restoring Mesopotamia to something like its old prosperity; but it would be madness for us to undertake such a task in Palestine. We can employ our capital to better advantage in East Africa or Nigeria. "And from the political standpoint annexing Palestine would be like putting one's hand into a wasps' nest."

Jewish Colonisation.

The writer then turns to a consideration of the proposal to colonise Palestine with Jews, which he finds entirely commendable.

It is said that the Jews already form a sixth of the scanty population, which is under seven hundred thousand, so that newcomers would find a Jewish environment in most parts of Palestine. If so much has been done despite the misgovernment of the Turk and the chronic disorder caused by the unruly nomad tribes, it is probable that the Jews would multiply and prosper were Palestine freed from the Turk and given peace and order. Mr. Zangwill's Jewish Territorial Organisation has sought the world over for suitable sites for Jewish colonies, and in East Africa, in Cyrenaica, and in Angola has met with apparently insuperable difficulties. Palestine, with its great stretches of untilled land and its lack of people, seems to offer more to the Jews than any of the proposed alternatives. A thriving Jewish colony in the Holy Land would benefit everyone and offend none.

The existence of an isolated Jewish State would be precarious. It must have behind it some Christian Power or Powers, or it would become as bad a centre of political intrigues as Turkey or Morocco or Persia. Yet, as we have said, the question of the Holy Places involves so much religious and national jealousy that we could not become their protector, and probably no other European Power alone could do so with safety. It seems to us that America has here a great opportunity for rendering a service to Europe and the East. She might very well undertake the task of protecting the Jewish Republic of Palestine—a neutral international Republic in which no Power was unduly favoured to the exclusion of others—just as she has fulfilled the task of protecting the Republics of Cuba and Panama. America would excite no jealousy. She is on the best of terms with all the Allies, and is universally respected outside Germany. Her medical missionaries have for many years pervaded Asiatic Turkey from the Black Sea to the Red Sea, and have won the confidence and affection of the many races. America has no political aims to serve in the Near East. Her assumption of a Protectorate would simply be a guarantee that the little Palestine Republic would have no external enemy to fear and would be required to maintain an honest and competent administration. Many conflicting and irreconcilable ambitions would thus be stilled for ever, and Christians, Jews, and Moslems alike could visit peacefully the sacred places which have an eternal appeal for mankind.

Another Massacre?

The *Jewish Chronicle* of May 4 contains an article, "The Peril of Palestine Jews," which begins as follows:—

As we go to press news of a terrible character reaches us concerning our co-religionists in Palestine. It will be seen from the statement we print in another column that the Turkish authorities are virtually running amok among the Jews in the Holy Land, and it is with bitter regret that we learn that the splendid suburb of Jaffa, Tel Aviv—a pride of the regenerated Jewry—lies a heap of ruins, the fell work of Turkish ruthlessness. These Turks have imbibed their lesson freely from their German masters, and the dastardly passion for iconoclasm in which the Teuton has shown himself supreme in his progress through Belgium and in his retreat through France, his Turkish pupils appear to be bettering in Palestine.

The material damage inflicted upon our people is, however, as nothing when compared with the unspeakably infamous threat that has been levelled against them. In plain, unvarnished language, there is hanging over them the prospect of such a massacre as only Turks are capable of, and of which the civilised world will understand the measure when they are told, by the Turks themselves, that it is to be of the Armenian sort. This, in a word, means the extermination of our people there, the very flower of our flock, the pioneers of Jewry, whose lives have been inspired by a noble hope, who have been infused with the splendid aspiration of building up anew Israel's nation in Israel's ancient land.

After referring to the joy felt recently at the removal of the ban from the Jews of Russia, the article goes on to say that though the Jews involved in this, Israel's latest agony, are but few compared with the Jews in Russia, yet the fact that they are Palestinian Jews makes their case one in which the Jewry of the world is deeply and supremely concerned. The writer continues:—

If it were necessary to point to one added circumstance that renders this disaster the more piteous and the more galling, it is that it has come just at the moment when the prospects and the hopes of the Jew for centuries of being re-gathered to the home of his fathers seemed to be fructifying. It looks as if the Turkish authorities, with that malignant spite which, to be fair to them, is far more Teutonic than Turkish, had made up their minds that since Palestine cannot be held by them it shall be the scene of a holocaust. Since they cannot win the applause of the world by victory, they are determined at least to win something, even if it be but the execration of the world for unparalleled infamy.

The Situation in Athens.

In the course of an interesting despatch, sent off on May 2, and published last Wednesday, the Athens correspondent of *The Times* remarks that, while no one contests the integrity of M. Zaimis, the new Prime Minister, there is some doubt about his power to deal with the situation. But those most closely in touch with the situation are lending him their support, and—

It is argued that M. Zaimis will carry on the government of the country decently for a period during which our enemies here will be unable to react and that so the question will be at least temporarily shelved, than which nothing could be more desirable. The supporters of M. Zaimis's solution recognize that the occult

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government of General Dousmanis, M. Gounaris and the rest of Germany's agents has worked harm, but they say that the Royal Family and the mass of the people, once these influences are set aside, will, either from choice or interest, remain quiescent.

The King is steadily losing his followers. . . . Most of the King's following came from the fact that he made Athens into a sort of Noah's Ark, where people could take refuge from the deluge of the war. But since the Provisional Government has within the last week declared that the populations of any territory henceforth seceding to the national movement will not be mobilized, the last plank has been hit from under the King's feet, and it is at least very doubtful if any rank and file would be found to stand between him and his fate.

The writer adds that it is the opinion of many competent observers that if M. Venizelos were granted a loan to enable him to reduce the price of foodstuffs immediately on his arrival in Athens, and if the blockade were raised, "all opposition would crumple up in a day."

Germany's Grip on Turkey.

In an editorial note upon "The Middle East," *United Empire* regrets that "where the Allies' ring of steel is contracting most rapidly the effect is diminished by the distance from the nerve-centre of the enemy's organization." The successes in Mesopotamia and Palestine are of first importance, but their effect on Germany's military plans will not make itself felt, or apparent, very quickly. The note continues:—

German thoroughness has left nothing to chance in connection with Turkey's fulfilment of her share of the Central European pact. Austro-German troops overawe the capital, and German officials in every ministerial office and Government department are a guarantee of the good behaviour of those who have bound themselves to Germany for a price. Turkey, therefore, is likely to suffer much before she finds an opportunity of shaking herself free of the shackles her rulers have fastened upon her. In the matter of prestige the blow that has fallen upon the Ottoman Empire in Mesopotamia is graver than the worst defeat it could experience in Europe, short of the capture of Constantinople. Coupled with the menace to Palestine and the revolt of the Hedjaz, it signs the death-warrant of the Turkish Government's hopes of being able to recover its hold upon the Arabs. An independent Arabia must destroy the mythical importance attached by European peoples to Turkey's position in the Moslem world by virtue of the Ottoman Sultans' usurpation of the Khalifate; while the actual loss of territory, even if no further ills befall her, must seriously impair her value in the eyes of those who are at present her allies. Of this aspect of the Allies' success in Mesopotamia there will be no mention in Constantinople for the time being. Rather will the Turkish Government receive fresh assurances that the fate of the Ottoman Empire is being decided in France and Russia, and for this reason it will be pressed not only to keep in Europe the troops she so urgently needed elsewhere, but also to reinforce them.

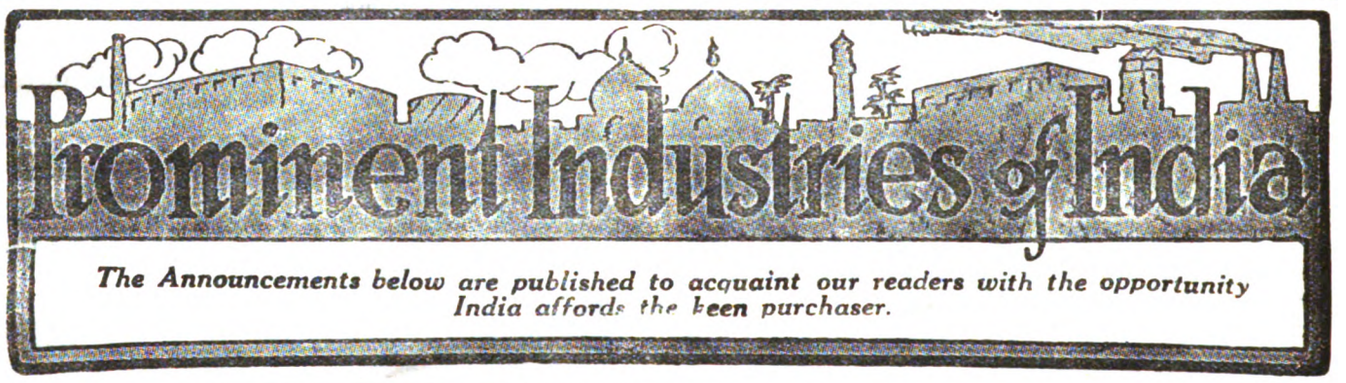
Articles to Note.

"Besieged in Kut—and After," by "C. B."; "The End of the Year. Mesopotamia—1915," by El Hamran; and "The Scene of War," by Odysseus; in *Blackwood's Magazine* (May).

"The Future Frontiers of Turkey," by Colonel Sir Thos. H. Holdich, in the *Fortnightly Review* (May).

"A British Field Hospital on the Roumanian Front," in the *Windsor Magazine*.

"The Central Caucasus: Present Conditions and Probable Future Development," by H. Raeburn; and "Tartar Tribes," by V. Dingelstedt, in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine*.



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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Admiral von Capelle, the German Naval Secretary of State, claims that in three months his submarines have sunk 2,800,000 tons of Entente merchant shipping—an equivalent of a fleet of 500 ships, each of 5,600 tons. It is probable that this is a gross exaggeration, but the actual position is the amazing one that we are unable to contest the claim because the naval authorities of the Allies refuse to give any information which would enable us to know exactly how the lost tonnage account stands. All we are able to realise is that the shipping situation is admittedly grave, that it has caused an acute shortage of food, and that oversea commerce, generally, is dislocated seriously.

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It is true that the figures published by the Admiralty yesterday show a decrease in the number of vessels sunk in the week, nineteen ships of 1,600 tons or more, and twenty-two of less than that tonnage, against thirty-eight and twelve, respectively, in the week ended on April 29. Nevertheless, there is not a word to indicate whether the actual tonnage involved is less or greater. It is not for me to say that the Admiralty authorities are not right in refusing to publish information which, conceivably, would assist our enemies; but I see no reason why, at the end of each official statement, such a note as "the aggregate tonnage sunk is —— less than last week" (or more, as the case might be). Surely that would not be a present to the amiable Hun of an invaluable military secret. We may depend on it that submarine commanders rarely fail to ascertain the names of the vessels which they destroy, and know by reference to the register exactly what their tonnage is.

***

I should like to invite the attention of my readers to a letter published in this issue of THE NEAR EAST, in which an exceptionally well-informed correspondent combats the view that Constantinople has no commercial future worth talking about. I agree with him that such an opinion is uninformed, and merely indicates that those who hold it are out of touch with all the possibilities of the region. The Turk has never stood for efficiency and enterprise—he has had other stones to turn—and with reform in this respect there is no reason why the South-Eastern corner of Europe should not be one of the world's gardens; and, contrariwise, there is every reason why it should be.

***

The Buenos Aires correspondent of *The Times* raises an important point in a letter in the Trade Supplement of the paper. He writes: "The question of the extent to which British textile goods are reaching enemy firms through the large number of Turkish importing firms which have come into existence here during the last couple of years is worthy of a good deal of consideration, not only from the point of view of the immediate and temporary effect, which is undesirable enough, but also from that of the probability of the creation of a serious and permanent menace to British trade in this particular branch." Before the war broke out, the correspondent tells us, a few Turkish firms imported direct, as a rule, from their own house in Manchester; "they were not numerous, but were, in their way, respectable, established, and recognised import houses. Nowadays it is difficult to keep pace with the number of new names which appear every month in the special districts of Buenos Aires where the Turk flourishes."

***

It is made clear that "Turk" means anything that hails from the Eastern Mediterranean. "It is a generic term; it must be read in this connection as including Turks—Christian and Mohammedan—Syrians, Jews, all varieties, and Levantines, and of these a recent calculation revealed the fact that there are now between 100 and 150 firms importing direct from Manchester and Bradford. Most of them come from the Mount Lebanon district, the Levant, and the Mediterranean generally; they have come here on account of the stoppage of export trade to those districts, and they have done uncommonly well, especially last year." There are "Turks" to-day in Buenos Aires who "are worth £20,000 who live, eat, and keep their accounts in a little room behind a modest showroom in a poor quarter of the town, and who are seldom seen in a coat and still more seldom in a collar." An amusing picture, indeed.

***

According to a "distinguished neutral" who has recently been permitted to leave Constantinople, that city suffers from a great dearth of every kind of import, and the poorer classes from great privation owing to the scarcity of food. "On the other hand," we are told, "some few people have been so lucky as to make good profits, and they make a parade of their newly-acquired riches by buying new furniture and especially pianos, for which there is great demand in Constantinople just now." Quite a set-off to the collarless "Turk" who makes his fortune in the slums of the great Argentine city!

***

Somebody, the other day, made the statement that the Deutsche Bank had the large sum of £16,000,000 "tied up" in the Baghdad Railway, and because, I presume, in view of recent developments in the Middle East, the "investment" is not now regarded in German banking circles as "safe," Herr von Gwinner brands the statement as "a malicious invention by an author who had lived for years in Germany." The author, who appears to be Mr. F. W. Wile, the late correspondent in Berlin of *The Times*, deals very caustically with the denial. He writes in that paper:—"The figures in question were not only derived from statistical data supplied to me by the librarian of the Deutsche Bank at Herr von Gwinner's direction, but the chapter containing them was submitted to Herr von Gwinner in proof and approved by him before publication. In the German translation of my book (*Männer um den Kaiser*), issued in Berlin in 1913, a few months after the appearance of the original English edition, the same figures, expressed in marks, were published without evoking challenge from any quarter. The only comment Herr von Gwinner ever made to me about the contents of the book was that exalted personages had taken him to task for appearing in such biographical bad company as August Bebel and Maximilian Harden."

***

It is common knowledge that it takes thirty German marks to make one pound sterling—instead of twenty—and Mr. Wile very properly suggests that what the President of the Baghdad and Anatolian Railway Companies meant was that as a consequence of this unparalleled depreciation in German money the value of the "investment" had dwindled to £10,666,666. What other meaning can be attached, in the circumstances, to the denial, unless it be that, recognising the inexorable working of the authority that punishes wrong-doing, the Deutsche Bank's holding in these railway companies is likely to be reduced still further in value? At any rate, that precisely is what will happen in the not distant future.

***

We are to have a world famine in the months to come. At least, the Vienna paper, *Arbiter Zeitung*, has decreed it to be so. "Our broad acres have now for the third time been ploughed too little and too shallow," lugubriously writes the paper. "Our diminished, deteriorated, and insufficiently fed stock produces little and poor manure, while artificial manure is not to be had. Farm buildings, machines, and implements fall to pieces, and the previous zeal of the farmer's wife is slackening in the face of increasing adversity. Farmers generally express the fear that unless our arable land is attended to, at all events this autumn, with the full energy of male labour in sufficient quantity, it will go back so far that the damage will not be made good for many, many years. Economists see a world famine approaching with no uncertain strides. It will indeed put an end to the war, but then it will be too late. And yet there are still leaders of States and peoples who are awaiting 'ultimate victory,' and who overlook the fact that nothing is to be awaited but the collapse of the ancient cultivation of the whole of Europe." And not a word about the much boomed loot which the fortune of war was to secure in Roumania. Dear, dear!

COMMENTATOR.

DELICIOUS COFFEE.
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Agricultural Problems in the Sudan.

The Ancient Waterwheel versus the Modern Pump.

(BY OUR KHARTOUM CORRESPONDENT.)

Visitors to Egypt are accustomed to the sight of the water-wheel, and are acquainted, in a general way, with the system of agriculture which it implies; it is easy to imagine that the same system continues up the length of the Nile. The conditions further up the Nile, however, very soon alter very materially from those applying in Egypt, and agriculture has to be adapted accordingly.

The heavy black cotton soil, so typical of Egypt, is not to be found in the Sudan, where it is always mixed with a certain proportion of sand; the result is a much lighter soil.

Between Egypt and the Sudan there is the long reach from Dongola to Shellal which is cut up by cataracts, or the river passes between rocky hills and sandy wastes, with but a small patch, if that, of cultivable soil on each side. In Dongola and Berber provinces the system of water-wheel cultivation is worked out as far as it can be in the Sudan. There is ample soil suitable for growing various kinds of grain and the lift, except in an exceptionally low Nile, is not prohibitive.

Winter Crops.

The native is accustomed to try and get a winter crop of wheat or barley between October and April, then a short crop probably of some leguminous sort to tide over until the flood comes and he starts his largest cultivation, generally of dura or maize. The river is high and his cattle can lift the water with ease so that a far larger area can be dealt with than in winter when there may be a lift of five metres to cope with.

This summer crop which has the most favourable conditions for watering is, unfortunately, not suitable for any but dura or maize crops owing to the extreme heat; but it supplies the native with his own food, so that he can apply himself in the other seasons to growing a more marketable article.

Throughout the year, however, the land has to be watered by lifting the water from the river over the bank into the canals and ditches which disseminate it over the land. The success of the cultivation is therefore dependent on the strength and number of cattle available for working the wheels. The cattle have to be fed, and so a not inconsiderable part of the land watered has to be set apart for grass to feed the animals. This is supplemented by grass which grows on land submerged by the Nile and islands and foreshores, which are covered with grass as the Nile recedes.

An Expensive Method.

It is customary to reckon that the cattle use up one-quarter of their energy in watering the land required for their keep. It is clear then that the water-wheel is an expensive method of lifting the water.

It is a cumbrous and antiquated form of machine, and the native is tiresomely conservative about it. Everyone who has seen one at work must have been struck by the whining noise made by the turning of the wheel on its wooden base. The noise is due to excessive friction and a new kind of wheel was soon made which reduced much of it. The native would have none of it, however, because he could not hear whether the wheel was at work from afar, and even when this was remedied by an attachment that clicked as the wheel went round, it did not make the new wheel popular.

An Unpopular Substitute.

This was due partly, no doubt, to the fact that the new wheel required a good brick foundation, which the native was too lazy or too poor to build, chiefly the former, because he would have no difficulty in raising the money required for the purpose of building a good wheel. Moreover, the European style of waterwheel was extremely cheap and cost less than a native wheel, which, being made of solid timber, is a costly affair.

It has been reckoned that 95 per cent. of the labour of a native wheel is wasted in friction. It is, therefore, not a really economical machine, and its only claim to consideration is that it is established, and it does, at any rate, work. It is dependent on cattle, and these are liable to all manner of diseases and, if they die, are not easily replaced, as the ordinary bull has to be trained to turn a wheel, and he can only be trained by the native when he is very young.

Thus the cattle are not only a serious drain on the land, but may render the land idle and fallow because they are not to be obtained. In effect, the cultivation by water-wheel is a somewhat precarious matter, and this was shown by the distress in Dongola a few years ago, when cattle plague and an attack of aphides caused general starvation. It was enhanced by the record lowness of the river; but the main causes lay in the "aphis" and the dearth of cattle, whereby the cultivators were compelled to stop cultivating because they had no bulls to turn the wheels.

The Basin Lands.

Fortunately there is another source of living, from the basin lands. These are scattered along the Nile and are being developed as opportunity offers. It must be remembered that the Egyptian basins have been worked for centuries, and they have been gradually levelled and worked through generations, until they are easy enough to manage, provided the necessary water is available.

In the Sudan there has been little, if any, previous work on the basins, and it all remains to be done, and there are not generations of time to spend on the work. Here, too, the native has his preconceived notions, and it is only by the most strenuous action that he can be made to do the necessary ploughing. Without this the cutworm appears, and the rising crops simply disappear.

In the past the basins were only watered at remote intervals, and the land had lain so long fallow in the interval that the cutworm had been eliminated by time. Now, however, when the water is to be a yearly occurrence, the native has to be taught that he must plough.

"Selooka."

His own method, "selooka," is, perhaps, the simplest form of cultivation in the world, as it consists in twisting a stick into the ground so as to make a hole, and into this hole the husbandman drops the seed.

Then he leaves the work to God, after the fatalism of his kind, and it is a burden and an oppression to him to plough the land and spend both money and time where he is accustomed to give neither.

The basins vary greatly in size. Some, and more especially the largest, will take many years of work before they will be more than experimental, but there are many that require comparatively little labour to make into very paying concerns. This land is, as a rule, very suitable for wheat or barley, according to the time that the water has lain on it.

The basins are divided up into ten-acre plots, and these are allotted as seems best. A record is kept year by year, so that a man who has taken no trouble to work his land to advantage may find that his allotment is curtailed. Every plot has to be examined separately, because, until the land is levelled up, each ten acres varies—on one plot there will be a certain amount of land that has been insufficiently watered, while some of the soil may be salt, and useless for any purpose, and the allottee claims exemption from payment on that area, and a lighter charge on the land which has received an inadequate supply of water.

A Problem.

There is still experience to be obtained regarding the exact time to leave the land under water, and too long is as bad, if not worse, than too little. Where a basin is several miles long it is obviously a lengthy business to get the water off the land. At present the Government is specially engaged on the development of a basin at Wad Hamid, which, being close to the railway line, and easily watered, is likely to become a paying proposition.

A great quantity of land has been taken up this year in the basin, but it is rather with an idea to the future, because the land is overgrown with trees and undergrowth, and a great deal of clearing has to be done to start with. Notwithstanding this good crops have been obtained, and the allottees are extremely contented with the prospects.

Basin land is, however, only obtained by the rise of the river, and, clearly, the object should be to develop the land that can be cultivated at all times of the year. This is naturally the land immediately on the river bank, extending for whatever depth can be successfully watered from the river, and this varies with the way in which the land rises or falls behind the river bank. There is usually a considerable stretch which is slightly lower than the river bank, and this is what is normally cultivable.

To get all the available land under cultivation in the course of the year requires a revolution in the system of watering. In effect, it means the employment of pumps instead of waterwheels. At present there are waterwheels every few yards along the bank where the soil is good for cultivation, and if it were reckoned what capital value had been expended in supplying this form of power, it would seem a simple affair to substitute the more effective kind.

Pump or Mill?

Instead of every owner working a wheel for every four or five acres, and sometimes two, one above the other, where the lift is great or otherwise awkward, there should be a common pump to supply the needs of several of these small estates together.

No doubt there would be difficulties and local jealousies, but these will be overcome as the farmers find out that they only harm themselves by quarrelling, and they have before them the examples of those who have used a pump. There are a few old engines working which must be almost curiosities in the engineering world, not merely for their age, but for the extraordinary way in which they continue to work, notwithstanding ignorant treatment and "repairs" which would make a professional shudder. Repairs are, indeed, one of the questions that will need careful consideration, for there is not a blacksmith in every village, and ironwork is looked on as servile and degrading.

There are already in the Sudan a certain number of estates, such as that at Darmali or at Tayebe and Barakat, where the native can see, and, in some cases, has tried the effect of taking water from the company. But the Sudanese cultivator, as I have said, is a conservative creature, and requires encouragement.

But the obvious line of progress lies along this line, namely, the establishment of many pumps and the gradual substitution of these for the old-fashioned water-wheel. This will not only be a safer and more economical form of lifting the necessary water, but it will free the cattle for the business of ploughing and the like, work which is only done at present by the most progressive farmers.

Manure.

It is possible that, with a more intensive culture, the land would require a certain amount of artificial manure, but in this fortune is kind to the northern districts. South of Khartoum every bit of manure is required for the making of "zibala," an unpleasant compound which is smeared on to the outside of all houses in order to render them proof against the rain. The result is that at times manure reaches quite a high price.

North of Khartoum the rains are comparatively light, and the buildings require only a small amount of this dressing; and, indeed, in some districts, it is not considered necessary at all, so rare is rain. There are, too, ancient sites of buildings from which the

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native digs a form of manure in which he has great faith. This is used in Egypt also, and so much sought after is it that some supervision has to be used to prevent the reckless digging up of ancient sites that are of interest to the antiquarian.

South of Khartoum.

South of Khartoum the style of cultivation alters. Neither on the Blue nor on the White Nile is the native dependent on artificial irrigation to grow the food that he needs. The rains at Khartoum and in the country immediately south of it are rarely sufficient to supply an adequate rain crop, but the distance that separates the land dependent on the river and that which relies on rainfall is short. In the latter case a far wider area is thrown open to cultivation because it is not limited to that which can be reached with ease from the river bank, but the rain only falls at one time of the year, and it is the object of all schemes of development to utilise those periods when the rain is not available and resort must be had to irrigation.

Almost the whole area lying between the two Niles up to the 12th parallel is suitable for cultivation, and the only problem is how to get the water on to the land. This is the great question which has been more especially occupying the thoughts of the Sudan Government recently. It is one primarily for the irrigation expert, and there are very many vexed questions to be solved. One thing at least is certain, that they will be solved, and the greater part of this vast area will ultimately be supplied with artificial irrigation.

Education.

In the meantime much can be, and, indeed, has been, done. The cultivation of cotton is not to be taught to the "untutored savage" without the expenditure of both time and care. The interval during which these schemes are being matured will be of the greatest value for the education of native owners in the science of agriculture. The most appropriate time for the sowing of cotton, the rotation of crops, the best class of manure that can be obtained cheaply, the supply of adequate labour at the necessary seasons are all questions which will be worked out in practice as well as on paper.

Further afield, in Kordofan, the lighter soil is not so favourable to extensive schemes of agriculture, but much may still be done by the construction of reservoirs at suitable spots, which will not only be of value in increasing a scattered and rather uncertain water supply, but will also assist in the formation of larger townships where markets can be located.

Tobacco.

Further south it is possible that the local custom of growing tobacco which prevails in the Nubia Mountains may develop into an industry. At present there are certain restrictions, but there are indications that the existing conditions in Egypt may lead to change in legislation, which would, no doubt, produce a corresponding modification in the Sudan. The tobacco grown so far is suitable for native use only, or for certain kinds of snuff, but much may be done by adopting more suitable methods of preparation; there is no reason to suppose that the plant cannot be grown successfully.

Until the railway facilities to Darfur are much improved, it is unlikely that the richest part of the province which lies to the west can adequately be used for commercial purposes. The people there, too, have suffered from bad years, epidemics, and bad management; but they have, at least, the prospect of supplying the local needs with much that has at present to be carried from the Nile. Wheat has always been grown in some quantity on the slopes of Jebel Marra, and the gardens there have been proverbial.

(To be continued.)

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LANCASHIRE COTTON REPORT.

Unsatisfactory Market Conditions Continue.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, May 9.

Unsatisfactory conditions continue to prevail throughout the market. Complaints from producers tend to increase in volume. Prospects are very unsettled, and there are no indications of buyers being more willing to commit themselves to contracts of importance.

The depression in spinning circles has become more acute, and it is proposed to close down mills for the whole of Whit week and the Monday following. The suggestion of the Masters' Federation is being considered by the members, and they have been asked to vote as to whether they are in favour of such action. It is expected that the necessary majority will be obtained.

The operative weavers threaten to strike to enforce their demand for an increase in wages of 20 per cent., and notices to cease work are being given to the employers, which will take effect on May 26. No one is alarmed at the situation, because it is taken for granted that the Government Committee on Production will interfere and prevent any stoppage of machinery.

The Egyptian raw cotton situation remains very involved. Certain grades in Liverpool seem to be scarcer than ever. There has been plenty of demand in piece goods for Egypt, with fairly substantial sales in certain quarters. Merchants for that part of the world would welcome greater shipping facilities. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton have moved off slowly.

There has been a tendency to stop more machinery in the Bolton area, and it is said that nearly a dozen factories are closed down.

The inquiry in cloth for India has been disappointing. Something has been done in miscellaneous cloths, but standard makes have attracted very little attention. China has not given any general support, but some useful orders have been secured in a variety of fabrics, and a little more activity has prevailed for the minor outlets of the Far East, such as Java and Singapore.

The position of manufacturers as a body leaves much to be desired. Fresh business is badly wanted in some districts. The yarn market has been slow. Prices, however, in American qualities appear to be grounding somewhat. Producers are still disposed to purchase from hand to mouth. Some contracts have been mentioned in coarse counts for France, but export business as a whole is very much upset by the difficulties in obtaining licenses and the restriction upon shipping.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

Liverpool reports show that Egyptian cotton futures have been depressed by liquidation, and closed weak on May 9, at a loss of 70 to 80 points. Sales reported on that day were 200 bales, making 700 so far this week. Imports were returned at 2,534.

THE WEALTH OF MESOPOTAMIA.

It is understood by the British Empire Producers' Organisation that it is the intention of the Indian Government to proceed promptly and vigorously with the economic development of Mesopotamia. It was one of the drawbacks of Turkish rule that the natives were discouraged from cultivating this extremely rich and fertile territory by the fact that when they had brought production to a certain stage the property was on one pretext or another taken away from them. With safe tenure and with irrigation and transport improvements, Mesopotamia can very soon contribute much more largely to the world's food stock. In connection with these plans, it is expected that the general reorganising of the administration of Baghdad will also be pushed forward, and this will probably include the early installation of an electric light, power, and tramways scheme. It is on all grounds highly important that the immense possibilities of economic expansion of this ancient city should be realised without delay.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The British Consul at Cairo reports that an Italian firm of buying and commission agents in that city desires to get in touch with British manufacturers of needles, boot and shoe protectors, laces, curtains, and mosquito nets of Nottingham manufacture, with a view to obtaining the representation of the manufacturers in Egypt, or the sole right of sale in that country. Applications should be sent to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

The Board of Trade *Journal* reports that an agent at Candia, Crete, is about to open an office in order to promote and assist British trade in the island, and to replace goods previously imported from Germany. The agent invites from British manufacturers complete ranges of samples and illustrated catalogues which will be placed in a special show-room and used to secure orders. Counter samples and market prices will occasionally be sent to manufacturers to indicate the requirements of the local markets. A commission will be charged on all catalogues received to cover expenses.

The agent mentions the following goods, previously imported from Germany, as being in great demand in the Cretan markets:—

Textiles, Clothing, Etc.—Lace and hosiery; clothing, including ready-made clothing for men and boys; woollen and cotton goods; woollen and cotton underwear, blankets and flannels; collars, ties, mercery articles; mercerised cotton; reels of cotton thread; boots and shoes; haberdashery; and straw and felt hats.

Metal Goods.—Beds and bedsteads, ironmongery, cutlery, hardware, kitchen utensils, enamelled goods, nails, galvanised nails, galvanised sheets, locks, lamps, and machinery.

Miscellaneous.—Paints and oil paints, paper, stationery, novelties, leather, fancy leather goods, silver-plated goods,, preserved fruit and fish, condensed milk, tea, biscuits, chocolate, buttons, linseed oil, guano, copper sulphate, soda, potash, and indigo.

Changes in Statutory List.

The name of Mahomed ben Mahomed el Lebady, Tetuan, Morocco, has been added to the British list of persons and firms with whom trading is prohibited. The name of Aga Mahomed Ismail Isfahani, Meshed, Persia, has been removed.

THE EGYPTIAN BLACK LIST.

A Second Supplement to Tuesday's *London Gazette* contains a list of persons and firms in Egypt with enemy interests which have been licensed to carry on business for the purpose of liquidation only, or to which a receiver has been appointed for the purpose of liquidation. No new transactions must be entered into with any person or firm mentioned in the list.

SUBMARINED SHIPS.

The weekly return of arrivals and sailings from United Kingdom ports, war losses, and unsuccessful submarine attacks in respect of British shipping for the week ended Sunday, May 6, 1917, was issued on Wednesday by the Secretary of the Admiralty.

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities over 100 tons net (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,374
Sailings	2,499

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

2,600 tons (gross) or over	19
Under 1,600 tons (gross)	22
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by mines	28
British fishing vessels sunk	15

From these figures have been deducted the vessels included in returns of previous weeks.

Italian Losses.—The Italian Ministry of Marine issues the following particulars for the week ended May 6:—

	No.	Tonnage.
Arrivals of merchant ships of all nationalities at Italian ports	465	412,568
Sailings, ditto	430	326,375
Italian steamers sunk	7	—
Italian sailing ships sunk	8	—

Two sailing ships and one steamer were unsuccessfully attacked.

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The Commercial Future of Constantinople.

A Reply to Writers who Declare that the Turkish Capital is Dead.

Reuter's Agency stated on Wednesday that it has been "officially informed that numbers of Turks and Turkish agents are at work in Switzerland with the object of assuring the continued existence of Turkey in Europe. These agents," it was said, "are making it understood that, provided the Turks are not driven out of Constantinople, they are willing to allow complete freedom of the Dardanelles to all comers."

A correspondent, "A. C. S.," who was long resident in Constantinople, writes to THE NEAR EAST as follows:—

"We have recently read a great deal about the future of Constantinople, and, as an old resident who was in business there for many years, I should like to criticise some of the views and opinions which have been published, and to state my own—based on the assumption that Constantinople will be a free port—for what they may be worth.

A Mistaken View.

"One writer declared recently that, 'Constantinople is not likely ever again to possess the same importance which it once had in the world, especially as a commercial centre.' I protest most emphatically against this statement, because it is erroneous and misleading. If it were correct, may I ask how it is that, for ten years and more prior to the war, shipping companies, merchants, traders, shippers, and the various Foreign Embassies and Legations, demanded vigorously the provision of more berthing space in the harbour, more lighters, more warehouses, bonded warehouses, and increased space in the Custom Houses? Sir Richard Crawford, who was sent by the British Government to Turkey to reorganise the Customs Service would, I imagine, bear witness to this. The new Custom Houses, it may be added, cover three or four times the space of the former. Does not that show the continued expansion in the trade of the port?

What the Turks Did.

"The Turkish Government realised that it was necessary to do something to alleviate the congestion and pressure in the port, and appointed a mixed committee to study the whole question; it was even suggested to build a commercial port at Koum Kapou just outside the Seraglio Point, on the Marmora. Surely these facts indicate that the trade of Constantinople has been steadily increasing.

"There are other facts, too. The extension of the Anatolian Railway from Ismidt on to Angora and Konia; the impulse given to agriculture by the same railway—backed by the Deutsche Bank of Berlin—the despatch of German agriculturists to those regions; the enormous quantity of cereals, mohair, wool, skins, tobacco, timber, etc., transported by the railway, both for local consumption and for transhipment at Constantinople. Then there is the coasting trade along the Sea of Marmora, carried on by small steamers and sailing craft. All bring produce to the capital, both for local consumption and for transhipment, to say nothing of the steamers which used to load part or full cargoes at Haidar Pasha. So much for the facts of the period immediately before the war broke out. Constantinople as a free city has prospect of immense prosperity.

The Future.

"And what of the future? With the improved condition of affairs which will necessarily follow after the war, and the establishment of other railways in the district, the natural desire for a period of peace, during which the peasant may cultivate his lands, the working of mines in the vicinity of Constantinople—which has always been obstructed by the authorities for reasons known to themselves—will all tend to increase the importance of the much-coveted city as a commercial centre. Its natural harbour, its position as a link between Europe and Asia, will add to its importance, which will never be reduced.

"The writer I have referred to goes on to observe:—'It is a mistake to speak of this region as a fertile country, and there are dozens of villages in Asia Minor where at present it is not worth anyone's while to produce more than can be bartered with his own neighbour, as the cost of transport to the nearest market would be prohibitive.'

A Contradiction.

"This is not only error; it is also contradiction. All who know the region will be ready to declare that it is fertile, and that if it has not been cultivated in the past it was not because 'it was not worth anyone's while,' but because cultivation was prohibited. The facilities which it may be hoped will be given to the agriculturist, together with financial and administrative aid in the future, as well as the increased demand which may be expected in Europe for raw material and produce—to which Asia Minor is well able to respond—will all contribute to make it 'worth anyone's while to produce more' than can be disposed of in local barter. I have no doubt at all that Constantinople will become a more important commercial centre than it was even in the times of Justinian.

"Are those who so erroneously depreciate the value and importance of Constantinople aware that the port and city was a buying centre for all parts of the Ottoman Empire, and that produce was shipped thence so far as Vladivostok, Kobe, Yokohama, Beira, Natal, Baghdad, Busreh, San Francisco, New York, Boston, not to speak of the whole of Europe? Is it likely that the demand for Turkish carpets, Turkish tobacco, cereals, mohair, etc., and even for new laid eggs, which used to find their way to English markets, will not be resumed as soon as supplies begin to be available?

CYPRUS TRADE IN 1916.

A brief statement regarding the trade of Cyprus in 1916 has already been published in THE NEAR EAST. The following further details are now available:—

According to official returns issued by the Chief Collector of Customs at Larnaca, the total value of imports of merchandise into Cyprus in 1916 was £843,388, an increase of £298,239 as compared with 1915. The principal items contributing to this increase were flour, cotton piece goods, and coal. The value of exports of merchandise from the colony in 1916 amounted to £708,446, an increase of £57,956 as compared with the preceding year. The principal increases in exports were in potatoes, mules, sheep, and hides and skins.

The following table shows the value of some of the principal classes of goods imported into Cyprus in 1916 as compared with the two previous years:—

	1914. £	1915. £	1916. £
Coal	5,282	1,613	15,340
Iron and steel manufactures	11,931	5,753	5,763
Machinery, parts, fittings, &c.	17,076	4,818	4,482
Cotton yarn and thread	25,002	31,614	29,543
Cotton piece-goods	54,789	56,833	84,483
Haberdashery and millinery	11,020	6,742	13,669
Woollen manufactures	19,910	17,657	24,179
Leather and leather manufactures	28,921	33,826	50,333
Soap	17,271	15,009	20,531
Wheat	1,159	48,050	40,469
Flour	9,668	47,035	176,825
Olive oil	4,837	15,146	16,035
Rice	9,037	17,158	24,239
Sugar	19,331	36,232	44,415
Tobacco (leaf)	23,422	24,589	27,668
Petroleum	20,706	21,850	32,703

Although letters and newspapers are again being forwarded to Greece, the Postmaster-General has notified that postal parcels can only be accepted for Salonika and its immediate locality and Crete and other islands not in the blockaded area.

TO CAPTURE GERMAN TRADE.

Interesting Commercial Exhibits in London.

An interesting and valuable exhibition is now being held in the sample rooms at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2. This consists of samples of goods of enemy manufacture, and is open to British manufacturers and exporters. The samples, which number approximately 3,000, writes the Board of Trade *Journal*, are of considerable variety, and are labelled with the prices where those are available and the name of the country in which the goods are sold. Certain of the samples represent quite recent designs from enemy sources, and should be of interest to British manufacturers who desire to obtain information respecting the new style of goods at present manufactured in enemy countries.

We are glad to learn from the same source that the Foreign Trade Department of the Board of Trade has taken up the question of obtaining from British Diplomatic and Consular officers in certain foreign countries fuller and more systematised information than has been available hitherto in regard to possible importers or buyers of British goods.

Official Instructions.

With this object in view, we learn, the Department has issued a circular to the Diplomatic and Consular officers in the following countries:—

Spain,	Dutch East Indies,
Portugal,	Philippine Islands,
Persia,	Morocco,
Siam,	Liberia, and the
China,	Central and South
Japan,	American Republics.

The officers in these countries have been instructed to furnish the names and addresses of recommended firms who desire to trade with the United Kingdom. The firms reported on are to be classified under certain numerous trade heads.

In order to enhance the value of these lists the Consuls have been requested to supply certain particulars in regard to the firms whose names they furnish, including such items as European references and local bankers, whether their business is wholesale or retail, whether the firms import on their own account or consignment, or on a commission basis, and terms of trading; the principal goods required and the method of transport and the route from the nearest port; the names of the firms on the statutory list which the recommended firms can replace; the composition of the recommended firms and the rationalities of the principals and the language in which correspondence may be carried on.

The Real Need.

It is pointed out that the mass of information which it is hoped to obtain by this scheme is in addition to that which has hitherto been circulated by the Department; we hope the scheme will justify the immense additional labour it will entail on British Diplomatic and Consular officers. Its promoters will probably not claim that it is the perfection of wisdom; but at any rate it is the beginning, and if—as we presume is the case—it is intended to be developed as opportunities occur it should be an excellent foundation for the reforms in our official foreign trade propaganda which we, in common with other journals, have consistently advocated for a long time past.

Considered as a measure of reform, the scheme does not touch the real need in our Consular service. However successful it may become, there still remains the serious problem of the *personnel* of this important service. Great Britain, like every country which has made an intelligent attempt to grasp all the trade opportunities which present themselves abroad, should possess a Consular chain round the world, and its links should be specially trained and exclusively employed experts. While it would be unjust not to admit that the Board of Trade has awakened to the disaster which is involved in inactivity, the outstanding necessity for the complete and speedy reorganisation of the Consular service remains apparent.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Deep Well Pumping and Air Lifts.

Reference has been made in THE NEAR EAST to the memorandum of the Arab Bureau on the subject of agriculture and supplies in Palestine. In connection with the irrigation of the new orange-groves in the Jaffa district, it stated that "the water is raised by 4 in. tubes sunk vertically into the sand strata to a depth of between 130 ft. and 197 ft., the water rising to a height of 39 ft. in the pipes, while the pumps raise from 5,500 to 8,800 gallons of water per hour." The system, probably, is what is known as the Abyssinian well, and, considering the depth from which the water has to be pumped, 90 to 150 ft., deep-well pumps are probably being used, which, if they bring to the surface such quantities of water per hour through a 4-in. tube, which, it is presumed, submerges to the necessary depth, the working barrel, plunger and other working parts are wonderfully efficient, especially since they are of local manufacture. However, British manufacturers of deep-well pumps and artesian or Abyssinian well-boring tools and machinery will do well to study, in time, the requirements of the Palestine and other Syrian districts. They will find the whole region a most desirable market.

Air Lifts.

It must be admitted that deep-well pumping has often presented features of peculiar difficulty, as, for instance, the difficulty, in certain cases, of having access to the pump end, and of rapid wear of the working parts, in sandy districts where repairs or replacement of spare parts cannot easily be effected owing to the lack of skilful mechanics. In such cases the air-lift probably is the best solution. In principle and operation the air-lift is extremely simple. Air is injected through a nozzle placed below the working water level, and, rising, carries water up with it. The submerged parts are subject to no wear whatever, and except for corrosion are practically indestructible, even when working in the gritty water so fatal to deep-well pistons. The air compressor and receiver, the only parts needing attention, are at the surface, and easily accessible. It has been found in certain cases that when proper submergence of the air nozzle can be assured the yield of a well previously fitted with a deep-well pump is doubled or trebled by the use of the air-lift. The sparkle and life imparted to the water raised, and the cooling effect of the expanding air, make this method peculiarly suitable for water works purposes, a point which will be of great interest to numerous towns and communities in the Near East, besides farmers and fruit growers.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Notice is given that the coupons of the Imperial Government of Persia 5 per cent. sterling loan of 1911, due May 15, will be payable on and after that date at the bank, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4.

Meetings.

The general meeting of shareholders of the Suez Canal Company will be held in Paris on June 11, 1917.

An ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Abyssinia will be held at the offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo, on May 31, 1917, at 4 p.m., for the purpose of receiving the reports of the directors and auditors, the accounts, and transacting other business.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, week, 21 tons (previous week 22 tons); Hurgada, week, 2.197 tons, against 2,068 tons.

COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN ENTERPRISE AND DEVELOPMENT.

The following is a translation of the report of the directors submitted to the annual general meeting of shareholders held in Cairo on March 31 last:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to submit the balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1916, being the 12th year of the company's existence.

Agricultural Lands.—The work of developing the Bercache-Mansourieh estate has not been resumed; this can only be profitably done when we are quite sure as to the system of irrigation reserved for this region. The programme to be followed will, in fact, depend upon the decision which will eventually be come to in this connection, and it is unlikely that the question can be settled before the end of the war. Meantime, we are taking every step to secure as complete a utilisation as possible of our present resources, and we thus hope to increase to a notable extent the working profits on cultivation.

Building Lands.—Rodah Island.—The increase in area observable under this head is a result of the partition which has taken place during the year. The portions which have been allotted to us are situated on both sides of the Avenue Centrale; owing to their conformation, they are suitable for parcelling out on favourable terms, and we will endeavour to turn this to account as soon as circumstances permit.

Gizeh.—The land that we have acquired in this locality through partition measures 48,234 square metres. The reduction in area resulting from this division is amply compensated for, as we stated in our last report, by the exceptionally favourable position occupied by our land as compared with the lot granted to our co-proprietor. This property has a frontage of 238 metres on the Avenue des Pyramides, and the greatest depth does not exceed 210 metres.

Alexandria.—We have sold during the year a lot of about 105 square metres, which reduces the area of the remaining lots to 934 metres.

Business in Turkey.—We are still without news of our properties in Syria and Constantinople.

Portfolio.—We have kept the shares in our portfolio at the same figure as last year.

Debtor Account.—Purchasers of Land.—The payments made by buyers during the year have reduced this account from £E89,744.765 to £E77,094.829. These debts are guaranteed by the *privilège du vendeur*.

Miscellaneous Debts.—This account comprises rents in arrear, advances to cultivators, various provisions, amounts in suspense, interest not collected, and other debts, some of which are guaranteed by a deposit of securities or otherwise.

Gharbieh Land Co.—The position of this company has considerably improved since our last report. The results of the 1916 cotton crop were satisfactory, and the financial assistance we have afforded it has enabled the company partly to overcome the difficulties with which it was faced in consequence of the reverses of 1914 and 1915. In order to facilitate the transaction referred to in our last report, the Gharbieh Land Company had, it will be remembered, to give up the exchange of its Sawalem estate, and was thus deprived of the resources that would have accrued to it as a result of this exchange; consequently, the sale of our Dakahla estate was maintained and helped greatly to ease our situation. It was only right, therefore, that the Gharbieh Land Company should look to us for help, and this was afforded it in the shape of the necessary advances and by guaranteeing debenture-holders, by a mortgage on a part of the Bercache-Mansourieh estate, the payment of the coupons in arrear, amounting on December 31, 1916, to £E10,144.875 in principal and interest. The Gharbieh Land Company will, we trust, be able to liquidate this charge without our assistance, and the improvement already noted in its situation will certainly be more marked in 1917 if the price of cotton is maintained at about the rates now ruling.

Profit and Loss.—The profits for the year amounted to £E4,977,704, and the debit balance of the profit and loss account is, consequently, reduced to £E151,606.819.

Report of the Auditors.

Gentlemen,—We beg to inform you that we have compared the balance-sheet with the books and documents, and certify that we have found them in order. We have verified the cash in hand and at bankers, with the exception of a sum of £E415, which is in the hands of the Crédit Mobilier de Belgique, from whom it has not been possible to obtain a certificate to this effect on account of the war. There is, on the other hand, a balance of £E13,734 to the credit of this same bank in other accounts under the heading "bank credits"; for the same reason we have found it impossible to ascertain the exact amount. The securities, constituting the directors' qualifications, are in order. Owing to the war, we have been unable to ascertain the existence, at December 31, 1916, of two thousand Kafr-el-Dawar shares and 25,989 Koubbeh Garden shares, which were deposited with the Crédit Mobilier de Belgique at Antwerp before the war; and likewise we could not find out from the solicitor of the company in Turkey whether the properties in Constantinople and Beyrout were free of any charges at the date of the balance sheet. In accordance with Article 20 of the statutes, the board should meet at least twelve times a year; this rule has not been observed since the outbreak of war. In the absence of our colleague, M. Jules Rolin, with whom we cannot communicate at present, M. Guido Levi, deputy-auditor, has signed the present report for him. With the above reservations we certify that the balance-sheet is in conformity with the accounts and statutes of the company.

(Signed) F. H. RUSSELL, Auditor.
G. LEVI, Deputy-Auditor.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:—(1) The balance-sheet and accounts for the twelfth year, ended December 31, 1916, are approved, and discharge is given to the directors. (2) Resolved to transfer the debit balance to the profit and loss account—viz., £E151,606.819 to the new current year's account. (3) Re-election of M. Ernest Rolin as director. (4) Re-election of M. Jules Rolin, as auditor. (5) Re-election of M. Guido Levi deputy-auditor for 1917. (6) The indemnity of the auditors for the year 1917 is fixed at £E150.

COMPANY REPORT.

Ionian Bank.

The report of the Ionian Bank for the year ended December 31, 1916, shows that the net profit for the twelve months amounted to £43,729, against £25,594 in the preceding year. After placing £10,000 to reserve and £3,000 to staff pension fund, the directors recommend a final dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 1 per cent., free of income tax, making a total distribution of 6 per cent. for the year, and leaving £7,147 to be carried forward.

In 1915 there were no allocations either to the reserve or to the staff pension fund, the dividend was 5 per cent., and only £5.553 was carried forward. There was a marked increase during the year in the deposits, which at December 31 last amounted to £3.273,190 against £1,986,312 at the end of 1915, and although money at short notice decreased from £147.600 to £94,400, the cash in hand was £237.206 against £171.631, the investments £1.283,572 against £435.134, and the bills receivable £1,523,574 against £763.128.

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NOTICES.

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 28th February, 1917, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

		£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Funds—		
Statutory Reserve		1,298,069
Special Reserve		78,000
Current, Deposit and other Accounts		7,247,542
Mixed Tribunals		1,595,317
Egyptian Government		5,429,405
Bankers' Accounts		302,949
Cheques and Bills payable		249,156
Sundry other Accounts		474,245
		£E.19,599,683
Government Securities and Securities Guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 8,799,391
Sundry Securities		271,634
Advances on Merchandise		955,727
Advances on Securities		1,430,003
Advances otherwise Secured		734,123
Sundry other Advances		246,139
Bills of Exchange		3,155,632
Local Bills Discounted		90,831
Buildings and Furniture		226,091
Money at call and at short notice		1,165,125
Bankers' Accounts		913,150
Sudan Government		357,052
Sundry other Accounts		122,790
Cash:	£E.	
Notes	1,013,441	
Gold	42,206	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	76,348	
		1,131,995
		£E.19,599,683

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

		£E.
Notes issued		19,550,000
		£E.19,550,000
	£E.	£E.
Gold	5,644,009	
*British Treasury Bills	4,130,991	
		9,775,000
Securities:—		
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250	
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511	
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	6,343,239	
		9,775,000
		£E.19,550,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30, 1916.)

BANK of ABYSSINIA.

Notice is hereby given that, in conformity with Article 30 of the Statutes an ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Bank of Abyssinia will be held on Thursday, the 31st May, 1917, at 4 p.m., at the Offices of the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo, Egypt, for the purpose of:—

Presenting the Directors' Report, presenting the Auditors' Report, Submitting the Accounts to the 31st December, 1916, Electing Directors, Electing the Auditors for the year 1917 and fixing their remuneration.

Any shareholder holding a minimum of five shares is entitled to take part in this Meeting, provided the Shares be deposited at one of the following places, where a Card of Admission or Form of Proxy will be given:—

In Egypt (at Cairo and Alexandria), at least five days before the date of the Meeting:—At the National Bank of Egypt, Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Banque d'Athenes, Banque Belge pour l'Etranger, Imperial Ottoman Bank, Banque d'Orient, Banco di Roma Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio, Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Crédit Lyonnais and Deutsche Orientbank.

In Abyssinia, at least ten days before the date of the Meeting:—At the Bank of Abyssinia, Adis-Abeba, Dire-Dowa, and Harrar.

In New York, at least ten days before the date of the Meeting:—At Messrs. Kidder, Peabody, and Co., Bankers.

In Europe, at least ten days before the date of the Meeting:—

In Paris, at the Société Générale de Crédit Industriel et Commerciale, 66, Rue de la Victoire.

In Rome, at the Banca d'Italia.

In London, at National Bank of Egypt, 6/7, King William Street, E.C.

F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 10th May, 1917.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-ninth ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Thursday, June 7, 1917, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Holders of share warrants to bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their share warrants in London before May 23, 1917, or in Alexandria before June 3, 1917 until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

Dated, Alexandria, April 20, 1917.

ON 'CHANGE.

(BY OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

There has been a fair amount of business this week, and, generally speaking, prices have again moved towards a higher level. The demand from Egypt has been pretty persistent, and there has also been a fair amount of inquiry on local account; but the great drawback to an active market is the continued scarcity of sellers.

Egyptian Unifieds are about a point higher at 83 x.d., and Prefs. are also better at 70⅜, both issues being largely inquired for, but with a very small business passing. The lack of sellers in these two securities is no doubt to a great extent to be attributed to the large deposits which have been made on loan to the British Government.

National Banks have been done to the extent of about 150 shares round 13⅜, and are further buyers to-night. Agriculturals have changed hands for about 500 shares round 5½, closing unchanged at 5 15-32. Land Banks have improved 3-16 to 5 5-16, with a small transaction at 5 9-32. Anglo-Egyptians have risen 5-16 to 12 7-16.

Delta Light and Land Allotments are each ⅛ higher at 5 11-16 and 2⅜ respectively, but without business. Behéras continue wanted round 7½. Some 500 Delta Lands have been done between 9s. and 9s. 3d. New Egyptians have been in continuous demand, and are 6d. higher at 10s. 9d., some 1,500 shares having changed hands. United Egyptian Lands have also been handled in the neighbourhood of 9d., while a further demand has carried Alexandria Waters 3-16 higher at 12 5-16, and Markets are 6d. better at 27s. 6d.

Salt and Sodas have been active, and, after business has been done, are closing 3d. easier at 31s. 3d.

Khedivial Mails, in which a fair amount of business has been done, are closing 9d. easier at 31s. 3d.

In Greeks some few thousand Rentes have changed hands round 44½, and there has been a small transaction in Currant Bonds at 90. Fundings are wanted round 53. Monopolies are somewhat firmer at about 49½, and Larissa at 53. Both 1881 and 1884 are nominally lower at 52.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Persian Preferences have strengthened to 22s. 6d., but Anglo-Egyptian "B's" fell 3d. to 12s. 3d. Roumanian Consolidateds were quoted at 10s.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations of Near Eastern interest yesterday were:—Egyptian Unified Four per Cent., 90 (unchanged); Serbian (1895), 58; Turkish Unified, 62.75 (against 62.80); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 671 (against 668); Ottoman Bank, 425 (against 430); Suez Canal, 4,345 (against 4,310).

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
May 2	180.000	50,000
May 3	240,000	130.000
May 4	430.000	310,000
May 6	310,000	90,000
May 7	70,000	200,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended May 4.	1917. Week ended May 7.
Cattle markets	547 ..	705
General markets	319 ..	382
Cattle markets closed	67 ..	71
Receipts (£)	865 ..	1,087
Total from commencement of year (£)	22,559 ..	27,126

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended April 10, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E
April 1-April 10	4,739 ..	

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price May 4.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83½	83xd
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70	70½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	53	52
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	53	52
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	49	49½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44½	44⅜
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53½	53
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71xd	71xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75⅜	75⅜
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p.	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4% 1891	94	78	78
Do. 3½% Fg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68xd	68
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅛	12⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7½	7⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	4	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	5⅜	5⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	13⅜	13½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅜	5⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅜	9⅜
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	⅜	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅛xc	2⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	7⅜	7⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9/3	9/3
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	6/-	5/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	⅛	⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	10/3	10/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	⅜	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1⅛	1⅛	1⅛
Unified Egyptian Lands	1/9	9d.	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	27/-	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	22/-	23/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	32/-	31/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3½	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON APRIL 23.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	13⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Priviligiée	Frs.	64
"	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	78
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
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Unifiée	L.E.	85⅛
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Land Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
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" Ord.		30/-
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Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
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Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	300
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" 1911 "	Frs.	263
United Lands	P.T.	—

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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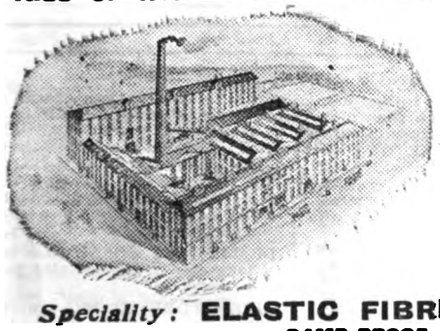

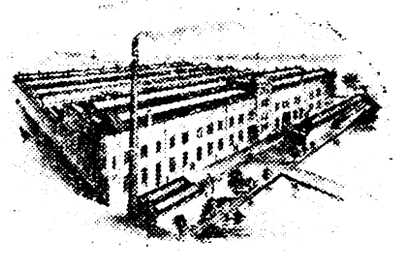

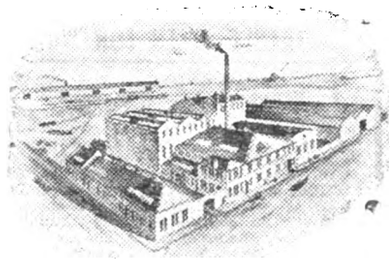

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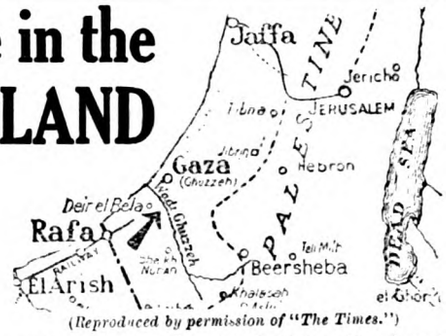

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 315.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Agreement has been achieved by the different political parties in Russia, and the Government has been reconstituted in order to include representatives of the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates. By this step it is to be hoped that order will at last have been evolved out of chaos, to enable Russia soon to pull her full weight in the Grand Alliance. How near she has been to disaster during these past weeks can only be surmised. The resignation of M. Gutchkoff, the Minister for War, who seems to have appreciated the danger ahead and to have felt that there was only one way open to him of bringing the position home to his fellow-countrymen, together with the request of General Brusiloff and General Gurko to be relieved of their commands, is an indication that even authoritative quarters were beginning to despair. His action has been denounced by his colleagues, who consider that the Government ought to have seen the crisis through with its ranks intact. The present arrangement, which is a compromise between the Moderate Democrats and the Socialists, seems to have brought Russia back more or less into line with the Allies' war aims, and in any case to confirm the unity of the Allied fronts. It disposes of the bogey of a separate peace. The advocates of the latter have quitted the Socialist party for the wilderness of anarchy, but, taking advantage of the confusion in the popular mind between licence and liberty, they may for a time succeed in embarrassing the Government yet further.

The compromise now reached has entailed the resignation of M. Miliukoff, whose absence from the Government will be regretted in Allied countries. It is stated that the Socialists regard his foreign policy as being too "Imperialistic." If this be the case, it may point to the survival of a difference of opinion in regard to the future of Constantinople, or it may be a tactful concession on the part of the Democrats to show that their so-called Imperialism is not an aggressive policy to be forced upon the country against its will, but merely voices Russia's true interests in a way which the nation will come to understand when it is able to settle down after the preliminary stages of the revolution. One thing must be evident to the more able of the Socialist leaders, that so long as they remained an organisation apart, outside the Government, they were not qualified to pass judgment on all the intricacies of Russia's foreign affairs. Until the new Cabinet has had time to take stock of the international position, there will be no desire on the part of the Allies to press for declarations of policy. Among the mistakes of the past few weeks, for which the Alliance has had to suffer, has been the well-meant attempt to reassure public opinion abroad before any steps had been taken to educate public opinion at home on the questions at issue.

In Mesopotamia the chief event of importance during the past fortnight has been the reopening to traffic of the railway between Baghdad and Samarra. The work of reconstruction has been pushed on rapidly, and it will facilitate to no small extent General Maude's future operations to have this line in working order. For the rest, British columns have been engaged in pushing back the enemy into the Jebel Hamrin range, where, no doubt, he will elect to remain until the Allied forces have completed their preparations for his ejection. A move on the part of the Russians on the British right flank gave rise to the hope that reinforcements had been received, and that concerted action between the Allies would be possible. The Russians, however, have met with only indifferent success. They crossed the Diala River at two points, about thirty miles apart, east-north-east of Kifri, and would thus be threatening the Jebel Hamrin position from the rear. But they were forced to retire, and, although fighting continues in this region, it is not yet clear that our Allies are able to make much progress. A forward move in the direction of Kifri must exercise an immediate effect on the enemy forces confronting General Maude. It would be the natural sequel to the reopening of the railway to Samarra, as the two movements, if pressed home, would bring the Turks between two fires and cause them to withdraw once more a considerable distance to the north.

The situation in Greece is probably running the course that it was intended to run by King Constantine when he made the new appointment to the Premiership. M. Zaimis can be relied upon to grapple with his task to the best of his ability, but it is to be feared that it remains as likely as ever that the effect of any steps taken by him will be at once nullified by the actions of the King or his Germanophil coterie. Thus, there will be the customary pronouncements against the concealment of arms, and the Premier will be able to inform the Entente Powers that he has left nothing undone to insure the strict observance of all their stipulations. But, the good results of the early days of the Zaimis *régime* will quickly wear off, and the power of the Premier will avail nothing against the Gounarists and the Court camarilla. In the first trial of strength M. Zaimis has proved successful, he has had seven

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officers removed to the Peloponnese, and has upheld the decision against a deputation which challenged it. But, as the officers in question remain at Corinth, which is only fifty miles from Athens, it is evident that the Premier realized that he must temper his disciplinary measures to the circumstances of the moment. The punishment of seven officers, however, does not provide a solution for the Greek situation, and far more drastic measures ought to be taken, if the new Government is to give effect to that part of its programme which aims at the re-establishment of friendly relations with the Entente.

Throughout the past week there has been considerable activity on the Macedonian front, and a steady pressure has been brought to bear on the enemy in every sector. The Bulgarians, it has to be admitted, continue to show themselves capable of a stubborn resistance, and have hardly failed anywhere to launch counter-attacks on the Allied troops. As the balance of success has invariably rested with the latter, we may be content with the course of the operations. It is evident that the enemy accepts the seriousness of General Sarrail's intentions, as well as the critical nature of his own position, and in view of his tactics elsewhere at this time, he may be expected to make heavy sacrifices and run many risks to avoid having to yield much ground. The progress made by the Allies, therefore, is likely to be slow, in spite of the stimulus given to the campaign by the presence of Serbians, Greeks and Italians in the Army of the Orient, all anxious to register a national success against the enemy.

The policy of the British advance into Palestine is sufficiently understood to prevent the absence of news from this theatre from evoking surprise. Behind the strong front with which the Turks show little inclination to try conclusions, the work of consolidating the ground gained, by the extension of the railway, by the construction of roads, and by a multiplicity of other means, proceeds, we may be sure, apace. From this steady and sure plan of campaign General Dobell is not to be enticed, until the moment of his own choice for the next advance has come. In the meantime the Turks are not allowed too much respite. Patrols and mounted troops, it is announced, are harrying the enemy at Gaza, taking prisoners almost daily. In minor encounters during April over four hundred prisoners were brought in.

A full and true account of Germany's relations with Turkey during this war would make interesting reading, and the dossier against the former Power will never be complete without it. As is known, the Ottoman Government insisted upon the abolition of the Capitulations as part of the price to be paid for its military help. Germany seems to have agreed with alacrity, but the process of drafting treaties between the two countries to take the place of the Capitulations has proved a slow and thorny one. There can be little doubt that the Turks were by no means eager to have any binding agreements in lieu of the Capitulations. In the heyday of their new liberty one of their first enactments was to make Turkish the obligatory language of the country. Germany was forced to intervene, and has secured a postponement and some modification of this unwelcome measure.

The new treaties have taken a whole year to negotiate. In introducing them to the Reichstag for its approval the German Foreign Secretary was at pains to show that due care had been taken to protect Germany's interests. The statement that " Turkey no more than Germany went to war to conquer foreign countries, or politically or economically to overthrow her neighbours, but solely to be able to live freely and securely with other people " will, no doubt, have impressed Herr Zimmermann's audience, unless they happened to recall the Entente's offer to guarantee Turkey her integrity in return for her neutrality. The abolition of the Capitulations " was for Turkey the chief, perhaps the sole, war aim," but it could not stand by itself. The Capitulations had to be replaced by new treaties which will carefully take into account the conditions existing, no matter how much they differ from past conditions, " so as to leave as little room as possible for misunderstanding and arbitrary action." The German Government, the Foreign Secretary added, believes that this task is fulfilled by these treaties. If the existing conditions to be perpetuated by the new agreements include the presence of German assessors in every Government department in Turkey and the maintenance of Turco-German authority by the presence of German troops in the Turkish capital the Turks might find that the little finger of Germany was thicker than the loin of the old European Concert.

Roumania has shared with the rest of the Eastern front a long period of comparative quiet. The special considerations which are helping to deter the Germans from attacking the Russians are wanting in the case of the Roumanians; but weather conditions and preoccupations elsewhere have postponed a vigorous campaign for the time being. On the other hand, nothing more has been heard of the withdrawal which the enemy was reported to be contemplating. Confident in the protection which their own army and its substantial Russian supports afford them, the Roumanian people are now directing their attention to problems of domestic reform. This week Parliament is to meet at Jassy to vote the principles of the reform of the Constitution. The two chief measures concern the electoral system and land tenure. Under the existing franchise voters are divided into several electoral colleges, and the restricted landed class have an undue share of political power. This method is to be replaced by direct and equal universal suffrage with secret voting and proportional representation. Moreover, the pernicious " spoils " system is to be abolished; all State officials, all officials of departments and of communes are to be entirely independent of the Government, and their nomination and promotion free from party influence.

The proposed agrarian reform in Roumania contemplates the placing of 920,000 acres of cultivable land at the disposal of the peasant owners. At the time of the agrarian riots in 1907, when nearly five-sixths of the population of a little over six millions derived their livelihood from the land, it was found that only one-sixth of the total number of peasants could be regarded as leading an independent existence. The remainder were wholly or in part bound as serfs to the land they cultivated. Certain improvements have been introduced since then; but the need for a far-reaching policy of land purchase was recognised by the Liberal Party before the outbreak of the European war. The scheme which it is expected the Jassy Parliament will endorse will increase the peasants' holding of land to 85 per cent. of the whole area of cultivable land, or approximately to the percentage that they themselves are of the total population of the country. Roumania in the years to come can hardly fail to benefit by this bold stroke. The two reforms are a fitting preparation for the part she can fill in a Balkan confederation, when all existing difficulties arising from racial antagonisms are overcome.

The House of Commons pacifists who sought last Wednesday to put a spoke in their country's wheel by opening the way for misunderstanding among the Allies have unwittingly rendered the Alliance a good service. Any statement that clears the international position of ambiguities is to be welcomed at this stage. Lord Robert Cecil's speech went far in this direction, as it wrung from the pacifists the unwilling admission that there was nothing in the Allies' Note to President Wilson to which exception could be taken, when critically examined in the light of facts. The vague demand of the Russian Socialists for " no annexation " cannot be discussed, until it is brought up in connection with concrete proposals. The pacifists' strongest case has regard to Turkey, but Lord Robert Cecil's statement that he did not think there was any ground for saying there was any substantial difference of opinion between those who had spoken on the subject in the House does not seem to have been challenged.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 23.

Two Police Cause Celebres.

For some little time the public has been watching with great interest an official inquiry which has been conducted in the province of Behera by representatives of the Ministers of the Interior and Justice. The object of the inquiry has been to investigate certain charges of cruelty that had been brought against the local police. It appears that three murders took place in the district of Teh-el-Baroud, and that, as they could not find the culprits, the police proceeded to obtain evidence in the fashion which was current before the British Occupation, but which is no longer tolerated in this country. They ordered all the suspects in the district to be rounded up, and, after flogging and bastinadoing them wholesale, they had them deported on foot to other parts of the province, where they were again flogged and had to submit to more cruelty and all manner of indignities, such as, among other things, wearing "yashmaks" and being made to beat their faces after the manner of women, the while the officers and people stood by and jeered at them. What aggravated the case was the fact that the responsible officials declared that they were acting for the protection of military interests, whereas the military authorities had nothing whatever to do with the murders, or even with the district in question. The inquiry has now been terminated, and the Commandant of Police of the province and district and police officers of Teh-el-Baroud have been suspended, and are to be brought before the next assizes at Alexandria on a charge of abuse of their powers and cruelty in the exercise of their duties. It is highly probable that a complete reorganisation of the higher personnel of the Mudiria will be carried out as a result of this inquiry. It would certainly appear to be necessary.

The inquiry into what is known as the "Philippides Case," of which I gave you some particulars a few weeks ago, has been terminated, and the report has now been drafted and submitted to the authorities. It is understood that Philippides Bey will be sent before the June Cairo Assizes. His wife has now been arrested on a similar charge to that preferred against Philippides Bey himself.

Sudan Officials in Cairo.

Colonel E. E. Bernard, Financial Secretary, and Mr. E. Bonham-Carter, Legal Secretary, have arrived in Cairo from Khartoum. Their visit relates to the usual current matters which have to be dealt with in Cairo at this period of the year, but it is understood that advantage will be taken of their presence to discuss the possibility of undertaking further work in connection with the irrigation projects in the Upper Nile. Even if it is decided to push on the work more energetically, there will always be the difficulty of getting the requisite material, a difficulty which will exist so long as the war lasts, and even, it is to be feared, for some time after peace has been declared. In view, however, of the vital importance, from both the Egyptian and the Sudan standpoint, of the early execution of this work, as pointed out in the Public Works and Finance Reports recently published, it is to be hoped that some arrangement in this direction will be found possible. I have reason to believe that a very serious effort is about to be made to come to some such arrangement, and that in all probability negotiations to that end will shortly be opened up at home.

The Hellenic Colony.

The "commissions" authorising the special courts for the Venizelists have not yet been published by the local British authorities, and the situation in this respect remains unchanged. Beyond recording their adherence to the Provisional Government, it must be admitted that the local Venizelists are not showing much desire further to render active assistance to the cause. General Lapathiotis, who has been in Egypt during the past three months to reorganise and stimulate the recruiting movement, has been busy addressing meetings and trying to awaken the local Hellenic youth from its apathy, but his energetic efforts and those of his fellow-workers have by no means met with encouraging results. The recruiting movement has, indeed, made remarkably little progress, and but a small percentage of the military-age Greeks have signed on, whilst, as a recent circular from the Venizelist authorities attests, some of those who in the first enthusiasm signified their desire to join the colours have since paid no attention to the summons to report themselves or take the oath. It is a most deplorable state of affairs, and the General is frankly disappointed at the unpatriotic and selfish attitude of his local compatriots, whose keenness evidently wears off so soon as they find that something more than shouting is expected of them. If the British Government would only consent to a general call to arms being made in Egypt by the Salonika Government the ranks of the Army of National Defence would be very considerably reinforced. There are, of course, difficulties in the way at the present moment, but they could no doubt be smoothed over. At any rate, compulsory service is the only solution for the present state of affairs in the Hellenic Colony of Egypt.

Social Work in Cairo.

As those who know them quite expected, Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate are taking very active interest in the social work that is being conducted out here, and scarce a week passes that they do not visit one of the local institutions or attend meetings. By their kind permission the annual meeting of the local Y.W.C.A. was held at the Residency last week, when there was a very good attendance of workers and of those interested in the object. Chaplain the Rev. C. T. Horan was in the chair. The report of the year's administration showed that the association had done excellent work in connection with the large number of V.A.D.s, nurses, and other women-workers who had come to Cairo, and that there was a small credit balance in hand. There is a sum of £E6,000 still due on the purchase money of the new premises, which had had to be acquired to enable the great demand for accommodation now made on the association to be met, and it is hoped that this will soon be paid off, if possible in the course of the current year. It was decided to ask H.R.H. Princess Patricia to fill the place of patroness, which had been held by the late Duchess of Connaught, who had always taken the liveliest interest in the association, and had, indeed, given her name to its building. Very great regret was expressed at the departure of their lady patroness, Lady McMahon, whose place Lady Wingate had graciously consented to take. At the close of the meeting her ladyship addressed a few words to those present, and invited them to take tea and visit the Residency gardens.

THE CAPITULATIONS IN TURKEY.

Under date of May 10, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs:—According to a Berlin telegram, during the discussion in the Reichstag on the ten law treaties with Turkey the Foreign Secretary, Herr Zimmerman, dwelt on the great political importance of these treaties, which are destined to replace the system of Capitulations. The German Government, from the standpoint of international law, he said, could not consider a unilateral abolition of the Capitulations as effective, because the rights of Germans were secured by treaties. Germany, however, recognised that freedom from the chains of Capitulations was for Turkey the chief, perhaps the sole, war aim, because Turkey no more than Germany went to war to conquer foreign countries, or politically and economically to overthrow her neighbours, but solely to be able to live freely and securely with other people. She therefore needed a state of law no longer enabling political agents of predatory Powers, under the cover of the Capitulations, to incite whole provinces in Turkey to revolt and work for the disruption of the Ottoman Empire.

Germany will help Turkey as much as she can to attain this war aim, and it is also in her own interest to do so because Germany of all the Powers, for political and economic reasons, must attach the greatest value to Turkey's independent and strong development. The abolition of the Capitulations is not sufficient. They must be replaced by new ones, which will carefully take into account the conditions existing, no matter how much they differ from them, so as to leave as little room as possible for misunderstanding and arbitrary action. The Government believes this task is fulfilled by these treaties. The Reichstag has adopted all three readings of the measure ratifying the legal treaties with Turkey, which are to replace the system of Capitulations.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, April 21.

Tour of the Governor-General.

General Stack, C.M.G., left Khartoum on the night of April 13 by special train for the South. He was accompanied by Major Pattisson, A.A.G., Captain Willis, the Assistant Director of Intelligence, and Mr. Howell, the assistant private secretary, and M. A. Hilmi Leff, Abdalla Abu Sin, the A.D.C. The Hon. C. C. Pelham, assistant traffic manager of the railways, accompanied the train in his saloon.

The train proceeded as far as Tayeba, where it stayed till the morning, when the Governor-General went all over the estate by motor-car, and then drove on to Wad Medani for breakfast. At ten o'clock there was a levée at the *Mudiria*, at which the local notables were presented to His Excellency, and some of them received presents from him. In the afternoon a visit was paid to Barakat by motor. In the evening the Governor, Mr. Iles, entertained His Excellency to dinner.

Canal Works at Makwar.

During the night the train proceeded to Sennar and thence to Makwar, where the excavation of the canal is being begun and the proposed dam is in course of construction. His Excellency started one of the new excavators and watched it working for a while, and then inspected the offices. Mr. Pizzigalli, the contractor, was presented to His Excellency and congratulated on his plant. On returning to the train the Governor-General continued his journey to Sennar, where he was met by the Governor of the Province, Major Cameron, and the inspector, Mr. Hussey. A levée was held here, at which all the local notables were presented to the Governor-General.

The journey was continued that evening to Kosti, where after a brief stop the train was coupled to a new train and went on to Um Ruaba, where Captain Gibson met it with a large number of his people. After a short stay the progress was carried on to Rahad, where General Stack inspected the motor-car plant that had been employed on the Darfur expedition, being met by Captain Claxton and Mr. Smith, of the Public Works Department. Thence the train went on to El Obeid, which was reached at about half-past four.

At El Obeid.

The Governor of Kordofan, Mr. Sagar, met the train, and a guard of honour was drawn up outside the station, and a number of prominent natives were introduced to His Excellency, who, after inspecting the guard, rode round the town, which had been decorated for the occasion. He visited the school, where the pupils sang a special poem in honour of the day, and complimented the headmaster on the excellent state of the school. He then went to the Governor's house, where he was staying.

In the morning there was an inspection of the garrison, and after breakfast a levée. A number of natives were given presents. In the afternoon three motor-cars were requisitioned to go along a part of the road to Nahud, to show the kind of difficulties involved in motor transport in this country. They proceeded some seventeen miles along the road and returned at sunset. In the evening His Excellency and his staff were entertained by the El Obeid Mess at dinner.

The morning of the 18th was begun by the inspection of the hospital. After breakfast preparations for departure were seen to be in progress. A guard of honour paraded, and the chief officials and notables came to say good-bye to His Excellency, and the train started on its homeward journey at 10.30 a.m. Kosti was reached shortly after 9 p.m., and there Mrs. Stack had arrived with Mrs. Burges and Captain Chester Master, the A.D.C., on the Sudan Government steamer Gedid. A transfer was made to the boat for an early start next day.

Inspection at Dueim.

On the morning of the 19th His Excellency and Staff disembarked at Goz Abu Guma, accompanied by Mr. Struvé, the Governor of the White Nile Province, Mr. Burgess, the Inspector of the district, and Mr. Munro, the Inspector of Kosti. After meeting a number of the notables and seeing the buildings of the district headquarters, all re-embarked and returned to Kosti, where there was a further inspection. In the afternoon a call was made at Kawa for a similar purpose, and the journey continued to the vicinity of Dueim, the headquarters of the province. The Governor-General landed early on the 20th, and rode round the town, calling at the school and mosque, the prison and the hospital, and a short levée was held in the *Mudiria*.

The steamer got under way again soon after nine o'clock, and steamed down stream to Geteina. Here Mr. Ball, the Inspector, met the boat and showed His Excellency round the "markaz." One of the features of this visit was a charge by some 200 horsemen, who drew up within a few feet of the party. It was interesting to observe that some of the horses were caparisoned with armour and quilted hangings with brightly coloured ornamentation, making a very striking appearance. From Kawa the journey continued with a short stop during the night, and Khartoum was reached on the morning of the 21st, thus ending a most interesting though somewhat exhausting tour.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Legislative Council.

As the session approaches, the elected Greek members are exhorted by the Press not to relax their efforts to bring about a forward movement. It is the old story of political agitation. Leading articles in the Greek papers are just what one would expect in present circumstances. Now, they argue, is the opportunity—such as perhaps never occurred before and may not arrive again—for united action by leaders in Church and Council. The new political situation which finds the troops of M. Venizelos fighting side by side with those of the Entente is one that fulfils the conditions on which Great Britain offered Cyprus to Greece. Let, then, our Councillors lose no time, but lay before his Majesty the King and the liberty-loving British people their earnest petition that the offer may be renewed and carried into execution. The circumstances are favourable. Any difference regarding local matters which may divide the community must be put aside, and everything must be subordinated to the one great aim of union. At the same time, it is urged, there is no valid reason why, on account of the war, the time of the Council should be devoted solely to the passing of the annual estimates. On the contrary, Cyprus is happily unaffected by the war, and there is ample time and reason for dealing with various matters of urgency. One is that of educational reform, which is overdue and is being shelved. The system, *e.g.*, under which excessive school fees are levied on the people is burdensome, while the teachers are, having regard to present prices, paid only starvation salaries. Another matter of urgency is that, in view of a probable shortage of wheat, Government should provide for the purchase of sufficient grain to carry the people through the coming crisis.

Bread Complaints.

At Nicosia the public has had reason to complain of the quality of the mixed wheat and flour bread. Bakers have disregarded warnings given to them; the Commissioner has therefore withdrawn from two bakers the permits which enabled them to obtain wheat and barley from the Government stores, and the others have been cautioned that, should further complaints be proved, offenders will be similarly treated.

The Greek Easter.

The festival has been celebrated with considerable animation throughout the island. At Limassol the athletic sports extended over four days. The Commissioner, Major Bolton, and Canon Newham were present at some of the meetings. Boys from the English School at Nicosia competed and won prizes as well as the football match. On the last day the Archbishop was present and distributed the prizes. Several dances were given by the leading Greek clubs, and there were other entertainments. At Larnaca, Papho, and other towns there were various entertainments.

General News.

By an order of the High Commissioner in the Official Gazette, District Commissioners are empowered to grant permits to farmers, up to May 31, to shoot jackdaws, flocks of which birds commit great depredations annually in the growing cereal crops.

The new Bishop of Salamis, Nicodemus, has been presented to the High Commissioner at Government House by the Archbishop Cyril.

Unhappily the drought has continued, and agriculturists are beginning to despair of a good cereal harvest.

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THE STATE OF SYRIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 24.

With the entry of the United States into the war, the last but one channel of communication with Turkey has been closed. Even the last remaining route, viâ Switzerland, is practically shut, as few if any letters have lately been coming thereby, and the only means of getting any news of Syria—apart from that occasionally furnished by rare fugitives and war prisoners—is through the State-controlled Syrian papers, copies of which still find their way here. Strictly censored as are these papers, they yet give some inkling of the state of the country, even the official notices and *communiqués* being of use in this way. Thus, the paper *Sharq* (East), which is published in Damascus, contains in its issue of February 22 last the following announcement:—"The Court-martial at Damascus warns the persons whose names follow hereafter [They number eleven, and one of them is a sheikh (mayor) of a village] to appear before the said Court-martial within ten days of the present date, as they are accused of complicity in the Hauran rebellion. In case they fail to present themselves within the period fixed, they will be judged by default, and the Government will confiscate their property." This may be taken as a conclusive proof of the existence of rebellion in the Hauran.

The severity of the mobilisation measures taken by the Turkish Government is revealed in the following notice published by the Government in the issue of the above-mentioned paper for February 10:—"All classes from the year 1295 to 1314, who have been exempted from military service by the payment of the exoneration tax, have to present themselves at the recruiting office within the next ten days. Anyone acquainted with this notice who does not present himself within the stipulated period will be condemned to death by execution."

Again, the following notice, published on March 8 in the official journal *Beyrout*, betrays the Government's growing need of both foodstuffs and beasts of burden, and the means to which it resorts to dispossess the people of what little is yet left with them:—"All those who have been exempted from military service by the payment of the exoneration tax may be exempted for another year if they offer, within one month from this date, to the military authorities either of the following articles:—4,000 kilogrammes of wheat, 4,550 kilogrammes of barley, 4,000 kilogrammes of potatoes, 5,150 kilogrammes of lentils, 3,200 kilogrammes of dry peas, 3,320 kilogrammes of burghul (crushed wheat), 4,300 kilogrammes of durrha, 8,000 kilogrammes of berseem."

Everyone is aware of the great need in which the Ottoman Government stands of foodstuffs and beasts of burden, and it behoves all those who had not been sufficiently acquainted with this to take cognisance of the following notice, which appeared in the issue of *Al Belagh* published in Beyrout on February 10:—"All persons owning horses and mules have to bring the same over, before to-morrow evening, to the Transport Committee, who will buy them. Defaulters will be liable to the severest punishment."

It is not difficult to assign the reasons for which the owners feel a strong disinclination to sell their animals to the Government, as the latter pays in paper money which has to be accepted at its face value, although, in point of fact, it can be discounted only at a very heavy loss. It is highly significant that, in spite of the passing of a law imposing the death penalty on those who refuse to deal in these Government notes at their face value, the depreciation has been very considerable and continuous. Nothing indicates more clearly the serious condition of the Turkish Government's credit than the statement made by the Finance Minister in the Mejliss, and published in the *Lloyd Ottoman* of February 13, to the effect that he was astonished to learn of the depreciation of the Government notes, a fact which he ascribed to the ignorance of the people, and as being all the more regrettable as it entails unnecessary loss to them. The Minister added: "It behoves us, under these circumstances, to exercise the utmost efforts with a view to enlighten the people as to the solid guarantees on which this paper issue rests, and then the people will realise that no difference can exist between a one-pound note and its equivalent in gold." But the population possesses more shrewdness than this wily Minister credits it with; for if these guarantees were as solid as he would have them believe, why does the Government insist on the payment of the exoneration tax in gold?

Resolutions renouncing allegiance to the dynasty of King Constantine, and adhering to the Government of M. Venizelos, have been passed in Skopelos and Halonesus, two islands of the Northern Sporades.

REMAINS OF ARAB ART IN EGYPT.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

The "Committee for the Preservation of Monuments of Arab Art in Egypt" has recently presented its report for 1915. This contains the first record of its work since the resignation of Herz Pasha in 1914. The most important work carried out was that of restoring to the perpendicular the leaning columns in the Kalaun Mosque, and these operations and their successful achievement are illustrated by some thirty-four excellent heliogravures. An old Arabic inscription upon the minaret explains that thirty years after the edifice was erected an earthquake shock greatly injured it, causing the supporting pillars and the arches on their summits to lean over, and the first minaret to fall. The straightening of the columns was a difficult affair, because the committee desired to avoid cracking and mutilating the stuccoed decorations upon the walls above the arcades. Therefore, all the arches were supported at a height of about ten metres from the floor. Then the columns were carefully removed, while stronger foundations for each were provided, and they were then replaced, upright and true. Another valuable restoration was the readjustment to vertical of the façade of the Mosque of Kait Bey-es-Seifi Emir Achor. This had become more than forty centimetres out of perpendicular. Minor repairs and adjustments were carried out at other mosques, but much intended work had to be postponed.

The ancient domestic architecture of Cairo was not neglected. One of the houses that had been selected for preservation as a specimen was the old mansion of Ibrahim Khatkhoda Es-Sennari. This was repaired and put in better condition generally, to the delight of our French friends, because it was the residence, in the time of the first Napoleon, of the savants of the French expedition, and there they compiled the voluminous sketches and notes, afterwards expanded into the great work, "La Description de l'Egypte." Photographs of the most interesting features of the building are given, including the marvellous mushrabia work upon the interior balcony.

Some urgent repairs were executed at the Tombs of the Khalifs, and also to a few Coptic churches, especially to the chancel of Anba Chenouba.

The Museum administration now forms a separate department, and the report of its acquisitions and doings is from the hand of M. Ali Bahgat Bey. Although the museum is a good-sized fine modern building, placed at a corner site of the Sharia Mehemet Ali, it proves already to be of insufficient dimensions to contain any large architectural specimens, because already crowded with smaller antiquities. Therefore, the larger pieces are still preserved, or rather stored, in the courtyard of the El Hakim Mosque.

From 1893 to 1904 some two hundred objects were annually added to the museum, mostly derived from partly ruined mosques, or found neglected in various places. But the new collections from such sources gradually dwindled; and so in the ten more prosperous years before the war many antiquities were acquired by purchase. Once the handsome new building was inaugurated, many gifts were also received, but no donations were of more value and beauty than the series of lamps and enamelled glass bottles recently given by H.H. Prince Yussuf Kamel. One of the specimens of glass originally belonged to Saleh-ed-Din Daoud, Sultan of Damascus, early in the thirteenth century, and is the most ancient perfect piece of Arabic glassware that can be dated that is known. Of late years the purchases have been chiefly of carpets and arms and armour, the price of the various objects of metal work having become excessive. About seven years ago the authorities commenced to have recourse to excavations in a small way, but during the last three years they have been carried out on a large scale near Old Cairo, on the site of Fostat, with most excellent results. The chief fruits of this exploration will appear in subsequent reports, but in the one at present being summarised mention is made of the immense number of fragments of pottery with fine enamelling, also of enamelled glass and plaster and stucco fragments from Saracenic buildings, also gold coins and jewellery. The manuscripts—all, unfortunately, mutilated—from the twelfth to the fifteenth century are very numerous. We hope that the administration will make special efforts to prove that although German officials and excavators are no longer in Egypt, yet the search for, and due display of, the antiquities of the country will proceed as actively as ever.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, ROBERT COLLEGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In to-day's copy of THE NEAR EAST, under the heading "Near East Bookshelf," I see in a review by "E. L." of Professor Gibbons's new book, "The New Map of Africa," that "E. L." describes Mr. Gibbons as "an American citizen who for some years has been Professor of History at Robert College, Constantinople."

"E. L." is mistaken in his facts, as who should know better than myself? I am the widow of the late Professor Alexander van Millingen, D.D., who, up to the time we were obliged to leave Turkey in January, 1915, had been Professor of History at Robert College for thirty-eight years.

Mr. Gibbons took my husband's place *pro tem.* in 1909 or 1910, whilst my husband was away on a year's leave, and he remained on as *Assistant* Professor of History for a couple of years after my husband's return. For the last four or five years he has been living in Paris and in America. His place as *Assistant* Professor was taken in 1913 by Dr. Edgar Fisher, but I have not heard that a successor to my husband as Professor of History has been appointed. In any case, Mr. Gibbons is *not* Professor of History at Robert College. I may add that he was a friend and admirer of my husband, and he and Mrs. Gibbons are both friends of mine.—I am, etc.,

HOPE VAN MILLINGEN.

The Avenue Hotel,
Portishead, Somerset,
May 11, 1917.

[We are grateful to our correspondent for calling attention to the point referred to; but in fairness to our reviewer it is but right to add that on the wrapper of "The New Map of Africa," Mr. Herbert Adams Gibbons is described as "Professor of History at Robert College, Constantinople."—ED.]

THE RIGHT METHOD WITH BULGARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your correspondent Mr. A. H. E. Taylor would carry more weight if he cast fewer aspersions. Upon what grounds is Mr. Woods held up to reprobation as a secret enemy of the Serb? Why am I assumed to be an "admirer" of Tsar Ferdinand? The man is astute, able and experienced; his record from the 'eighties until 1912 is before us; we have wanted his alliance pretty badly, and should be glad to secure it now. To fight him seems a deplorable necessity, but one need not deny him such merits as he possesses. Is patriotism incompatible with truth?

Again, nobody wants to "sell" the Serbs. That little people has suffered, and is still suffering horribly; its well-wishers should welcome any reasonable plan for its redemption. Timely concessions to Bulgaria in 1914-1915 might have secured its southern flank, even if they failed in gaining an ally. If the creation of a Greater Serbia can be accelerated by yielding to Sofia part of the "Contested Zone," wisdom bids concede it. My letter expressly reserved the future of Monastir. The town has changed masters four times in five years. There is some reason to believe Bulgaria ready to bow to the fortune of war since her recent loss of it.

Mr. Woods is well able to speak for himself, but personally I give him credit for the spirit with which I am animated—anxiety to assist the Entente—Serbia included—by eliminating Bulgaria from the ranks of our foes. We have high warrant for agreeing with our enemy while we are in the way with him (though for the moment he seems in *our* way). The future security of the Levant depends upon the reconstitution of the Balkan League with Customs and Postal Union, arbitration clauses, and, if possible, a central Senate. Something of the sort seemed within sight in 1912; whether its consummation is possible to-day depends upon concessions all round. One thing is certain—a continuation of this fratricidal war between peoples—Serb and Bulgar—of identical creed and mutually intelligible speech, is an evil preparation for future concord. It can but end in general exhaustion, permanent embitterment, and a dismal heritage of hate. Whatever Power stands to gain by the continuance of this struggle in the Near East, Serbia is quite obviously in a bad way, and is unlikely to be a gainer by more fighting.

We shall all agree that there are degrees of turpitude among our enemies; that whilst the Prussian and the Turk have roused the races of five continents to resistance *à outrance*, the Magyar, the Saxon, the Tiroler and the Bulgar excite our pity rather than our hatred. We feel we could, and we hope we shall, resume relations with these, and with some others; we would willingly see them again in friendly cohabitation of the European family house. We do not propose to exterminate or enslave them, or to subjugate or partition them. I venture to suggest that it is with these peoples, and certain others, that Strategic Diplomacy (Mr. Woods' phrase) should concern itself. Let us begin with the Bulgars.—I am, etc.,

H. M. WALLIS.

Reading, May 14, 1917.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Two days ago a former resident in Constantinople was giving me his views of the situation in Russia, which, he said, strongly reminded him of conditions in the Turkish capital after the Young Turks' Revolution. "Then," said he, "everyone was mad for 'liberty'—for himself; and the result was, of course, not liberty but licence. I remember asking a cabman what he would drive me to a certain point for. He demanded half a lira. I pointed out that the correct fare was a beshlik. 'Ah,' he retorted, 'but now we have Liberty!' And if a policeman asked a cab-driver why he had only one lamp alight—or perhaps none—he was sure to be told much the same thing. Glorious 'Liberty'! Eventually the Government had to issue an official statement pointing out what true Liberty was—and what it was not. This was printed in Turkish, Greek, Armenian, and so on; and I have a copy somewhere." I wonder whether Russia will have to borrow a leaf from Turkey's book. Certainly her extremists appear to be in need of some elementary instruction.

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The House of Commons is truly a remarkable institution. It seems to me that the thirst for information displayed by certain members is equalled only by their desire to give information, or to convey an impression—very commonly a wrong one—when putting their questions; and one wonders why, having so much to give, they find it necessary to ask at all. In this connection the solicitude displayed by certain Irish members for Egyptian "nationalism" is, or used to be, quite touching. One notorious member used to fire off more than a dozen questions a day on this subject, and I remember a friend calling my attention to the fact that his queries and the replies given to them occupied several pages of the official Parliamentary Reports, at a time when we were being implored to economise in our use of paper. Such things cannot be helped, I suppose; but they hardly serve to enhance the prestige of Parliament.

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Now I observe a tendency on the part of another Irish member to weary the House, the public, and the world at large by suggesting—in the form of a question, nine times out of ten—that King Constantine has been "protected" by his "Royal relations," and that as a result the Allies' whole Balkan campaign has been imperilled. Recently Lord Robert Cecil informed this persistent person that the imputation contained in his question was quite untrue, and added that in his (Lord Robert's) judgment it was "very cowardly." The questioner, unabashed, replied that he could afford to ignore that charge, or words to that effect. But is he quite the best judge on that subject? At any rate, I notice that Lord Robert's snub drew cheers from the House. After all, if the Commons are to discuss the affairs of the Near East they are entitled to ask that criticism of the Allies' policy and actions shall at least be well informed; and that is just what the Irish member's is not.

***

The Turks are, and have been for some time, distinctly "nervy," and nowhere does their jumpiness show itself more clearly than in Syria and Palestine. *El Kowkab* has recently been publishing some tales of the Turkish Army, told by an Arab officer, and these illustrate the Turkish state of mind very vividly. Thus, we are told that a French cruiser made prisoners of three boatmen who had been going from Haifa to Acre, but that they were subsequently set at liberty and provided with a letter to the Commandant at Haifa, stating that they had been made prisoners under suspicion of conveying supplies to the army, but were given their freedom because this was found not to be the case.

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The unlucky boatmen were promptly clapped into gaol by the Commandant, pending inquiries. Then the German consul took a hand in the game, and the result was that the trio were sent on to Damascus and there—executed. Surely a case of "nerves" on the part of the Turkish authorities!

***

A similar case, but even worse in its sheer stupidity, is put on record by the same writer. Two soldiers were captured by our forces at the fighting at Maghdaba, but after a few hours they succeeded in making their escape and eventually returned to their camp. Their enterprise and fidelity were instantly rewarded, for they were hanged on the spot, as being "spies" in the employ of the British. After this one is hardly surprised to find that the Turks, having forced women to work, unpaid, at the construction of trenches and so forth at certain desert posts, have been showing extraordinary brutality to these poor slaves, and have treated runaways with the greatest savagery. Having cast Islam from them, the "Turanians," it seems, now consider themselves free to ignore entirely all claims of decency. And their "nerviness" does the rest.

***

I have seen references in the *Busreh Times* to football matches—even, I think, to a football tournament—and to cricket matches; but I do not remember seeing any mention of a local gymkhana meeting. Yet one feels almost certain that, with so many keen sportsmen assembled in the one spot, and with other facilities for the gratification of the sporting instinct, there must have been something of the kind. Be that as it may, I observe that at the Barrackpore Gymkhana meeting one of the events was styled "The Busreh Plate," and another "The Baghdad Plate," the former a race over four furlongs, the latter over 3½ furlongs. The short, sharp affair is presumably a compliment to General Maude's swift advance from Kut to the City of the Khalifs.

***

Beyrout was recently favoured by the arrival of a special Turkish mission, composed of some four dozen women teachers and headed by the learned Khalidat Edib. The object of this mission, I am informed by a friend, who has learned the news from *Al Moustakbal*, is to establish girls' schools and orphanages in Syria and the Lebanon. The need for orphanages I can readily understand, in view of Turkey's treatment of the unhappy Syrians of late. But why on earth should the extraordinary Young Turks worry about schools in Syria just now? Are Constantinople and Brusa so overstocked with such things? And is the Turkish Treasury so full that outlets must be found for the surplus wealth? Or can it be the outcome of genuine womanly pity for the sufferings of the Syrians, expressing itself in characteristically roundabout Oriental fashion? Or, finally, is it prompted by genuine enthusiasm for educational reform and progress? My friend thinks this possible; "for," says he, "educated Turkish women are seekers after wisdom, whereas their men, in a general way, are not."

CORSAIR.

GREECE AND THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

At the Newspaper Press Fund anniversary dinner at the Mansion House last Saturday, M. Gennadius replied to the toast "The Visitors," proposed by Sir Edward Russell. M. Gennadius said that he represented in a diplomatic capacity Britain's friend and ally M. Venizelos. Amid great difficulties and unfair and bitter opposition M. Venizelos had striven from the beginning to carry out the only policy which the honour and dignity of Greece required that she should pursue. He regarded it as the destiny of Greece that she should fight side by side with the Powers who all along had been her friends, and who were fighting for nothing less than freedom and civilisation in the world. Quite 45,000 Greek troops, organised by M. Venizelos, were now at the front, and within a few weeks they were confident that the number would be raised to close on 100,000. Greece and the other small nationalities looked to Britain and her powerful Allies for the triumph of freedom over serfdom, and of humanity over barbarous brutality.

THE POPULATION OF EGYPT.

Under date of May 11, the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* reports: Mr. J. I. Craig, Controller of Egyptian State statistics, publishes the provisional returns of the decennial census taken on March 6. The total population is 12,566,000, against 11,143,000 in 1907, or an increase of 12.7 per cent. The figures do not include the Bedouin inhabitants of the desert, now in the Western Directorate, or civilians, etc., in the military zone, but they suffice to indicate the nature of the increase in the population. The most marked increase is in the large towns. Cairo has a population of 785,000. It is noticeable that the population has grown rapidly in districts where irrigation has most extended since 1907; also migration into the towns from the country has begun on a considerable scale. In view of Egypt's dependence on agriculture this feature merits the careful attention of the authorities.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

LORD KITCHENER.*

This book, the latest about Lord Kitchener, has wisely, we think, delayed its appearance until after the first rush of popular biographies. Here we have Kitchener speaking to us in his own words—from Palestine, from Egypt, from South Africa, from Australia, from India; closing with his fine, measured utterances as Secretary of State for War. The force and majesty, the stern, unbending strength, the unsuspected simplicity and sensitiveness of "the greatest personality of our day" (the phrase is General Ivanov's) strike us afresh as we read, for the mighty personality of the man rises up before us, magnificently justified by his words to his own generation, as he will be to the end of history by his achievements.

Lord Kitchener's genius as a statesman was greatly subordinated to the demands of the profession he loved, but the combination of soldier and statesman, though not uncommon, is seldom united in such strength as it was in him. His handling of South Africa after conquest, of the Fashoda incident, of the various Eastern peoples he had to deal with, of the thorny Labour problems that confronted him latterly at home, were inspired by statesmanship of no mean degree, by a delicacy of understanding and a sincerity and sympathy as admirable as they are rare. To-day we are reaping the good seed that he sowed.

It is only possible to glance at the wide field indicated by this book, but we refer readers to the statesmanlike presentation of the Cyprus question by the young lieutenant of twenty-nine; to the comprehensive Memorandum on the Administration of the Vilayet of Kastamuni, with its stern indictment of Turkish misrule; to the vivid little picture of the Bulgarians at close quarters—"Our impression of the Bulgarians was not favourable. They seem to be a most despicable race. Morally they appear to be at the lowest ebb"; to what is herein well termed the "Magna Charta of the Sudan"; to his speech at Johannesburg, with its tribute to the Boers' fighting qualities, paid by a soldier to soldiers; to the exhaustive Memoranda on the Organisation of the Army in India, and the Defence of Australia. To read these attentively is to acquire some idea of the magnitude of the problems he was called on to tackle.

We hear sometimes that Lord Kitchener was not always generous to his colleagues and subordinates. Was it not rather that his own standard was so high, and so loyally adhered to, that he could not tolerate anyone who did *less* than his or her best? His praise, when he gave it, was frank and generous—all the more valued for being somewhat rare. His absolute straightness of purpose and of speech commended him, curiously enough, to the poles of humanity—Easterns and our own Labour element at home. It pierced the finesse of the one and the obstinacy of the other, and found its way straight to the heart of each. The East trusted him implicitly; and as to Labour, surely one of Lord Kitchener's happiest victories was that won at the meeting of June 2, 1915, which opened with criticism and closed with a vote of thanks from Mr. Will Crooks. We all allowed his greatness, but his sensitiveness we overlooked, because he never stooped to "clear" himself nor explain his motives to the herd. But he was keenly alive to unjust criticism; he welcomed approbation with simplicity, while never courting it, and his outward impassivity to both stung petty souls into making bitter attacks on him, which many people thought had no power to wound. There is sadness for us now in Lord Desborough's little story of him, recounted here: "I hope the Army does not think I have let them down." The Army certainly never misunderstood him.

We have left ourselves no space wherein to speak of the book itself—which is the best compliment we could pay the writers on their presentation of Lord Kitchener. They have given us a delightful and a valuable book, which no student of Lord Kitchener's life can afford to overlook: one which should be in every library, and certainly in every school library. Though a wholesome strain of hero-worship runs right through, we are all the while aware that the object is not to air the writers' views, but to give an honest representation of one to whom the fine words of Sir Thomas Browne very fittingly apply:—

"Bright thoughts, clear deeds, constancy, fidelity, and generous honesty are the gems of noble minds; wherein (to derogate from none) the true heroic English gentleman hath no peer."

The Dardanelles Commission sat on Monday at the House of Lords.

M. Venizelos has consented to lend the Athens Government a thousand tons from the wheat destined for New Greece.

* "Kitchener in His Own Words." By J. B. Rye and H. G. Groser. (Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d.)

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. May.	1917. May.		1335. Rejeb.	5677. Iyar.
18	5	Friday	26	26
19	6	Saturday.....	27	27
20	7	Sunday	28	28
21	8	Monday	29	29
22	9	Tuesday	Sivan 1	30 Shaaban
23	10	Wednesday	2	1
24	11	Thursday	3	2

Next Thursday is the birthday of Princess Elizabeth of Greece, second daughter of Prince Nicholas, King Constantine's second brother, who was born at Tatoi, May 11, 1904 (o.s.).

Princess Mary, representing the Queen, was present on Tuesday afternoon at the variety entertainment arranged by the Duchess of Wellington at Apsley House, on behalf of the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund. Queen Amelia and the Duchess of Teck, with Princess Mary and Princess Ilona of Teck, were also present, and the large audience also included:—The Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Lady Mary Scott, the Countess of Albemarle, the Countess of Carnarvon, Lady Constance Leslie, Lady Ermyntrude Malet, Viscountess Sandhurst, Lady Greville, Lady Carew, Lady Dallas, Viscountess Cowdray, Colonel Sir Henry and Lady Emma Crichton, Lord and Lady Lamington, Viscountess Allendale, Viscountess Errington, Sir Edward and Lady Hope, the Hon. Mrs. Pelham, Lady Pearson, Lady FitzRoy, Sir Hugh and Lady Barnes, Mr. Wardbrook, Lady Cynthia Hamilton, Miss Stella Maude and her sister, Miss Jessel, and Miss Mary Damer.

M. George Cretziano, the Roumanian Minister to Madrid, has arrived in London from Jassy.

A Reuter's message sent off from Udine last Saturday says:—Although Mr. Rudyard Kipling arrived here during a period of great activity, which he declared to be just what he desired to see, he has been shown all kinds of courtesies. He is treated as the guest of the Supreme Command, and has been received by Count Cadorna, General Porro, and other military leaders, who have put all means at his disposal for visiting the different sections of the front.

M. Antonievitch, First Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has returned to London from Paris.

Colonel Caretasu, of the Roumanian Army, arrived in London on Wednesday from Jassy.

Sir Courtauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross for Malta and the Near East, arrived in Rome on May 9.

Mr. William Charles F. Robertson has arrived at Malta, and been sworn in as Lieutenant-Governor in succession to Mr. H. A. Byatt.

Mr. P. F. Mumford, A.S.C., is now training, as a cadet, at Woolwidh Military Academy.

We are informed that the statement that Lady Decies is leaving for Roumania, having joined the Scottish Women's Hospital Contingent, is incorrect.

The marriage arranged between Captain Basil H. H. Spence, Royal Army Medical Corps, attached Egyptian Army, and Margaret Alice Mackenzie will take place shortly in London.

An engagement is announced between Charles William Montagu Douglas Scott, elder son of the late Admiral Lord Charles Montagu Douglas Scott, G.C.B., and Lady Charles Scott, of Boughton House, Kettering, and Hope Janet, only daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel William J. Younger and Mrs. Younger, of Harmeny, Balerno, Mid Lothian.

The engagement is announced between Major H. V. Venables Kyrke, Royal Welsh Fusiliers (attached Egyptian Army), eldest son of Colonel and Mrs. A. Venables Kyrke, of Staplegrove Elm, Staplegrove, Taunton, and Frances Mary C. Craven Hoyle, only daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Craven Hoyle, of Leabank Hall, Cloughfold, Lancashire.

In the list of names of officers and others deserving of special mention which has been received from Sir Douglas Haig, we note with peculiar satisfaction that of Lieutenant (temporary Captain) R. C. S. Morrison-Scott, Royal Marine Artillery. Mr. Morrison-Scott, who lived for some time in Egypt, is keenly interested in the Near East, and especially in Arabia and Islam; and he was for some time on the staff of this journal.

A Cairo correspondent writes:—"A very successful gala entertainment in aid of the Syrian Refugees was given at the Sultania Opera House on Wednesday evening, April 18. The performance consisted of three charmingly staged tableaux in which the younger members of the Syrian colony displayed remarkable histrionic and vocal talent. Between the second and last tableaux the Fray Bentos concert party gave a few numbers from their repertoire, which were much applauded, and in which they were assisted by Mrs. Sydney Merton, whose singing was greatly appreciated. The whole entertainment was a distinct success, socially and financially; and the audience, which included the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate, H.H. Prince Fuad, the Prime Minister and M. and Mme. Defrance, spent a delightful evening."

Lady Lowther and those other ladies of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund who are arranging for the social gathering of former residents in Turkey deserve hearty congratulations upon the idea. Wednesday, June 6, is the date fixed, from 4 to 6.30 is the time, and the Alpine Club Hall, Mill Street, Conduit Street, is the place. Former British residents in Turkey who may not have received an invitation should communicate with the Hon. Sec., Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, S.W.

The Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan has issued a special army order on the occasion of the retirement of Lewa C. H. Townsend Pasha, Governor of Kassala, on pension, in which the eminent services which this officer has rendered during the 18 years he spent in the Egyptian Army and Sudan Government as O.C. 2nd Battalion, Assistant Adjutant General and Governor of Halfa, Berber and Kassala, have been placed on record.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society, to be held on Wednesday, May 30, at half-past four in the afternoon, Mr. Demetrius Boulger will read a paper on "Mesopotamia and Syria after the War." The Rt. Hon. Sir H. Mortimer Durand, P.C., etc., will preside.

Mr. Arthur de Vere Vere, of Pera, Constantinople, and temporarily residing at the Hotel Rubens, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., one of the oldest members of the British Colony in Constantinople, left property of the value of £12,403.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. M. Theodossiou is now acting in London as the Consul-General of the Greek Royal Government.

M. Saltaferas, who has been appointed Secretary to the Royal Greek Legation, has arrived in London and entered on his duties.

M. Doulidis has been appointed an Attaché to the Royal Greek Legation in London. He has arrived in London from Athens and has taken up the duties of his post.

General Mossoloff has been appointed Russian Minister to Roumania.

OBITUARY.

General Sir Samuel James Graham, K.C.B., formerly of the Royal Marines, died last Friday at South Kensington. Born in January, 1837, he was the eldest son of Colonel J. J. Graham, and grandson of Lieut.-General S. Graham, Governor of Stirling Castle. He was given his commission in 1854 and reached General's rank in 1900. General Graham served with the Baltic Expeditions in the Russian War of 1854-55, and was lieutenant-colonel in command of the Royal Marines in the Egyptian War of 1882. He was present at the seizure of the Suez Canal (twice mentioned in despatches) and in the land actions of that campaign, including the battle of Tel-el-Kebir (C.B., medal, clasp, Khedive's Star, and Osmanieh, 4th Class); he was also mentioned in Viscount Wolseley's despatches. In 1902 he was made a Knight Commander of the Bath.

Major-General Henry Miller, formerly of the 21st (Royal Scots Fusiliers) Regiment, and a Staff Officer of Pensioners, has died at his residence at Clifton, Bristol, in the eighty-eighth year of his age. He served in the Crimean Campaign, taking part in the Siege of Sebastopol and being awarded the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal. For his services in connection with the Abyssinian Campaign, 1867, he received the thanks of the Secretary of State for War and of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army.

The death was announced last Friday of Cecil Rice, of Kingscote House, East Grinstead, late colonel 72nd Highlanders (1st Seaforth Highlanders). He was born in 1831, and was one of the few remaining Crimean veterans. Gazetted in 1848, he saw service in the Crimean Campaign as a captain in the Highland Brigade under Sir Colin Campbell; also as Staff officer to the brigade in the Indian Mutiny, in which he was promoted major for distinguished service in the field. After commanding the 72nd Highlanders at home for two years he retired, in 1870, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

The death is announced, in a message from the *Morning Post* Rome Correspondent, of the well-known Serbian political leader, Prota, or Archdeacon, Milan Dturich, Deputy for Utitze, who

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had sat in Parliament for over thirty years, entering it simultaneously with M. Pashitch, whose great friend he was. Prota Dturich died in Professor Bastianellis' private hospital. He was greatly respected, and will be buried at the expense of the Serbian Government.

Captain Russell Alexander Colvin, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, who is reported killed in action on May 1, was thirty-five years of age and the second son of the late Russell Pakenham Colvin, B.C.S., and of the late Mrs Colvin, of 24, Castletown Road, West Kensington. An engineer by profession, he belonged to the London Scottish till he went to Egypt, where he spent some years on irrigation works, and later in survey work in the Sudan, where, alone with his retinue of natives, he penetrated country hitherto untrodden by the white man. He had a wonderful gift with natives and of leadership, and this, combined with his extremely attractive and lovable personality, carried him safely through many dangers. He was a keen sportsman. A breakdown in health obliged him to seek a different climate, and in 1909 he went to British Columbia, where he was successfully carrying on his profession when war broke out. He came to England at the end of 1914, was gazetted lieutenant in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in January, 1915, and went to France the following October. He was sniping officer till wounded a year ago, and rejoined last November, returning to France in December, soon after which he was promoted.

We regret to learn that Lieutenant R. H. Coles, Yeomanry and Royal Flying Corps, was killed on May 9, whilst carrying out artillery observations. He was the youngest son of Coles Pasha, C.M.G., formerly Inspector-General of Prisons, Egypt, and Mrs. Coles, of Stone House, Bishops Hull, Taunton. He was educated at Cheam, Wellington, and the Agricultural College, Cirencester, where he obtained a diploma. He served with the Yeomanry in Gallipoli and Egypt, and obtained his wings last July. He was Master of the Cirencester Beagles, was a fearless rider across country, and a good athlete, winning many long-distance races whilst at the Cirencester College. His squadron commander writes of him: "He was one of the best, if not the best officer in the squadron, and I have already twice recommended him for promotion to flight commander, and only a few days ago I had forwarded his name for special mention to his wing commander." His elder brother, Crewe, was killed in Gallipoli on June 4, 1915.

A conspiracy has been discovered at Salonika to assassinate M. Venizelos. Nine men confessed that they were acting under instructions from a secret committee formed in Athens by certain military officers and politicians.

M. Potié, a Senator and Mayor of Haubourdin, who has just been released from imprisonment in Germany, declares that the German officer in command at Haubourdin is of Greek origin, a major named Argyropoulos.

M. Demirtiji, the Greek Minister of Marine, while acting Minister for War pending Colonel Charalambi's taking of the oath, ordered the transfer to the Peloponnessus of six colonels, including two officers belonging to the General Staff, and the King's assistant equerry and one naval captain.

Placards have been posted in Jassy, by order of the Roumanian Minister of War, denouncing the intrigues of agents in the pay of Germany and Bulgaria for the purpose of creating discord between Russia and Roumania.

All Jewish inhabitants of Jaffa were expelled during the Passover feast With the connivance of the Turkish authorities the Jews were robbed during their flight and their homes destroyed and propefty sacked. Those who resisted pillage were hanged.

In reply to a demonstration before the Roumanian Consulate at Odessa, the Consul said: "The King has promised that equal rights shall be given to Jews during the present session of Parliament."

During the Germano-Turkish Treaties debate in the Reichstag last week the Socialist, Herr Landsberg, said the Socialists would not support the extradition treaty, which provided that there could be no extradition for political offences, but excluded anarchist offences.

The Vienna *Arbeiter Zeitung* says that henceforth each Austrian soldier home on leave from Serbia will be allowed to take home 22lb. of meat, 10 fowls, 200 eggs, 22lb. of lard, 55lb. of vegetables, 220 lb. of fruit, and one cheese.

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THE SERBIAN ARMY
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RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE
SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION
at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

FLATAU.—On April 19, at 15, Souk-re-Tewfikieh, Cairo, to Lieut. and Mrs. A. Flatau (née Jeanne Mosseri), formerly of 250, Queen's Road, Dalston, a daughter, Annie.

MARRIAGE.

GOLDSMITH—COOTE.—On May 9, 1917, at the English Church, Port Sudan, John Henry Goldsmith, Sudan Civil Service, eldest son of the late Rev. Henry and Mrs. Goldsmith, Cambridge, to Mary Melesina, younger daughter of Sir Algernon and Lady Coote, of Ballyfin.

DEATHS.

CUMBERBATCH.—On March 31, at Odessa, Mary Anne Cumberbatch, dearly beloved wife of Arthur H. Cumberbatch, formerly of Constantinople and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Uvedale B. Tristram, aged 55.

HARRIS.—On April 29, at Teheran, Frederick Knox Harris, Vice-Consul, and beloved son of George S. T. Harris and Caroline Harris, in his twenty-sixth year.

KILLED IN ACTION.

COLES.—Killed in action, on May 9, Lt. R. H. Coles (Humphrey), Yeomanry and Royal Flying Corps, the youngest and dearly-loved son of Coles Pasha, C.M.G., and Mrs. Coles, of Stonehouse, Bishops Hull, Taunton, aged 23 years.

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FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1917.

PUBLIC WORKS ON THE NILE.

Less than twenty years have elapsed since the Sudan Provinces were recovered for the Anglo-Egyptian condominium. In the matter-of-fact record of the new Governor-General's tour, which our Khartoum correspondent sends us this week, there is little to suggest that Great Britain's threefold policy—"to acquire the confidence of the people, to develop their resources, and to raise them to a higher level"—has been in vogue for such a short time. Summing up the duties of the local officials on their first appointment in 1899, Lord Kitchener declared that their object should be to make the government of their district "as great a contrast as possible to that of the Dervishes," whose "almost indescribable oppression" had racked the land and its inhabitants for the previous thirteen years. Only those who know at first hand the old and the new Sudan, or have followed the record of its progress during recent years, as outlined in our own columns, can realize how faithfully Lord Kitchener's policy has been carried out, and the success that has attended it. The confidence of the people has been won, and probably no conscious effort is required to retain it; but that there can be no end to the task of developing the country's resources, and raising the people to a higher level, is shown by the need felt of proceeding with irrigation work, in spite of the war. One of the objectives of General Stack's tour was to inspect the canal which is now being constructed near Sennar for the purpose of delivering over an area of some three hundred thousand acres the water obtained by means of a weir across the Blue Nile. Dependent as they are on one and the same river, Egypt and the Sudan are virtually one in irrigation matters. Local schemes are called for in each, but the object of the British authorities is so to control the Nile and its head streams that there may be the assurance for both countries of a sufficient supply of water for the final limits of cultivation at all times of the year. As was pointed out in the analysis, published last week, of Sir Murdoch Macdonald's report on Public Works in Egypt, it has been proved that cotton can be grown as a winter crop in the Sudan in contrast with Egypt, where it is a summer crop. For the present, the Sudan takes no summer water; but as the time may come when she may require a supply, it is to the interests of both countries that the necessary works should be carried out betimes, apart from the immediate benefits that each stands to receive locally from further steps taken to control the Nile flood.

Public works, however, entail expenditure, and in the critical financial conditions now obtaining as a result of the war, a good case has to be made out before any substantial outlay is likely to be authorized. An almost equally important consideration is the supply of material, which involves transport, and on this point Egypt and the Sudan have to adjust their requirements to the urgent demands on the world's tonnage. If this aspect of the problem can be satisfactorily settled, there is nothing in the financial position of Egypt to rule new public works entirely out of the question in war time. In the early stages of the struggle the decision to curtail rigorously all expenditure on them was rightly taken. But Egypt has not only weathered the crisis; she has actually emerged from it in a stronger financial position than she was before. The public revenues, the acting Financial Adviser has pointed out, have benefited to an unhoped-for extent, as the result of the improvement in general economic conditions, so that the total receipts for the current financial year will reach a figure never before attained. A substantial surplus, it is anticipated, will be realized to be added to the Reserve Fund. But this accession of financial strength to the Government, considerable though it may appear, is by no means commensurate with that experienced by the country as a whole. The Egyptian fiscal system, Mr. R. C. Lindsay points out, is so conceived as to limit the share of the public revenues in the increased wealth of the country to what they may derive from Customs and other indirect taxation, from the profits of the State Domains, and from the expansion in the paper currency. The land tax, the principal instrument of taxation and the mainstay of the revenue, is unalterable; the very large increments of profit which have been reaped by cultivators through the unexpected rise in price of their crops, and which, under an income-tax or other form of proportional taxation, could have constituted a legitimate and lucrative source of revenue, escape taxation altogether. In so far as the Government is able to pay its way, this condition of things might be considered as by no means unsatisfactory; but the reverse of the shield is shown when it is necessary to take a long-sighted view of the circumstances of the country. The war has contributed directly to Egypt's well-being. Owing to the demand for cotton, the Egyptian product doubled in price; another factor in the exceptional prosperity is the continual presence of a large British force, while the resources of Egypt and the Sudan have been drawn upon in every conceivable manner for military requirements. These are factors which must be expected to pass with the end of the war, when Egypt will be confronted with a particularly difficult problem.

In addition to certain adventitious sources of revenue the war has brought a general inflation of prices, though in this respect Egypt is more fortunately situated than other belligerent countries. Prices may remain high, when the additional sources of income have disappeared. But, although this contingency can be met by the individual by a self-denying ordinance, the Government may be placed in a different position. Not only have certain public works, with some claim to be considered indispensable, been held in abeyance during the war, but such matters as renewal and maintenance of railways, buildings, and different enterprises have, largely through the difficulty of procuring material, been allowed to fall into arrear. After the war it is unlikely that the revenue will be sufficient to meet these arrears of maintenance, as well as the resumption of expenditure on new works and new administrative charges. There will naturally be great reluctance to encroach upon the reserve fund to an extent that would reduce it below the figure at which it stood before the war. Thus, the Government may find that, owing to the inelasticity of the revenue, it is actually on the threshold of a position which is far from reassuring, and, as was recorded in our pages a fortnight ago, the acting Financial Adviser considers it prudent to drop a hint regarding the possibility of increased taxation. The turn of events after the war, Mr. Lindsay writes, may prove it essential for the stability of the public finances that the basis of taxation should be enlarged. Should it be found necessary to do so, he adds, it is to be hoped that circumstances will permit of a revision of the fiscal system, which will secure a better adjustment of burdens at the same time that it calls for a larger contribution from the taxpayers who have been enriched by the war. Fortunately, Egypt's experience of expenditure on public works is a happy one. The Assuan Dam, which cost £5,000,000, produces, with the water it stores, crops worth annually between £5,000,000 and £10,000,000; and it is estimated that the works on the White and Blue Niles now projected will, quite as a side issue, produce an additional £1,000,000 worth of crops in regard to land at present lying idle for want of summer water. As the future of Egypt and the Sudan is held to depend on the early execution of a certain programme of public works agreed upon by the Adviser to the Ministry, we may hope that all difficulties in the way of carrying through the work without delay will be overcome in the interest of the two countries.

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A PERSIAN ADVENTURE.

It was a dark winter evening at the ancient city of Kerman, and I had been out for a ride, accompanied by one *suwar*, over the sandy desert which lies to the south of the town. Before returning to the Consulate I decided to look in at the house of the Telegraph Superintendent, which is situated in a network of narrow lanes constituting the residential quarter of the city. When I left his house to go home it was raining hard, and so dark that it was hardly possible to distinguish the high blank walls of the houses on either side. However, both I and my *suwar* knew the way well, and there seemed no need of a lamp. Not a soul was out of doors except ourselves; Persians do not love wet weather, especially in the streets at night, when lofty walls of unbaked brick have a nasty way of collapsing on top of you, and there are also other dangers to be avoided.

The *suwar* was a little ahead, and I was allowing my horse to pick his own way among the seas of mud. He was a strong, solidly-built, grey Waler belonging to Government, and had been brought by the Consul from Mesopotamia, where he had done good service. On we plodded, I wrapped in my thoughts and the Telegraph Superintendent's trusty greatcoat, never dreaming of danger. Suddenly I felt my horse's hindquarters sinking under me. Thinking it was a ditch, I urged him forward, but in spite of his struggles he sank deeper until I was on a level with the ground. I hurriedly got out of the saddle, fortunately disengaging my foot without difficulty from the stirrup, and found myself on the crumbling edge of a pit. For a moment I thought I was going down, but by dint of frantic struggling I managed to scramble up on to terra-firma. Holding on to the horse's headstall, I attempted to help him out, but it was useless; I had a vision of his white head framed in darkness, the headstall broke, and next moment he was gone! For a second or two there was a horrible sound of scraping and snorting, which died away into the depths, and then—silence.

I could hardly realise that it was not a dream. A moment before I had been riding quietly along with a good horse under me, and now—the horse simply was not there! The *suwar*, hearing my shouts, had groped his way towards me, and together we listened at the mouth of the pit. Not a sound but that of wind and rain. There was nothing for it but to hurry on foot to the Consulate, more than a mile away, for help. Three-quarters of an hour later twenty *suwars* of the Consular Escort and two or three other British officers besides myself were gathered round the pit with lanterns and spades. A lantern was let down at the end of a rope. The pit proved a very deep and narrow well, not more than four feet in diameter, situated almost in the middle of the lane. It seemed as if the lamp was never going to reach the bottom. At last the flickering light revealed a piteous sight. There was the horse, jammed forty feet down at the narrow bottom of the well, nothing of him visible but his forelegs and his muddy head, which swayed miserably from side to side. Now and then a terrified snort came faintly up to us. The poor beast bit fiercely at the lamp when it was allowed too close to his head. In his cramped position it was doubtful whether he could breathe properly, while the icy chill of the mud must have struck to his vitals. It was evidently only a question of hours before he must succumb.

The *suwars* were set digging, but only two or three men could work at a time in the narrow space available, and very soon it became apparent that it would take two or three days to get the animal out by this method. After a while, two or three Persian well-diggers who had been sent for arrived on the scene. One of them, helped by the onlookers, let the other down by means of a rope tied round his waist. A lamp was sent down at the end of a separate line. When the man signalled to us to stop lowering, we could see him hanging above the horse, partly supporting himself by pressing his head against one side of the well and his feet against the other. My knowledge of Persian was not quite equal to the running comment in patois that he shouted up to us, but I gathered that he was speculating on the chance of being able to slip a rope round the animal's shoulders. Suddenly there was a frantic pull on the rope, and the well-digger came scrambling up, for all the world as if the devil were after him for trespassing on his preserves! He told us breathlessly that he had approached the horse too close, and it had snapped at him furiously, nearly biting his hand off. He also said that the beast was too tightly jammed for it to be possible to get a rope round his middle. Things looked very black.

However, after consultation we sent the other well-digger down. He stayed at the bottom for nearly an hour, carrying on a bawling conversation the while with his friends at the top. All he could suggest was slipping a loop round the horse's neck and hauling. As this would certainly have resulted in the animal's death by strangulation before he was half-way up, it was vetoed. Someone suggested chloroforming him, so as to allow him to be tackled at close quarters. This could have been done by letting a sponge full of chloroform down on a string; but even if we could have been sure of administering the right dose to the horse, the man who tried to tie the rope to him would have been chloroformed too. Another idea was to send a sack down for the well-digger to place over the horse's head; but the man himself was not very enthusiastic about this, evidently distrusting the horse's inability to bite through a sack; and personally I did not blame him.

When the man at last came up with as little accomplished as his predecessor, our efforts appeared indeed futile, and I was strongly advised to send for a rifle and put an end to the unfortunate animal's trials at once. However, the idea of dooming so good a horse to a miserable end without trying every means to save him was a hateful one, and the second well-digger was sent down once more with instructions to try and fasten the end of a rope round the horse's mouth. This, after repeated failures, he succeeded in doing, and by hauling on the rope we had the horse trussed so that he could not move his head. The well-digger then tried to pass another rope round the animal's shoulders, but failed to do so. Instead, he tied it securely to his fore-legs, and then returned to the top. Horrible gurgling sounds were coming from the horse, and it seemed as if he had not much longer to live. Time was short, but hope had sprung up once more, and twenty pairs of hands laid hold of the rope. It was a strangely fantastic, unreal scene. In the midnight blackness of the high-walled lane, the uncertain gleam of the lanterns lit up what might have been an episode from some mediæval legend, of gnomes that toiled to draw magic waters from some infernal ocean.

At first the rope would not budge, owing no doubt to the suction of the mud on the horse's body. I shivered to think of the strain on the poor beast, and wondered as I hauled whether his fore-legs would come right off or not. At last the rope began to come. It was a great moment. Shouts of "Allah Akbar!" "Ya Ali!" "Shabash!" rent the air. I did not dare to leave the rope and look down the well, for fear of what I should see coming up. It was difficult work hoisting him over the edge of the pit, but at last it was done, and he lay in the mud, unable to move and scarcely breathing, but alive.

To cut a long story short, half-an-hour later our equine hero was comfortably installed in a warm, roomy stable close by. Miraculous to relate, his injuries were slight. He was weak and hardly able to stand, but an hour's vigorous rubbing, a stiff dose of whisky, four blankets and plenty of dry grass put life into him. In a week's time, beyond a few scratches he had nothing to show for his misadventure. Needless to say, the well-digger who had successfully carried out so risky and unpleasant a job was liberally rewarded. How much of the reward went into his pocket and how much, *more Persico*, into those of the police who (though they had done nothing to help the night before) officiously brought the well-diggers up to the Consulate next morning, is another matter.

Subsequent investigation revealed the interesting fact that in the same lane—in fact, within fifty yards of the well in question—there were two similar covered wells. Over one of them the earth had already sunk six inches—a fact which did not seem to disturb the owner at all. Apparently such wells are sunk, when houses are built in towns, to obtain water for building purposes, and when they are no longer required no one ever thinks of doing more than covering them over with sticks and a layer of earth. I was informed afterwards that scores of such wells existed hidden under the roads of the city, and that it was quite an ordinary thing for them to fall in during wet weather. I no longer wonder at the Persian's reluctance to walk the streets of his town on a rainy night. Personally, I still wake up at night sometimes thinking of what it would have been like if my foot had been caught in the stirrup and I had been dragged down with the horse. There are pleasanter places than the bottom of a forty-foot well on a dark night, in the company of a terrified horse struggling and snapping for his life.

C. P. S.

THE GERMANS IN ROUMANIA.

According to authentic news from Bucharest, the Germans are interning the wives of leading Roumanians in the villages around the city, says a Reuter's message from Jassy, dated May 12. This measure is in striking contrast with the action of the Roumanian Government, which allowed the wives of Germans who were interned at the beginning of the war to remain at liberty, though a large number of them displayed an openly hostile attitude. The Roumanian Government is protesting through diplomatic channels to the Allied and neutral Governments, while the Press denounces this fresh German outrage and calls for immediate reprisals.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Greece and the Allies. May 10.

Mr. DILLON asked whether the Prime Minister's attention had been called to the strong attitude of the leading Parisian newspapers on the Greek situation and to the impression conveyed by these journals that the British Government stands in the way of a definite and resolute policy in Greece and in connection with the Salonika expedition; whether the time had now come for a full and clear public statement of the policy of the British Government on the situation in Greece and the Salonika expedition; and whether he could state why the King of Greece had been allowed for so long to carry on a policy of hostility to the Allied Governments, and why the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos had not been fully recognised?

Lord R. CECIL, who replied, said: I am not aware of the facts stated in the first part of the question. I will consider the suggestion made in the second part. It would in any case be impossible to discuss the topics raised by the last part of the question adequately or fully in public.

Mr. LYNCH: Is it not a fact that the whole Balkan campaign has been imperilled by the protection given to King Constantine, and has not that protection been partly on account of his Royal relations?

Lord R. CECIL: I have repeatedly told the hon. gentleman that the imputation contained in the last part of his question is absolutely untrue, and in my judgment is a very cowardly imputation. (Cheers.)

Mr. F. WHYTE: Is it not a fact that as long as the Government refuses to alter its policy in relation to Thessaly, it is retaining the army at Salonika in an extremely unhealthy situation, and is refusing to adopt a policy which would place it in possession of a healthy base of operations?

Lord R. CECIL: I can assure the hon. gentleman that these and all other relevant topics have been considered in connection with this subject. I am sure he will see that it is impossible to discuss this matter in public with any satisfaction to the House or the country.

Mr. H. LAW asked the Prime Minister why the Allied Governments had refused for over five months, in spite of repeated requests, to transfer to the Government of M. Venizelos the fleet of torpedo-boats taken over by them from the Government of Athens; whether three of these vessels had recently been so transferred; and if his Majesty's Government would favourably consider the advisability of dealing similarly with the seventeen vessels remaining in the hands of the Allies, with a view to increasing the prestige of the Entente party in Greece, insuring the due policing of the Greek waters, and facilitating the flow of reinforcements for the Venizelist army.

Lord ROBERT CECIL, who replied, said: My honourable friend must recollect that the supreme command of the Allied Fleets in the Eastern Mediterranean is not in British hands, and it does not, therefore, primarily rest with his Majesty's Government to deal with the points raised in this question. They will, however, be considered.

Serbian Prisoners of War.

Mr. HOPE, replying to Lord H. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK, said: In the report of the Prisoners' Sub-Committee of the Serbian Relief Fund, dated January 31, the number of Serbian prisoners of war in Germany and Austria-Hungary is stated to be nearly 57,500, and I have no doubt that these prisoners are largely dependent on the supply of bread from Berne. As far as I am aware, no restrictions have been placed on the importation of flour into Switzerland, but the shortage of flour in France had made it difficult for the French Government to continue to supply flour from their stocks. This has been explained to the Serbian Relief Fund. The commission established in Paris has for its object the supervision and control of purchases of clothing, not food. We are in communication with the Food Controller with regard to supplying flour for the Serbian section of the Bureau de Secours at Berne, and I understand that the matter is receiving his consideration.

The Price of Dates.

Captain BATHURST, replying to Mr. T. DAVIES, said he was aware that the price of Persian dates had been more than doubled during the last six months; but they could hardly be regarded as essential foodstuffs, and the fixing of maximum prices except for commodities of this description was not a policy which it was desirable to extend without complete control of the supplies.

The Government of Greece. May 11.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether the attention of the Secretary for Foreign Affairs has been called to the fact that the Mayor of Salonika, giving effect to the views of the bulk of Greek citizens there, has issued a proclamation urging the deposition of King Constantine; and whether, in view of the attitude of the King and the importance to the Allied cause of a friendly Government in Greece, he would advise a reversal of the policy hitherto pursued of restraining the Republican movement and of protecting the dynasty.

Mr. RONALD M'NEILL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, having regard to the fact that the instrument by which the three protecting Powers guaranteed constitutional government and monarchical institutions to Greece was made at a time when France and Russia were monarchical States, whether he had any information showing that either of those Powers would now refuse, if requested by his Majesty's Government, to join in deleting from the guarantee all reference to monarchical institutions, thus leaving it open to the Greek people to decide whether their Constitution shall be Monarchical or Republican; and whether, in view of the unconstitutional character of the present régime in Greece, he would propose to the French and Russian Governments to follow the precedent of the Treaty of London of 1863, which sanctioned a change of dynasty in Greece.

Mr. J. F. HOPE, who replied, said I can only say that my noble friend will bear in mind the suggestions, but that he does not think the present a suitable time to promote far-reaching constitutional changes in Greece.

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THE NEAR EAST.

"Baghdad, the Khalifate, and the Arab States of To-day," was the title of a lecture delivered by Professor L. W. King at King's College, Strand, on May 2. Dr. Denison Ross, C.I.E., Director of the London School of Oriental Studies, presided.

The lecturer said that he would lay stress upon the past records of the country only so far as they had a direct bearing upon the present and future. We were to-day reading history in the making, and were principally absorbed in strategic events. Nevertheless it was essential that we should turn our thoughts also as to how those events would act upon the peoples of the adjacent countries. The population was mainly composed of Arabs, and the fact should be borne in mind that there were to-day more than one hundred million Mohammedans under British rule, to whom the future of their kindred must be a matter of deep concern. Provinces and whole tribes were now claiming their freedom from the Turkish yoke, and very clear evidence existed that they intended to hold it when once obtained. It was, therefore, urgent that Great Britain should seriously consider what her policy should be towards this incipient Arab movement, and what obligations her occupation of Mesopotamia enforced upon her. It was obvious that in Arab estimation Turkey had forfeited her right to the Khalifate.

From the dawn of history Southern Mesopotamia had been the seat of great commercial development, whilst Arabia was essentially the home of the nomad, a land of isolation. The contrast between the two countries had a direct bearing upon many problems, for Arabia, although it was the cradle of Islam and the present religious centre, was denied the political focus of the Khalifate. Baghdad was purely an Arabian foundation, although the Moslem conquest had materially altered the language and character of the country. The failure of the Khalifs to induce the Jews to become followers of the Prophet had not led to their extinction, for there were 45,000 Jews to-day in the vilayet of Baghdad at the present time. The city was the scene of the golden age of Islam in the ninth century, whereas the Sultan's claim to the Khalifate dated only from the sixteenth century. The attack of the Young Turkish Party upon the foundations of the Moslem faith after the revolution of 1908 had exercised considerable influence in moulding the present policy of the Arabs. Admittedly, a united Arabia was still only an ideal, but it was the duty of the Entente Powers to see that she was given an opportunity of working that problem out for herself. To that end it was absolutely vital that Turkey should no longer be permitted to retain control over the two great routes from Syria to the Euphrates Valley.

The following extracts from the letters of an American which were smuggled out of Syria by a kind-hearted German missionary returning to Germany, and which he mailed in a neutral country to elude the Censor, have recently appeared in the Arabic New York daily *Al Hoda*. They show the terrible plight of the sick in Syria.

"Your friend in Hums, H——, died of hunger, and we endeavoured to save his property for his family, but were not successful. For a time we fed them, but cholera came along, and they all died. There are only three doctors left in the city, and when we sent for them to come to this family not one responded (perhaps because there was no medicine to give them). A very common sight is two bodies in one bier borne to burial. Pray to God for Syria and its people that there remain at least a remnant of those we have laboured among and loved."

All advices from Syria tell of an utter lack of medicines. The daughter of a prominent man has been ill with dysentery for two months, but not a drop of medicine of any kind is in the city of Beirut.

To relieve the starving and destitute people of the Holy Land, the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, of 110, Victoria Street, Westminster, appeals for the sum of £50,000. Missionary societies of all denominations have united to carry out the work, and goods are being stored in Egypt ready to be poured into the country as soon as access is obtained.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Kut and Charing Cross.

Last week's *Graphic* contained a short article, "The Recapture of Kut," with some extremely interesting illustrations. Referring to the outmanœuvring of the Turk by General Maude, the writer says:—

The method by which this was done is extremely simple on the map. It is also extremely interesting because the manœuvre was repeated at Baghdad, and its conception, as well as its execution, showed that General Maude understood the psychology of the Turk and the Turk's unconquerable nervousness about having his communications cut. What happened can be roughly indicated by supposing that Kut lay somewhere in the bend of the Thames between Charing Cross and the Temple, and that General Maude's force was on the southern bank, trying to force a crossing from the Southwark side somewhere near London Bridge. He hammers away at London Bridge. The Turks, secure in the fact that when he crosses they can still hold him up by a most elaborate series of entrenchments in Lombard Street, and that he cannot get round them by the Bank because it is a swamp, hold on with all the tenacity born of a year's success at that kind of warfare. But the British commander has meanwhile sent a force along the southern bank to Westminster. They are across before the Turks realise what they would be at; and lo! the sudden fear seizes the Turk that he will be cut off, shut in, ground between the upper and the nether millstone. That, with the Sanna-i-Yat for London Bridge and the Shatt-al-Hai for Westminster, is the story of the capture of Kut.

Words of Wisdom.

Under the heading "Changes and Chances," *The Times* published last Friday a review of the military situation, by its military correspondent, from which we quote the following passage:—

If we glance round at other theatres we see that our forces in Mesopotamia and Palestine will be greatly prejudiced if the Russian Army of the Caucasus proves unable this year to take the offensive. The Turks will in this case concentrate against our forces, and indeed are already doing so. By his great activity, and with the aid of his river lines, General Maude strikes right and left and holds his own gallantly. Sir Archibald Murray's army on the borders of Palestine has an arduous task. He has no Tigris to help him. He is up against several Turkish divisions, well entrenched, with infantry and machine-guns concealed in the cactus hedges built in high mudbanks which enclose gardens and orchards. One flank of the enemy rests on the sea, and the other on a broken waterless country, impassable by wheeled vehicles, where even the dongas have to be ramped before cavalry can move over them. Palestine, we must never forget, practically is in direct railway communication with Berlin. It is necessary for us all to realise the immense difficulties with which our generals in these two theatres have to contend, and for the Government to support them with might and main, and not to render their task more difficult by expecting small bodies of troops to perform impossibilities.

"The Balkan Fox."

Monday's *Pall Mall Gazette* contained an article with the above title, by Mr. Crawfurd Price. He thinks that there is sufficient evidence to justify the suspicion that Bulgaria may be contemplating a break with her allies. "Save that, under certain conditions, a further display of treachery by Tsar Ferdinand's subjects would speed the dawn of happier days, the proposition is not an attractive one," he writes. "We have no cause for sympathy with Bulgaria, and certainly nothing to thank her for. On the contrary, her intervention has entailed us in graver consequences than any other event since Armageddon smote the world." And he proceeds to set out some of the injuries Bulgaria has inflicted upon us. But, he thinks,

it may be dawning upon even the unimaginative but extremely practical Bulgarians that, in view of the augmenting strength of the grand Alliance, they may find some difficulty in retaining their conquests. They have so long been the spoilt children of Europe, and they are, in addition, so eminently egoistical, that they are doubtless minded that, when the opportune moment (for them) arrives, they will be received by all the Allies with open arms on their own terms.

Mr. Price concludes his article by asking whether Bulgaria is a free agent, and by hinting that Germany may try a very deep game indeed:—

But the question naturally arises, is Bulgaria a free agent? We know that her convict-Premier Radoslavoff and her leading statesmen are the venal agents of Germany. Germany also maintains a garrison and controls the Bulgarian Army, railways, telegraphs, and censorship, and the Turkish Army is a potent danger. A *volte face* would, therefore, be at once difficult and attended with no little risk, unless—and herein lies the important consideration—such a development happened to suit Teutonic diplomacy. Strange as it may appear at first sight, this is not an impossible hypothesis. The big Bulgaria is an essential factor in the pan-German scheme, and when it is realised in Berlin that the present effort has failed, it would not be surprising were Bulgaria advised to make the best terms possible, in order that at some future date her insatiable rapacity might again be employed as the catspaw of German diplomacy in the Balkans.

In Praise of Serbia.

Writing in the *London Magazine* ("All Hands on Deck: No. 6. The Shock-Absorbers"), Mr. Bernard B. Falk adds his homage to that already bestowed so liberally upon Serbia for her part in the war. He writes:—

If suffering be the hall-mark of nobility, then after this war the Serbians may claim an exalted birthright, for beyond the loss of their beloved country, they have had to mourn the destruction of all but a tithe of their sturdy army.

Two wars had made ominous gaps in the nation's manhood when the present conflict drove them to arms once more. They had desired a decade of peace to bind up their wounds and recuperate, yet when the European war broke loose on an unsuspecting world, it was in no weariness of heart and with no lack of resolution that they prepared to face their Austrian oppressors.

They were the Belgians of the Balkans. They came between the Germans and their ambitions. It was their fate to stand on the road from Berlin to Bagdad, a little State that refused in the spirit of vassalage to become a mere thoroughfare for Germany. . . .

We measure the extent of the Serbian sacrifices for the commonweal of the Allies in no niggardly manner when we remember that this little nation of four million people has been fighting for its existence, more or less without a break, for nearly five years; that during this period it has sustained a terrible casualty list of 750,000; that of the total population between one-fourth and one-fifth has been totally destroyed, that all males between the ages of eight and seventeen, other than 30,000 who followed the gun-waggons on the awful retreat through the Albanian mountains to the sea, have been seized by the Austrians and the Bulgars; and that of these 30,000 boys and youths who fled before the enemy, 7,000 alone remain alive to-day. . . .

In Serbia itself, the population, groaning under the iron heel of the conqueror, has never lost its faith in ultimate deliverance. This spirit has not quailed before excesses as ruthless as those that have marked the slave raids in Belgium. The people have seen their males and females carried into bondage, and the national imprint of their land partially obliterated, but they have never despaired.

The Egyptian Theatre of War.

The particular "Scene of War" described by "Odysseus" in this month's *Blackwood* is that along the Suez Canal, in Egypt, and the Sinai Desert. The author reviews the military operations at some length; but, though he writes of facts that are familiar to us in their outline at least, he adds so many fresh details that we find the narrative an absorbing one. His mention of and tribute to the services rendered by the Egyptian Army and the Egyptian Labour Corps are welcome, and he gives the names of several of the warships, French and British, that played a part in repulsing the Turkish attack on the Canal. One of the most interesting portions of his article is that headed "The Desert Express," which describes a journey on "the desert railway that is moving steadily on its way across the sands to Palestine." Here is the scene at the journey's end:—

The train came to a halt; it was an hour to sunset, and the scene that set in was one of indescribable animation. From the carriages the officers and men jumped out, throwing their kit out on to the yielding sand; the horse-vans emptied, the horses' ears twitching with excitement, their eyes bright with interest; the mail-bags were piled in a mountainous heap, upon which a fatigue party fell with the cool decisiveness of the white man, rapidly sorting out the bags for each regiment. These had come straight from England, labelled an ticketed from there with precise instructions—a precious freight. As each separate heap was collected, it was rapidly transferred to the backs of the camels, whose grumbling protests rose above the babel of sounds. Many of these were of the beautiful white Bisharin breed, and as they moved off one by one against the reddening sky, under a guard of cavalry or camel patrols, they made a picture of singular, almost romantic charm.

"For," comments the writer, "when you come to think of it, a letter means a great deal to a man who is far from home."

The description of Suez may surprise some travellers who entertain no pleasant recollections of that port:—

Suez itself is a miracle of beauty; a miracle, because out of some very unpromising materials—a desert, a range of barren uninhabitable hills, a shallow water, an old and dirty town with some modern embellishments—it makes a harmony of the most exquisite colours. Its principal secret is light, with some added grace of form. But War also has come here to add to its manifest attraction.

Turkey's Changed Tone.

El Kibleh of March 12 contained an article entitled "Yesterday and To-day—a Word on the Occasion of Talaat Bey's Speech." From this we quote the following passage, which compares the vainglorious talking of the Turks in the early days of the war with their more subdued tone to-day. Says the writer:—

But yesterday, the shouting of the Turkish newspapers, and the voices of their orators, filled heaven and earth, raving about the war, warning their enemy that every fortress would be taken and every trench assaulted, whether in the East or the West, until Turkey had regained every fallen village and every lost

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inch of territory. Meanwhile, the Turkish Ministry sat swelling with conceit and pride, almost to bursting-point, crying always: "We will do this, then we will do that," until the foolish imagined that the Unionists were about to possess the whole world, and the crowns of kings to be like balls in their hands, to play with as they would.

To-day, however, the crest is lowered which was so lofty yesterday; Mesopotamia, the Caucasus, Armenia, and Sinai are lost; the Turkish empire has suffered terribly; famine is abroad amongst its people; the Unionist is confounded, eagerly seeking safety for himself from an angry and excited nation. Truly, yesterday and to-day are two.

There can be no better proof of this than the speech of the new Grand Vizier. In reading that speech, I saw that every word, nay, every letter, spoke of weakness and was indicative of abasement. In it, Talaat Bey said: "We will fight until our enemies admit that we have the right to exist." In God's Name! was it for this, O Talaat, that you rushed into the midst of war and bloodshed? Did you not say but yesterday that you had entered upon war for conquest and extension of territory? Where are those countries, the raiding and conquest of which you falsely promised to the people? Where are you yourself, with your saying that you would bring the East under the Turkish flag from the mountains of the Caucasus to the river Ganges? Is this your end? Is it thus that your affairs have declined? In truth, you were misguided and have misguided others; you are humiliated and have humiliated others; in you the words of the poet are verified: "Enemies cannot do to the fool the harm which the fool does to himself."

The writer then proceeds to ask a question which Talaat and his gang will find it difficult indeed to answer:—

You have said that you would fight until your enemies admitted your right to exist. Have you and your brutal gang admitted the right of existence to those other races who shared the Ottoman empire with you, who made you and your fellows lords and masters over them, who shed their blood, wasted their houses, expended their means, for the sake of your Ottoman flag and your Turkish sovereignty? Do you to-day blame the Arabs, who, as the whole world bears witness, are fighting in defence of their lives and national being, and in order that you and your like may admit that they have the right to exist? It is you who have done this, and now your crest is lowered, your hands are tied, your flag trails in the dust, the dignity of your empire is rent to tatters, for God is watchful.

No Phil-Hellene!

Writing in the *Aberdeen Journal* on "Modern Greece," "D." begins by declaring:—

No one need go into ecstasies over modern Athens as a matter of fact, no one does. Everything proclaims that the glory is departed. All around are evidences that this is the capital of a nation without a distinctive individuality. The race is not pure. The gayest feathers are borrowed plumes. The modern city is skilfully planned and admirably laid out, but its architecture is not Greek; it is, indeed, obtrusively Continental.

A strange blending of Eastern and Western habits offends the eye and the taste on every hand; Turkish coarseness and French æstheticism do not mingle well. Of course, the Acropolis, the Theatre of Dionysius. . . and other monuments of ancient grandeur, exert an irresistible fascination, but apart from these relics of the past there is not much to admire.

Other things of which the writer does not approve are the "swaggering airs of the officers of the Greek Army," the Greek way of conducting funerals, and Greek priests.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Negotiations are in progress, I understand, between the Governments of the British and French Sudans, to promote commercial intercourse between the two spheres. It is also suggested that French officials proceeding to, or returning from, French Equatorial Africa should be permitted to travel by the Sudan route.

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Although the Roumanian Chamber of Commerce does not blow a trumpet, but prefers to develop its organisation quietly, I am in a position to know that it is working effectively, and will be ready when the time comes to discharge all the functions which such bodies usually undertake. I understand that commercial men who are interested in the country are confident regarding the future, and believe that the dislocation caused by enemy occupation and vandalism will, at the very worst, be temporary. It goes without saying that a great deal of leeway will have to be made up, but this will be all the easier when the German and Austrian influence, which was so powerful before the war, will not be in existence to prejudice honest men. Roumania will then offer tremendous opportunities to reputable traders and manufacturers, and the fact is worth keeping in mind.

***

A correspondent who writes to THE NEAR EAST regarding the industrial situation in Cyprus expresses the hope that something will be done to restore drooping, and to bring new, industries into being. He instances the success already achieved by Syrian refugees in the matter of tobacco, and leaves it to readers to infer that what these stricken victims of Turkish oppression can do in one direction the Cypriotes, more happily circumstanced, can do in another. The excellent trade figures of the island for the last year certainly bear this out to the extent, at least, that there is room for development and that there are opportunities for enterprise which have not yet been exploited. At the same time it should be borne in mind that industrial development is almost entirely a matter for the people. The Administration can do much by offering facilities, but, generally speaking, the question is one almost entirely of self-help.

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News from Busreh goes to show that the Labour Corps sent there from India is doing good work, and that the men give little trouble. This is the more gratifying because of the experiment to utilise a certain number of prisoners from Indian gaols. The men selected to go with the corps were all "good conduct" men, of course, and their offences involved no great degree of moral taint. The terms on which they were "recruited" were that the remainder of their sentences were cancelled soon after they began their voyage, that they would be allowed almost complete liberty in their new country, and that they would receive the same rates of pay as the "free" labourers. Many people viewed the experiment with considerable uneasiness, but the result has justified the scheme. I learn that, encouraged by its success, the Government of Burma, whose gaols are not large enough to accommodate all the erring humanity in the province, has also offered a contingent for the Persian Gulf. There is no wish to turn Busreh into a kind of Botany Bay, of course, but sympathetic people will hope that it will be possible to combine a solution of the labour problem with a gift to these men of a new and useful future. That would be an economic triumph indeed.

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Still another imposing piece of evidence of the prosperity of Egypt is forthcoming. The Agricultural Bank has been able to declare a dividend of 7 per cent. on its ordinary shares, as compared with 5 per cent. a year ago, and of £40 per deferred share against £15. Results such as these speak for themselves, and nothing remains but to congratulate the management on their successful year's work and the shareholders on their dividends—and officials. I hope in an early issue to deal with the report for the year.

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If the Egyptian agriculturist can "make good" in his attempt to grow potatoes on a commercial scale, he will tap a comparatively new source of wealth. The trial shipment of five tons which the Imperial Institute secured from the Egyptian Government recently sold in London at something like £37 a ton. I cannot say, of course, what freight, insurance, and other charges amounted to, but it may be taken for granted that they were out of all proportion to what they would have been on the same quantity as part of a large consignment. In normal times fourpence a pound would never be realised, but there is profit in the trade, as any Italian exporter could show if he cared. It is stated that it is proposed to sow 4,000 acres in September and to ship one-half of the crop to the United Kingdom. I dare say 10,000 tons of potatoes will be useful in this country at the end of the year, and I hope the forecast will not prove to be too optimistic. If they arrive safe and sound they will sell at good prices.

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An interesting point is raised in the annual report of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce in connection with the condition in which country produce is received from the interior. It appears that there are grave complaints on this score, and the hope is expressed that the Government will intervene and fix a maximum beyond which impurities must not go. It is pointed out that if Sudan produce is to meet with success and confidence abroad, it should be clean and of good quality, and this fact is so obvious that it is surprising that producers and merchants do not realise it for themselves. Something of the same kind used to occur in India in connection with cotton, jute, and other shipments; shippers were mulcted in heavy claims, and in the end trade suffered seriously. A check was imposed and while, perhaps, perfection has not been achieved, the conditions have greatly improved.

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I wish I could inform the Chamber of Commerce that the culprits were induced to mend their ways without pressure of a very severe character being brought to bear; that is impossible, however, but I am able to advise that the best kind of pressure to use is that which affects the pocket—try it on whatever receptacle the Sudanese produce-faker uses as a bank!

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The Venizelists, I learn, have established a trade bank in Salonika with a capital of £120,000, and to it will be extended the active sympathy of all who admire those gallant Greeks who prefer the welfare of the country and its people to the Germanised smiles of the King and his satellites. The Provisional Government has given its approval to the venture, and Greeks in London assure me that the concern will not lack adequate support. It is pleasing to know that the new bank will strike a blow against any resumption of Austro-German trade influence in the country after the war, and that so far as possible nationals of the present Entente Powers will receive preferential treatment. To accomplish this the bank proposes to invite manufacturers and producers to entrust it with their representation, and to guarantee all the orders it places on behalf of clients. If it succeeds in eliminating the element of doubt which has always been more or less of a barrier between the West and the Near East, its future will be assured.

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The fact that the Food Controller's Department had assumed the supreme control of all British oil-crushing mills, with a view to regulating their outputs, was reported in THE NEAR EAST at the time, but the fact serves to recall that for the first time in the history of the industry crushers will have to rely nearly altogether on Empire products. According to a correspondent in the *Economist*, the supply of oilseeds will constitute a serious problem. For the bulk of our cottonseed we shall have to rely on Egypt, and on receiving from that country, as we have done for the last two years, the whole of the exportable crop. Much the same applies to cottoncake, our stocks of which are at a low ebb, so that Egypt ought to continue to make a very good thing out of it all.

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I wonder whether adequate attention is paid to the fact that Germany continues, even now, when it might be thought she has her hands full in carrying on the war, to prepare for what she believes will happen, resumption of domination in the Near and Middle East. The *Hamburgische Corespondent* reported recently the activities of the German-Turkish Society, which include the maintenance of a German school in Adana and the despatch of a German director to the Turkish technical school at Damascus. In 1916 the society is said to have placed about 250 Turkish students in secondary schools in Germany, and to have employed numerous Turkish artisans and workmen. Several thousand Turkish apprentices are about to be allotted to German factories, and "courses in the Turkish language" have been started in Berlin and other towns. If and when we are in a position to deal with this thoroughpaced all-for-Germany scheme, it must be "scotched," else even an Entente military victory will fail to defeat Germany in one of the things that most matters.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Sudan and Its Economic Development.

No. 7.—The Kassala Province.

By PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

Were it not for its unfortunate geographical contiguity to Abyssinia, and its present lack of means of communication, the Province of Kassala might very well prove one of the most useful and remunerative of the fifteen political divisions of the Sudan. The first drawback unfortunately, can never be overcome; the second may be removed, or, at least, mitigated. Although it ranks as one of the smaller of the provinces—its superficial area is 44,150 square miles, and its population is 84,000—Kassala possesses many physical advantages not to be found, to the same degree, in other of the departments.

The country, for the most part, consists of a vast plain of almost unbroken continuity, but there are few parts where vegetation of some kind, even it be no more than low scrub, coarse grass tamarisk or tarfa trees, is not to be found. On the other hand there are large ranges of hills esparated by wide valleys, containing good cotton soil, while the abundant khors and wells—which depend, however, on the amount of rain-fall—supply water for the sheep, goats and cattle which the people possess in considerable quantities. Indeed, the traveller who passes through the country on camel-back may be sure of water, at any time of the year.

The five *mamurias* into which the province is politically divided—Kassala District, Butana, Gallabat, Gedaref, and Mefaza—are all of economic importance. The seat of government, Kassala Town, is on the right bank of the Khor Gash, which not only supplies water but likewise fish in abundance during the first weeks of July. The precincts of the Khor are decidedly attractive from a scientific point of view; thousands of Beni Amer cattle and sheep browse there peacefully during the dry season, although few, if any, human habitations are to be seen.

Kassala Town.

Kassala is a pleasant town, as towns go in the Sudan, and it has a romantic history. The old Italian fortress—a rectangular vellum of burnt mud-brick, which covers an area of about five acres—could tell some thrilling stories of the Dervish sieges and assaults, as could the ruins of the blood-stained walls of the old town, which stood to the west of the fortress. The town was handed over to the Sudan in 1897 by the Italians who had held it for about three years, during which they were at continual war with the Dervishes, whom they fought and eventually defeated.

Before the blight of Mahdiism fell on the town, it was happy and prosperous. In 1896 a murderous horde of Dervishes overran the country, and for miles around every human being was killed in cold blood. The raiders were less successful in Kassala town itself, which they invested fruitlessly. To-day it once more enjoys prosperity; it is the centre of industry and instruction, and is only awaiting the advent of the long projected railway to convert it into the great trade-centre that in process of time it is bound to become.

Gedaref is already the centre of a steadily improving agricultural and cattle-breeding industry of some importance. Much of its success depends on a seasonal rainfall, however, and this, of course, as throughout the Sudan, is unreliable. The district is likewise largely interested in the gum trade, to which it contributes on an average some 25,000 kantars annually. Destructive forest fires have, more than once, wrought disaster to this enterprise, as, for instance, in 1913, when the total yield was little more than 8,000 kantars. Unfortunately, prairie fires are not uncommon in the Sudan, the vast areas of high, dead grass being readily inflammable.

Abyssinian Troubles.

Gallabat, known to the Abyssinians as Matemma, is at the foot of a steep slope on the left bank of the Khor Abnaheir. It is considered of great importance from a trading point of view, and as it constitutes the boundary line of the Abyssinian frontier, it has witnessed a long succession of sanguinary conflicts between the tribes who dwell on either side.

Dervishes fiercely attacked it in 1886, while three years later King John of Abyssinia fought with them—and lost—a great battle, between 80,000 and 100,000 Abyssinians being engaged. One of the results was the total destruction of the trade that had flourished there. Under the peaceful and progressive Administration of to-day, however, much of this has been restored, coffee forming one of the principal articles of commerce. In fact, Abyssinian coffee is now practically a monopoly of the Sudan market, the annual value of the imports in normal times amounting to £E57,000.

Mafaza is little more than a village, basking on the banks of the Rahad, and is the centre of a large, scattered population engaged in agriculture and cattle-breeding. A fair amount of trade is carried on in the place, and its importance is increasing.

One advantage enjoyed by the province is the amount of labour available. Large numbers of Beni-Amer Arabs constantly present themselves, and are used to carry out the irrigation works around Kassala. The principle of piece-work is employed. Irrigation developments are in prospect in Kassala, Commendatore Coletta, the eminent Italian engineer, having many years ago submitted to the Sudan Government a scheme to utilise the waters of the rivers Setit and Gash. The daily pay of native labourers in Kassala amounts to 3½ piastres (7½d.), except in harvest-time, when it is reckoned at between 4 and 5 piastres (10d. to 1s.).

The People.

The people as a whole are not difficult to manage. Unfortunately, there are many nomadic tribes, and a certain amount of trouble is always to be expected. Then there are the Abyssinians, who constantly send hunting and poaching parties across the border, while smuggling is responsible for considerable worry and loss to the Government. Even the establishment of police posts on the frontier have not, and probably never will, put this down. Since the railway was completed to Port Sudan a large amount of the European import trade has been diverted from Eritrea.

Except when visited by locusts—and this affliction is by no means rare—or cattle plague breaks out, the people of the Kassala province are fairly prosperous. They are undoubtedly intelligent and enterprising, and display a regard for education second to none in the Sudan. Indeed, the progress of public instruction is one of the most gratifying evidences of the peoples' advancement. Much of this is due to the excellent and painstaking work undertaken by the late Director of Education, Mr. James Currie, C.M.G., whose devotion to his task is too well known to need further comment. The technical schools which he succeeded in establishing at Kassala, and the school carried on at Gallabat, are cases in point.

In fact, Kassala people have been singularly fortunate in regard to Governors. Colonel Wilkinson, Major Cameron and Captain Townsend each has left his mark, and added something to the welfare of the community. Each succeeded in inducing the cultivators to take up cotton-growing seriously; this is an industry which is capable of great increase, especially in the valley of the Gash. An agricultural inspector is employed, the methods of growing a high-grade cotton, so successful at Tokar, being also adopted here. Much may, and no doubt will be, done with the rich agricultural districts of Gedaref, Gallabat and Mefaza, and additions made to the already considerable areas of dura and sesame which are cultivated.

Mr. C. E. Lyall has been acting as Governor during the absence of Captain C. H. Townsend, on medical grounds.

EGYPTIAN REVENUE.

Anticipated Surplus of More than Two and a Half Millions.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 27.

Owing to pressure of work in connection with the Budget the State accounts for January have been delayed and were published only last night in the *Official Journal*. Revenue during the month was maintained, the figure being £E1,301,050 against £E1,278,081 in January, 1916, while expenditure increased somewhat to £E1,044,672 against £E811,517.

It is noticeable that the total revenue, which amounts to £E16,567,417, is only £E62,583 less than the estimate for the entire year, so that with still two months to run the actual figure for the financial year will much exceed what was expected in the Budget. Expenditure for the ten months comes to £E14,020,521, or £E2,609,409 less than the total estimate, and there is so far a surplus of £E2,546,826, as against one of £E1,871,792 at the same date last year.

The most important revenue items during the month were Direct Taxes £E176,099, Customs £E253,585—about half as much again as during January, 1916, and the total for the ten months is already half a million in excess of the estimates. Tobacco Dues £E179,515, Judicial Receipts £E137,415, Railways £E370.597—the total is also in excess already of the estimates, and Divers Receipts £E56,556.

Under Expenditure the principal heads during the month were Railways £E181,829, or £E175,000 more, Public Health £E44,578, Irrigation £E118.819 or£E27,000 more, War Office £E78.265, Pensions £E49.670, and Reservoir Annuity £E76.647.

SUBMARINED SHIPS.

Another Satisfactory Reduction in British Losses.

The weekly return issued by the Secretary of the Admiralty on May 16 of the arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks in regard to British vessels, showed another satisfactory reduction in the number of vessels lost.

After making allowance for vessels lost in previous weeks, but only scheduled in the last return, the details are as follows:—

Week ended Sunday, May 13. Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):

Arrivals	2,568
Sailings	2,552

Merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:

1,600 tons (gross) or over	17
Under 1,600 tons (gross)	5
Unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	14
Fishing vessels sunk	3

The first of these returns was issued in respect of the week ended on February 24, 1917, and the following is a summary of losses from and including that date:—

Sunk (over 1,600 tons)	249
Sunk (under 1,600 tons)	112
Total	361
Fishing craft sunk	105
Unsuccessfully attacked	220

The official return of the Italian Ministry of Marine for the week ended March 13 is as follows:

Arrivals	580 (416,980 tons)
Sailings	562 (458,550 tons)

Two vessels of less than 1,900 tons were sunk and seven sailing ships of less than 100 tons. A few fishing craft were also lost.

Lost Mails.

Mails continue to be lost, notifications during the week including parcels for Egypt and letters and parcels from Persia (Teheran, March 12-19; Enzeli, March 15-18; Tabriz, March 17-24).

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SUDAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Interesting Report of Trade Activities During the Year.

Mr. Law, the chairman, at the annual meeting of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, held on April 11, read an interesting report of the trade activities in the year 1916-17. In a useful discussion of the gum industry it was stated that, on the initiative of the Committee of the Chamber, the Government had taken in consideration the question of preserving existing gum trees and the planting of new areas. There was little likelihood of diminishing crops in the future.

It was disappointing to find that the form of gum contract drawn up by the Committee had not been adopted by all merchants. "We feel, however," the report continued, "that it is a step in the right direction, and can only hope that in time all merchants, whether members of the Chamber or not, will recognise that unity is strength."

Adulterated Produce.

The report continued:—"The very high percentage of impurities found in produce (chiefly Simsim and Durra) received from the interior, is a matter requiring attention. Your Committee has been giving this question careful consideration, and has interviewed the Government on the subject. This matter has also been engaging the attention of the Government, and it is hoped that some steps will be taken to fix a standard of impurities for local trade and for export.

"It should certainly be recognised by all merchants in the Sudan that it is to the benefit of the trade of the country in general that all products should be exported in as clean a condition as possible, so that buyers abroad would have confidence in the standard of quality of shipments from this country. This point should not be lost sight of by all merchants when making shipments abroad."

Comments on Trade.

After setting out in detail the various items of import and export—these have already been published in THE NEAR EAST—it was stated:—"Although the great increase in the value of the trade is due, in a large measure, to the enhanced price of all articles, nevertheless the future progress of the Sudan seems assured. Large irrigation schemes are being taken in hand at once in the Dongola and Berber Provinces, and there seems every likelihood of the Gezira scheme being pushed forward without delay.

"It is gratifying that at last the misrule of Darfur has come to an end, and it is hoped that the natives of this Province under the beneficent rule of the Sudan Government will soon arrive to the same prosperous condition as the natives of Kordofan.

"Doubtless, owing to the difficulty of securing material the extension of the railway from El Obeid has been postponed, but no doubt when conditions become more normal the line will be pushed forward to Nehoud, which should assist greatly in the development of Darfur.

"On all occasions the Government has shown an earnest desire to assist the Commercial Community, and we must express our thanks that the efforts of the Government have enabled the country to reach such a highly prosperous state notwithstanding that the European war still continues."

New Committee.

The following members were elected on the Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs. Law, Norton, Birch, Contomichalos, G. Dello Strologo, Lake, Izmirlian, E. Dello Strologo, Licos, Rizg, Ades, Carapanayotti, Fawaz, and Amer.

LANCASHIRE COTTON MARKETS.

No Improvement Expected during the War.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)
MANCHESTER, May 16.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the week have not shown very much change, and the majority of sellers have had a disappointing experience. Most authorities seem to think that business will be even more restricted during the next few months and no definite improvement in the outlook is likely until peace is declared.

Rather more favourable advices are now being received as to the prospects for the new Egyptian cotton crop, and the plant is said to be making good progress. Reports from the American belt are not altogether satisfactory, and the weather during the next few weeks will have an important effect upon the output.

The demand in cloth for Egypt keeps up well, and that market is undoubtedly in a prosperous condition. I am glad to be able to report that rather more freight space is now available. Although fair buying has transpired in sized goods, the bulk of the business coming round has been in fancies, and some very high prices have been paid for special makes.

The inactivity for India continues to be pronounced, and in addition to dealers abroad not being in the mood to purchase with any freedom, local merchant houses are inclined to restrict business as much as possible.

A fairly encouraging trade has transpired for China, and it is quite evident customers in Shanghai are finding it necessary to replenish supplies.

There has not been much activity for the nearer Continental outlets. Common printing cloths are doing very badly. Fresh orders are wanted by producers of light fabrics as made in Blackburn. Some makers of heavy materials have substantial engagements.

A rather larger turnover has been reported in coarse American yarns, and prices have stiffened somewhat. No relief is in sight, however, for spinners of medium numbers, the depression in wefts being acute. Very doleful reports have again been received from producers of export yarns.

Egyptian spinnings have been generally slow, and sales of weight at the moment are quite isolated.

POTATOES FROM EGYPT.

The Imperial Institute, which has been active in promoting new supplies of foodstuffs within the Empire, recently received from the Government of Egypt a consignment of five tons of potatoes, representing a trial cultivation from Italian seed in the Nile islands. This consignment was sold last week in London, and realised, on an average, over 4d. a lb.

There are, it is stated, large areas in Egypt in which potatoes could well be grown, and in view of the favourable outlook, it is intended to sow 4,000 acres next September, from which it is expected that a yield of 20,000 tons will be obtained. So far Egypt has imported potatoes in large quantities, and the native-grown produce will, no doubt, be readily absorbed in the country. It is expected that about 10,000 tons of this crop will be available for export to England.

NEW TANNERY AT ATBARA.

The Sudan Government Railway Administration proposes to erect and equip a tannery at Atbara. The present idea is to manufacture leather for the boots required by the troops of the Railway Battalion only. It is hoped, however, that this programme will be extended, and that the leather and boot-making industries will be developed.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Water Power in Morocco.

The French Government in Morocco are about to consider how the water power in that country may be utilised for industrial purposes. A consortium of French companies and firms of Schneider (Creuzot), Pavillier, Giros and Loucheur, Compagnie Marocaine, Compagnie Générale, and the P.L.M. and Orléans Railway Companies has been formed for the purpose. It is said that the consortium proposes in the first place to utilise the falls of the Oum-er-Rebia river, and probably, later, the river heads in the Atlas Mountains.

Mechanical Cotton-Harvesters.

With the increase of cotton growing in the East, especially in the Sudan, and the anticipated greater scarcity of workers during the approaching crop season, the labour problem threatens again to embarrass the growers. There are many mechanical means in use to aid in the cultivation of cotton, but the greatest difficulty experienced is the want of means to gather or "pick" it at the proper time. That work is still done by hand, and during the harvest all available workers in the cotton districts are employed at high wages. It follows, as a rule, that a grower does not think of the acreage he has available for cotton, but the area he can handle when the time comes to pick the crop. Several attempts have been made, mostly in America, to cope with this serious difficulty, and to produce a mechanical and labour-saving cotton-picker; but most of them were futile, while those which claimed to possess the desired efficiency were either of a complicated design, or heavy, bulky, or expensive—three great obstacles to their adoption in the East. It is interesting, therefore, to hear that a new cotton harvester has been placed on the market, which may meet, to a certain extent, the requirements of the Oriental cotton grower.

Advantage of the Machine.

It is well known that cotton bolls do not all ripen simultaneously in a field. The picker, therefore, whether human or mechanical, has to go more than once through the field, picking the ripe or open boll, and when a large machine is used the disadvantages are obvious. The new cotton harvester is more adaptable to the work, and is doing it with considerable success. It is designed to carry the human picker and the bag in which he places the cotton when he picks it; and it has another advantage. After the opened cotton has been picked there is a large quantity of unopened bolls remaining on the stalks. In these there is much cotton that can be, and should be, saved. It is impossible to pick and save the unopened bolls by the old method, because, owing to the weight of the bolls, the picker is unable to drag the heavy sack on the ground. With the new harvester all the unopened bolls can be saved, while the work is easy for the picker, and is done rapidly. It is claimed that the cotton saved in two days' work will more than pay for the cost of the machine.

A Light Plough.

We have had occasion in previous notes to point out that the apparent indifference of the Oriental farmer towards the British plough is due to the weight of the latter. It is too heavy for the native draught animals, and, more or less, unsuitable for the average farmer's system of ploughing. Thirty years ago only British ploughs were imported in the principal agricultural districts in the Near East; they have been superseded by the American, German, Austrian, and Greek ploughs, which are made to suit the native farmer's wants. These have a comparatively

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coarse finish, but they are light, and, above all, cheaper. The increased number of small-holders and market gardeners throughout the United Kingdom has, apparently, induced agricultural implement makers to design and supply, among other appliances, ploughs suitable for the above class of land cultivators. A light plough which has recently been brought out, and which seems to find great favour among small-holders, is undoubtedly an implement that would appeal to the Oriental; although light, it is very strong, with a high swan-neck beam which affords good clearance and enables manure, cabbage stalks, weeds, stubble, etc., to be ploughed in without choking up. The frame is of cast steel, and a nicely shaped short concave breast is fitted, which lays a very regular furrow 8 ins. wide. The weight of this implement is about one cwt. (40 okes.)—an ideal plough for the Oriental small-holder, and the majority of land-owners in the East are really small-holders.

CYPRUS INDUSTRIES.

Lamentable Stagnation in Native Handicrafts.

(From a Correspondent.)

It would be well if more attention were given—to the exclusion, perhaps, of "politics"—to the need of concerted action for the development of Cyprus industries, which are so backward. A start has been made to improve pottery by enterprising Greeks in the Kyrenia district, but in many native handicrafts there is lamentable stagnation.

In the silk industry much might be done. The silk materials which are sold, especially in the Nicosia bazaars, are attractive, as are also various combinations of silk and cotton. Many of the cotton stuffs made are strong and durable, but in almost all cases there is a lack of that finish and perfection which characterise European goods.

The silks of Syria, sold so largely in the Levantine bazaars, including those of Cairo, are far superior in manufacture and colour-blending. Improved methods might be easily introduced if a spark of fresh enterprise could be kindled and if Cypriotes would learn to co-operate. As it is, people, especially in the towns, have accustomed themselves more and more, as the island has prospered, to imported materials, for dress and for all household needs. Many of these could be dispensed with, not only in war time, in favour of native work. The present is a very good moment for an advance, in the same way as refugees from Syria have resuscitated the cultivation of tobacco. Native artisans would then, in time, compete with Europeans. The Cypriotes work which, besides that of the best silks, finds most favour with Europeans is the embroidery generally called "Lefkara" work, from the village in which it was originally chiefly made. It maintains its reputation, and good prices are obtained for it. It is now made in many other villages.

There has been hardly any exportation of caroobs since last autumn, owing to lack of tonnage. All beans purchased by the Government were subject to delivery at Famagusta, which, for vendors in the west of the island, was a considerable burden.

TRADE NOTES.

Openings.

The Egyptian Ministry of Education will receive tenders up to May 31 for the supply and delivery of linen and table requisites, including towels, sheets, tulle for mosquito-nets, tape, blankets, plates, dishes, tumblers, cups and saucers, carafes, salt-sellars, sugar-basins, and metal knives. Local representation of tenderers is necessary.

The Egyptian State Railways and Telegraphs Administration invite tenders, up to June 25, for the supply of 5,000 khaki uniforms for the staff during 1918. Sealed tenders on the proper form, which, with specifications, may be obtained on payment of two shillings, from the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, London, S.W.1, should be sent to the general manager at Cairo. Samples of the uniforms it is proposed to supply should be sent to the Superintendent of Stores, Cairo, not later than June 18. A standard sample of the uniform may be inspected at the office of Sir A. L. Webb.

COMPANY REPORT.

Agricultural Bank of Egypt.

The report of the directors on the working of the bank for the financial year 1916-17, which was submitted to the shareholders at the fourteenth ordinary general meeting, held in Cairo on April 25, was as follows:—

The directors have to report that the net profits of the bank for the financial year 1916-17, in accordance with Articles 40 and 41 of the Statutes, amount to £E859,853.046. From this amount there has to be deducted: (1) The repayment, under Article 41 of the Statutes, of liabilities incurred in 1914, £E157,538.636; (2) the service of the debentures, £E234,540.346; (3) the provision for the reserve fund, £E41,692.142; (4) the provision for the special reserve fund as per Article 40 of the Statutes, £E8,179.528; total, £E441,950.652, leaving £E417,902.394. And there has to be further deducted: (5) Dividend on £1,250,000stg. preferred shares, £E48,750, and (6) commission to the National Bank of Egypt, £E14,103.809, leaving £E355,048.585, which is available for distribution as dividend on ordinary and deferred shares.

The ordinary shares have to receive, in the first instance, dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £E120,900; the balance of £E234,148.585 is available to the extent of one-half, or £E117,074.293, for the ordinary shares and to the extent of one-half, or £E117,074.292 for the deferred shares.

Ordinary Shares.—The amounts therefore available for dividend on these shares are as follows:—Balance from the year ending January 31, 1916, £E12,264.334; for dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, £120,900; further amount available, £E117,074.293; total, £E250.238.627. The directors propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 7s. per annum for the financial year 1916-17 amounting to £E169.260, and to carry forward the balance of £E80,978.627.

Deferred Shares.—The amounts available for dividend on these shares are as follows:—Balance from the year ending January 31, 1916, £E2,444.869; further amount available, £E117,074.292; total, £E119,519.161. The directors propose to pay a dividend of £E40 per share amounting to £E78,000, and to carry forward the balance of £E41,519.161.

The circumstances which have produced the large receipts of the present year cannot be regarded as normal; and the continuance of the war necessarily makes the prospect uncertain. As a measure of prudence in these circumstances, and with a view to maintaining, if possible, a steady rate of dividend, the directors recommend the carrying forward of the above substantial amounts.

It will be remembered that in accordance with the terms of the Government 3 per cent. guarantee, the general reserve fund was drawn upon, in the profit and loss account of January 31, 1915, to the extent of £E472,700, and that any collections of arrears of the capital due in 1914-15 have to be applied, in the first instance, to reconstituting the general reserve fund. The sum so applied in the account for the year ended January 31, 1916, was £E170,405, leaving £E302,295 still to be made up.

During the financial year under review £E157,538 of the capital in arrears due in 1914 have been encashed and carried to the credit of the general reserve fund, so that the above charge of £E302,295 stands reduced on January 31, 1917, to £E144,757. This sum of £E157,538 has been invested for the account of the general reserve fund by re-transferring to the general reserve investment account, at cost price, securities which were transferred from that account to the ordinary investment account when the general reserve fund was drawn upon, as stated above, in connection with the 3 per cent. guarantee.

The depreciation of £E92,009 on securities now forming the investment of the general reserve fund account would, if they had to be realised, fall on the general reserve fund.

We have thought it advisable to set aside out of this year's profits, which are exceptionally large, a sum of £E160,000 as provision for depreciation on investments, making with the £E20,000 set aside from the profits of last year a total sum of £E180,000. We do not propose to allocate this provision, which would, however, allow us to value our Government Securities at the market price of January 31, 1917, excluding those securities not yet retransferred to the general reserve investment account, and the Mortgage Company of Egypt shares at £1 10s. a share.

The general reserve fund now amounts to £E420.056. We have bought for this account up to date:—

	Nominal Value. £.E.
British Government 5 per cent. Exchequer Bonds (since converted into British Government 5 per cent. War Loan) ..	52,00

And for the Account of the General Investment Account we have bought:—

	Nominal Value.
British Government 4½ per Cent. War Loan (since converted into British Government 5 per Cent. War Loan)	£ 90,000
British Government 5 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds (since converted into British Government 5 per Cent. War Loan) ..	500,000
British Government 5 per Cent. War Loan	500,000
British Government 6 per Cent. Exchequer Bonds	732,000

ARREARS.

On January 31, 1917, the total arrears outstanding were £E817.254 — against £E1,209,186 on January 31, 1916—as shown by the following table:—

	Capital.	Interest.	Total.
	£E	£E	£E
Accrued up to Jan. 31, 1916	772,099	437,057.	1,209,186
Of which collected from Feb. 1, 1916, to Jan. 31, 1917	317,161	194,542	511,703
Leaving	454,938	242,545	697,483
To which have to be added the arrears of 1916-17	71,077	48,694	119,771
Making a total on Jan. 31, 1917, of	526,015	291,239	817,254

Of the sum of £E817,254 in arrear shown above, £E291,239 represent interest. No credit has been taken in the profit and loss account for any part of this sum, since, in accordance with the statutes, only interest actually encashed can be included in the profits. The whole of the remainder, viz., £E526,015, representing capital overdue, has, as required by the statutes, been deducted from the profit and loss account before arriving at the balance available for distribution.

Consequently any encashments made on account of the sum of £E817,254 will go entirely to the profit of the year in which they are effected, except in so far as—in accordance with Article 41 of the Statutes—the sums still due to the general reserve fund must be repaid from the arrears of capital due in 1914-15, when encashed.

Up to March 31 the encashments since February 1, 1917, on account of the arrears of £E817,254, amount to £E61,000.

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

Year.	Annuity Due. £E.	Amount of Annuity in Arrears at end of Year. £E.	Percentage of Arrears to Annuity.
1904 ..	917,942 ..	27,718 ..	3·0
1905 ..	1,415,547 ..	94,633 ..	6·7
1906 ..	1,740,117 ..	54,322 ..	3·1
1907 ..	1,855,751 ..	113,128 ..	6·1
1908 ..	1,886,016 ..	263,758 ..	14·0
1909/10 ..	1,804,141 ..	319,408 ..	17.7
1910/11 ..	1,750,616 ..	329,805 ..	18·8
1911/12 ..	1,587,634 ..	247,558 ..	15·6
1912/13 ..	1,507,841 ..	337,356 ..	22·3
1913/14 ..	1,392,255 ..	367,756 ..	26·4
1914/15 ..	1,212,087 ..	902,138 ..	74·4
1915/16 ..	1,001,304 ..	258,918 ..	25·8
1916/17 ..	820,192 ..	119,771 ..	14·6
1917/18 ..	701,576 ..	— —	—

COLLECTION OF ARREARS.

—	Arrears Brought Forward at Beginning of Year.	Sums recovered during year.	Per Cent.
	£E.	£E.	
1904.....	6,967	5,333	76.5
1905.....	29,352	26,236	89.4
1906.....	97,729	89,395	91.4
1907.....	62,666	50,118	79.9
1908.....	125,676	93,293	74.2
1909/10	296,141	198,663	67.0
1910/11	416,887	244,110	58.5
1911/12	502,582	234,420	46.6
1912/13	515,720	199,742	38.7
1913/14	653,334	316,263	48.4
1914/15	704,977	212,569	30.1
1915/16	1,394,546	444,278	31.9
1916/17	1,209,186	511,703	42.3
1917/18	817,254		

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OUTPUT AND COLLECTIONS IN 1916/17.

Moudirieh.	Total Capital of Existing B Loans not yet due on 31/1/17.	Output of A and B Loans in 1916/17.	Annuity to be collected in 1916.	Arrears on 1915 Instalment.	Outstanding Arrears from Previous Years.
	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.	£E.
Charkieh ...	676,068	21,646	117,606	19,187	119,774
Dakahlieh ..	694,141	25,500	121,052	16,339	132,027
Gharbieh ..	797,454	12,373	143,507	23,440	116,631
Galioubieh ..	324,920	13,705	55,144	5,901	40,750
Menoufieh ..	954,148	15,565	149,769	15,193	85,149
Behéra	535,956	12,527	90,985	16,150	61,872
Ghizeh	65,415	8,544	12,696	2,168	4,825
Fayoum	88,023	4,042	16,491	2,329	5,736
Beni-Souef ..	80,875	3,249	19,913	2,993	13,322
Minia	96,483	6,072	20,216	2,800	13,434
Assiout.....	64,531	2,300	21,690	2,949	12,118
Guerga	46,070	380	18,582	2,243	14,326
Kena	99,887	1,190	28,088	5,916	63,403
Assouan	16,807	—	4,453	2,163	14,116
Totals	4,543,778	127,093	820,192	119,771	697,483

The sums collected during the past year from the annual instalment due and from the arrears of past years are, we consider, satisfactory. £E700,421 were collected out of the annual instalment of £E820,192 and £E511,703 from the arrears, making a total collection as regards these two items of £E1,212,124. Our encashments, therefore, exceed the annual instalment by £E391,932, and the total of outstanding arrears is decreased by this amount. This result fulfils the hopes expressed in our report of last year. It is in great part due to the very high prices at which our clients were able to sell their crops of all kinds, the price of cotton especially reaching an unprecedented figure. There is reason to expect that our clients will be able to dispose of their produce at good prices during the current year.

The Egyptian Government extended in 1916 the limits of time imposed by the 5 feddan law for the settlement of debts that were repayable by annuities. We hoped to be able in many cases to renew such loans, but these hopes have been only partially realised, the chief obstacles being the unwillingness of our clients themselves and the existence of other charges on the land. We have not, however, lost sight of the possibility of granting such facilities for lightening the payment of arrears, and we shall endeavour during 1917 to make satisfactory arrangements wherever we can.

The details of the loans made in the year 1916-17 are as follows:—

"A" LOANS SECURED BY SIGNATURE ONLY.

£E.	£E.	No.		Amount. £E.	
500 m/m to	1	—	....	—	
1,500 m/m ,,	5	—	....	—	
5,500 m/m ,,	20	166	....	2,877	
20,500 m/m ,,	100	24	....	1,087	
100.— m/m ,,	200	—	....	—	
Total.....		190	....	3,964	Average £E28.6

No arrears remain on the Agricultural Syndicate Loans due in 1915-16, and out of the collective loans arrears for that year of £E1,087 only £E230 now remain.

LOANS OUTSTANDING ON JANUARY 31, 1917.

—	Number.	Amount.	Average.
		£E.	£E
"A" Loans	60	1,300	21.6
"B" Loans	97,395	4,540,779	46.6
Mortgage Loans over £E1,000.....	60	177,147	2,952
Agricultural Syndicate and Collect. Loans ..	1	50	50
Total	97,516	4,719,276	
Compared with previous year	122,729	4,997,633	—

LOANS REPAID BEFORE DUE DATE BY CASH.

Year.	£E.10 to 300.		£E301 to 1,000		Total.	
	No.	Amt £E.	No.	Amt. £E.	No.	Amt. £E.
1909/10	1,462	88,572	294	104,756	1,756	193,328
1910/11	2,491	163,884	199	76,221	2,690	240,105
1911/12	1,968	83,876	226	60,588	2,194	144,464
1912/13	1,510	75,249	198	52,390	1,708	127,639
1913/14	1,059	53,524	148	43,579	1,207	97,103
1914/15	449	23,899	75	21,241	524	45,140
1915/16	349	12,792	19	4,966	368	17,758
1916/17	551	22,083	33	10,538	584	32,621

AGRICULTURAL SYNDICATES AND COLLECTIVE LOANS.

	Falling due in 1916/17. No.	Amount £E.	Balance Remaining overdue at 31/1/17. No.	Amount £E.
Agricultural Syndicate Loans	3	1,880	1	40
Collective Loans	6	404	1	22

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

Agricultural Syndicate Loans.. £E—
Collective Loans £E22

"B" LOANS SECURED BY MORTGAGE.

£E.	£E.	No.		Amount. £E.	
10 to	50	19	....	668	
51 ,,	100	31	....	2,651	
101 ,,	150	42	....	5,776	
151 ,,	300	165	....	35,669	
301 ,,	500	90	....	34,015	
501 ,,	1,000	55	....	44,350	
Total		402	....	123,129	Average £E306.2

Making a total of 592 loans for £E127,093 compared with 351 loans for £E72,351 last year.

There has thus been a slight increase in the output of loans in our guaranteed business, but the total falls far short of the capital reimbursed by our clients during the year. This was to be expected, as the result of the operation of the 5 feddan law. The comparative prosperity of the fellaheen and the conservative policy we have followed in making loans during the past year have also tended to restrict the output.

While, however, the present war crisis enjoins caution and has restricted our loan business it has enabled us to place our money temporarily on advantageous terms and we have therefore suffered less than might have been expected from the reduction in the amount of our capital employed in our regular business.

During the year the bank has made 34 loans on mortgage in sums exceeding £E1,000 each for a total of £E121,500, bringing the total outstanding of these loans, exclusive of arrears, to £E177,147 on January 31, 1917. Our arrears on these loans were £E1,663, which have been reduced on March 31 to £E1,548.

LAND ACQUIRED.—Every effort was made during 1916 year to realise our holdings of land which have been steadily increasing for some years past. We are glad to say the result has been successful, since although we were forced to buy in over 2,600 feddans during the year, the area we owned at the beginning of 1916 has been reduced by some 300 feddans

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

	F.	K.	S.	Cost. £E	Sale Price £E
Land in hand on 31/1/16	5,039	6	15	138,420	
Acquir'd during 1916/17	2,610	7	18	65,986	
Total	7,649	14	9	204,406	
Less sales during 1916/17.....	2,922	23	19	77,786	77,976
Balance in hand 31/1/17	4,726	14	14	126,620	

It will be seen, therefore, that we have sold land costing us £E77,786 for £E77,976; of which sum £E45,560 was paid in cash, the balance being payable by instalments guaranteed by a privileged charge on the land. These figures are satisfactory, but the expropriation of clients in arrear and the buying of their property by the bank entail expenses which we gladly avoid in cases where our debts can be collected without legal action.

We have good reason to hope that we shall gradually sell the 4,726 feddans remaining in our hands at prices approaching the £E126,620 at which they stand in our books. The high prices obtained by agriculturists during 1916 for all their crops are still maintained, and there is a distinct revival in land purchase amongst those who form the bulk of our clients.

The number of expropriations made by the bank during the year are as follows:—

Number of cases in hand, February 1, 1916, 3,029; number of new cases begun during 1916-17, 2,401; total, 5,430; cases settled, 1,811; balance, 3,619; cases brought to expropriation, 555; balance pending, 3,064.

In 331 of these cases of expropriation 1,861 feddans were bought in by the bank, and in 224 remaining cases 1,269 feddans were bought in by third parties.

The total amount advanced to the Mortgage Company of Egypt was on January 31, 1917, £E736,125 secured by the deposit of registered scrip of their 4½ first charge debentures, to an amount of £1,500,000. The collections of this company, as of other companies doing similar business in Egypt, were unfavourably affected during the early part of the war, and no dividend has been paid on the shares which we hold. The company has, however, benefited from the general revival of agricultural prosperity. Lord Milner, having become a member of the British Cabinet, has resigned the chairmanship of the company. He has been succeeded by Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., who is one of the London Committee of our Board.

The loans outstanding on the London Stock Exchange at January 31, 1917, amounted to £14,500 against £20,165 on January 31, 1916.

The absence of many of the bank staff at the war has greatly increased the responsibilities of those remaining; fifteen members out of our English staff of twenty-three have joined the British Army since the outbreak of war, and we have learnt with deep regret that S. G. Bennett and J. T. Broomfield have been killed in action. We offer our respectful condolences to their relatives. In addition eight subjects of our Allies have been mobilised by the orders of their respective Governments.

The directors beg to thank the employees at Head Office and in the Agencies for their satisfactory work during the past year, and to express to those who have joined the Allied Armies best wishes for their success and safe return.

The report is signed for the Board by Mr. F. T. Rowlatt, the President.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Subject to audit of the accounts for the year 1916, the Court of Directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company recommend the payment of the usual half-yearly dividend on the preference stock, and a balance dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary stock, making, together with the interim dividend paid in November last, a total of 7 per cent. for the year. The dividend on the ordinary stock issued in March, 1916, will be calculated from the dates of payment of the instalments.

The interest on the five per cent. First Debentures of the Aboukir Company, due on June 1, will be paid on that date on presentation of Coupon No. 36 at the offices of the company, 134, Palmerston House, Bishopsgate, London.

The Agricultural Bank of Egypt has declared a dividend of 7 per cent. on its ordinary shares (6 per cent. last year), and of £40 on the deferred shares (£15 last year). The dividends are payable at the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, London, E.C., and at the offices of the Bank in Cairo and Alexandria.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah (week), 23 tons; previous week, 21 tons. Hurgada, 2,164 tons, against 2,197 tons.

MOROCCAN TRADE.

Statistics of trade which entered Moroccan ports in January, 1917, are as follows:—

	Tons.		Fr.
Casablanca.....	18,891	....	9,930,541
Mazagan	5,773	....	4,015,570
Rabat	3,475	....	4,693,866
Kerrifra	4,111	....	—
Saffi	2,223	....	—
Mogador	1,768	....	—

The totals of all ports were 36,241 tons, valued at 24,468,816 francs.

According to the *Sudan Times*, Colonel E. Bernard Pasha, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, and Mr. Bonham-Carter, who left Khartoum in the middle of April, are coming to England in connection with the Sudan Loan and the Gezira Irrigation projects. Their departure was intended to take place in February, but had to be delayed.

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THE GREEK DEBT.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to February 28, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to March 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Feb., 1917		1,902,101	768,000
Do. do. do 1916		3,027,076	1,990,000
Estimated Receipts for 2 months (Law of Control)		4,8 6,666	1,783,333
Actual do. do., 1917		5,075,936	2,223,0.0
Do. do. do., 1916		6,642,947	3,822,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 2 months	1917	+ 259,319	+ 439,666
	1916	+ 1,826,281	+ 2,038,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold both from Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange of the month is par or below par, but when the average rate of the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
May 8	280,000	330,000
May 9	60,000	110,000
May 11		
May 12	770,000	450,000
May 13		
May 14	360,000	70,000

NOTICES.

THE AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Notice is hereby given that at a General Meeting of the above named Company, held in Cairo on the 11th May, 1917, it was decided that a DIVIDEND of 7s. per Share on the ORDINARY SHARES of £5 each and £40 per Share on the DEFERRED SHARES of £5 each should be PAID on and after the 14th May, 1917, at the National Bank of Egypt, in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C. 4).

Payments will be made in London less Income Tax.

The said Dividends will be paid to the holders of Ordinary and Deferred Share Warrants to Bearer on presentation of the respective Dividend Coupons (Ordinary No. 14, Deferred No. 13) at the above Banks.

Forms for listing the above mentioned Coupons will be supplied on application by the bankers above named.

Coupons must be left with the bankers for previous examination.

By Order,
F. T. ROWLATT, President.

Cairo, 11th May, 1917.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the thirty-ninth ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders will be held at the Company's Offices, Alexandria, on Thursday, June 7, 1917, at four o'clock in the afternoon, for the transaction of the ordinary business of the Company, pursuant to Act of Parliament.

Holders of share warrants to bearer desiring to attend or to be represented at the Meeting must deposit their share warrants in London before May 23, 1917, or in Alexandria before June 3, 1917, until after the Meeting, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, Alexandria, or at some other approved bank in London or Alexandria.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

Dated, Alexandria, April 20, 1917.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.—The Ordinary General Meeting of the above Company will be held in Cairo on May 31, 1917. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their share warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than May 16.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

The tone of our market has continued favourable, and there has been a fair amount of business going on, but any real activity has been quite out of the question with the continued scarcity of sellers. Egypt has been inclined to buy almost anything offering on this side, and the improvement in telephonic communication has occasionally helped business.

Egyptian Unified and Prefs. have been in constant demand, and close about ½ higher than last week at 83½ and 71 respectively. The business concluded has been small as sellers are very scarce.

National Banks have again changed hands round 15⅝ for about 200 shares. Agriculturals are slightly firmer at 5 3-16ths x.d., and deferred shares are wanted at 410 c.d. Some business has also been done in Agricultural Prefs. round 7⅛. Anglo-Egyptian Banks are ⅛ easier at 12¼. Land Banks continue a firm spot, and Land Bank Deferreds have been in some demand round 24¾.

Delta Light Railway Prefs. are buyers at about 5¾, and Land Allotments are also wanted; but business is impossible because there are no sellers.

Aboukirs have changed hands round 15s. 6d., and Behéras have jumped over ½ to 8 bid. New Egyptians, after business at 11s., close unchanged round 10s. 9d., and some transactions have taken place in Sidi Salem in the neighbourhood of 17-32. Union Foncières have been done to-day between 23s. 6d. and 25s. for about 200 shares, and there have been some transactions in United Lands at about 9d.

Alexandria Waters have been done in a small way at 12 9-32, with further buyers at the price, and Markets have been somewhat quieter round 27s.

Salts have again been fairly active, more than 2,000 shares changing hands at 23s. and 23s. 1½d. Khedivial Mails are again somewhat easier round 30s.

In Greek Bonds '81's and '84's are quoted a point higher at 53, and Monopolies are ½ up at 50. Rentes are exceptionally half a point down round 44. Some transactions have taken place in Currant Bonds at 90, at which price there are still buyers, and a few thousand Fundings have been done at about 53. There has also been a fairly important transaction in Greek 4 per cents. (1910) in the neighbourhood of 58.

Oil Shares.

Fairly satisfactory business has been done in oil shares. Roumanian Consols were firmer at 10s., and Anglo-Egyptians hardened to 12s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations on Wednesday included the following:—Egyptian Unified, 91 (unchanged); Serbian (1895), 59 (against 58); Turkish Unified, 63.10 (against 63); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 685 (against 689.50); Ottoman Bank, 430 (unchanged); Suez Canal, 4,335 (against 4,345).

THE MONEY MARKET.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
London, May 17.

There has been no scarcity of money in the last few days, and there has been some demand for short-period accommodation. The rate for day-to-day loans has ranged between four and three per cent., while weekly transactions have commanded from 4¼ to 4½ per cent.

Easiness of money caused some weakness in the discount market, though here rates were not largely altered. Treasury Bills were much easier, the bulk of whatever business was done being put through on the basis of 4 11-16 per cent., August-November inclusive. Twelve months' treasuries were quoted last night at 4⅞ to 4 15-16.

Exchange on Alexandria has been in the neighbourhood of 97-97⅝.

British firms interested in the protection of patents, designs and trade-marks in French Morocco may consult copies of the new protective regulations at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price May 1.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83xd	83½
Do. Pref. Rd. 5 %, 1890	88	70½	70
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	52	53
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	52	53
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	49½	49
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44½	44½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	53	53
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53	53⅛
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71xd	71xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75¼	75¼
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4 %, 1891	94	78	78
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68	68xd
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¼	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12¼	12⅜	12⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅛	2⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅝	8⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	4¼	4
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	5⅞	5⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	13⅛	13⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5¼	5⅝
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¼	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1/16	1/16
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2¼	2⅛	2⅛xd
Béhéra Co.	8½	7½	7⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/-	2/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9/3	9/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	5/-	6/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1/16	1/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	10/9	10/3
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	1/16	½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1¼	1¼	1¼
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	9d.
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅝	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/6	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	23/-	22/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	31/-	32/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3¼	3¼

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON APRIL 27.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	13⅝
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
,, priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Privilegiée	Frs.	65
	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	79
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	86
Privilégiée		72½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5¼
,, Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	3
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
Ord.		32/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		7½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4¾
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
,, Jouissance	Frs.	160
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	307
Div.	Frs.	250
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	210
Egyptian Salt and Soda		21 9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	625
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	334
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	266
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	263
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		½

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 18th to the 31st May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
GEO. H. SOUL, Secretary.

27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4, 24th April, 1917.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to Issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

VICE-GOVERNOR : I. G. BIBICESCU.
DIRECTORS:
N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI, CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.
CENSORS:
DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU. C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.
GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:

AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Lt. Col. J. LEIGH WOOD, C.M.G. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bart.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - - 65,000

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SUDAN.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A formal declaration by the Russian Provisional Government, in which it states that it rejects, in concert with the entire people, all thought of a separate peace, and direct assurances to the same effect given to France and to the United States confirm the views expressed in these columns last week that the crisis which menaced the Grand Alliance had passed its zenith. But between this stage and the effective resumption of the offensive in the Eastern theatre of the war may intervene a period of unknown length. It is significant that a pronouncement so emphatic in other respects should have to refer to the Government's conviction that the defeat of Russia and her Allies would not only be a source of the greatest calamities to the people, but would postpone or make impossible the conclusion of a world-wide peace. In regard to the military situation, the Coalition Cabinet still feels the obligation to tread warily, and it contents itself by announcing that it believes firmly "that the Russian revolutionary army will not suffer the German troops to destroy our Western Allies and then throw themselves upon us with the full force of their arms."

The more that is known of the conditions of things that has prevailed for the last few weeks in the Eastern theatre, the more remarkable becomes the respite from military disaster enjoyed by the Russians. In an official report describing the impressions formed during a recent visit to the North the Commander-in-Chief of the Black Sea Fleet is stated to have drawn a sombre picture of the actual situation. At the front not only has there been a decline of interest in the war, but in some parts military duties have been abandoned; in others there is a total lack of officers, whole commands being usurped by the soldiers. The army, it is stated, may be regarded as having practically concluded peace with Germany, and that at a moment when a Russian offensive might have played a decisive part in the European campaign. Fortunately, the position is not entirely desperate. The new Ministry has taken charge just in time, and the firm language used by M. Kerensky, the Minister for War, who does not hesitate to speak of the necessity of reinstating iron discipline in the army, is of the best augury. Some time, however, must necessarily elapse before this spirit can permeate through the whole machine, and the ultimate value of Russian assistance will depend on the progress made in the meantime in accumulating supplies of munitions.

The first steps in the direction of a return to normal conditions in the Russian army have been taken at a congress of delegates of officers of the army and navy at the Petrograd headquarters. General Alexeieff confirmed the sinister reports to which reference has already been made. He declared that there had been good reason for the cry that the country was in danger, for "the combativeness of the Russian army had indeed noticeably decreased in consequence of the dissension and mistrust existing between the officers and men. The Russian army which had been still so formidable yesterday has been stricken with a fatal impotence." The congress pledged itself to do all that was possible to restore vanished discipline and to bring together officers and soldiers once more in a close union, rendering them again capable of marching to victory. A clear appreciation of the internal situation in Russia renders it more easy to appreciate the prominence still given in official pronouncements to the policy of "no conquests and no annexations," a phrase which has brought much unction to the souls of those who are anxious to prevent the defeat of Germany by the Allies. On this point, however, there seems to be no longer any room for misunderstanding between the Allied Governments themselves, and the business of winning the war can now proceed with redoubled vigour.

There can be little doubt that the Allied offensive on the Western front has played an important part in the German resolve to leave the Russians alone. It was hoped that professions of friendship would expedite the process of disintegration which the revolution had begun; but it probably suited the policy of the German Higher Command to withdraw men and guns from the Eastern front in the hope of being able to stem the tide in France and Flanders. More recently the successful Italian offensive in the Carso region will have increased the Austro-German desire to allow the sleeping dogs of the Eastern theatre to continue their passive existence. Public opinion in the Central Powers could more easily be brought to understand the tactics adopted towards the Russians than to acquiesce in an unmistakable de-

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feat in the West. The Italians have helped to extend the transfer of enemy troops from one front to the other; and if the offensive both in France and on the Isonzo can be maintained and increased during the next few weeks, there will be a good chance of a reorganised Russian Army finding its task materially simplified.

So far there has been no achievement in Macedonia on a scale sufficient to enable us to see in the activities now taking place along the whole Allied line any serious threat to the enemy's lines of communication. It is true that the nature of the country necessitates much manœuvring for position before an advance is feasible, and for this reason we must expect to find the Bulgarian line being continually probed until the relative strength and weakness of the various parts have been established. After testing the Doiran sector with no little success, the British have turned their attention once more to the Struma front, where we have not yet secured complete possession of the lateral railway which connects Seres with Demirhissar. It is possible that some of the ground previously held here had to be abandoned during the winter. If that were so, the capture of Kiupri brings us once more to close quarters with the line. Farther to the west the French and Serbians continue to give the enemy little respite; but the nature of the terrain causes an advance to be measured by yards instead of by miles.

The official statement given in the House of Commons on Wednesday regarding the operations in Palestine adds little to the explanation offered in these pages last week. General Dobell's force has not advanced, because any attempt to do so was likely to prove too costly. Close touch is maintained with the enemy's main positions defending Gaza between the sea and Sheik Abbas, a front of eight miles. This position has been extended by a series of redoubts and trenches to Abu Hareira, three miles farther to the south-east, and the Turkish flank is thus protected by a stretch of broken and waterless country. With the enemy in any force on this strong line it would be folly to risk a frontal attack, until his defences can be pulverized by artillery fire. The alternatives are for General Dobell to wait until the consolidation of the ground already won, with the construction of railway and roads, enables him to mass in overwhelming strength, or to carry out a turning movement. The difficulties in the way of the latter are obvious.

It is a matter for regret that M. Zaimis, whose good intentions are beyond dispute, should allow his reputation to be compromised by remaining in an office in which he finds himself vested with full responsibility for all that happens in Greece, but with no power to shape the trend of events. The pessimistic messages that reach this country from Athens constitute a bewildering anomaly in these days of censorship. A correspondent of the *Morning Post* is allowed to report that the situation is becoming dangerous again. "M. Zaimis seems to be getting no further with his programme of establishing more cordial relations between Greece and the Entente. There can be no doubt that he is deliberately, though covertly, opposed by the military cabal, whose boldness cannot well be explained except as due to a certain amount of secret encouragement from Court circles. . . . The Reservists declare that a crisis is rapidly approaching when they will settle all scores in full with the Venizelists, some even going so far as to state that the Allied Ministers will be killed. . . . The Germanophil Press is busily trying to inflame the masses against the Allies." Now, if there is no truth in these statements, they ought not to be published. If they are true, the state of affairs which they describe ought not to have been allowed to arise and ought not to be tolerated. The impotence which General Alexeieff deplores in the Russian army finds a counterpart in the counsels of the Allied Governments in the face of the Greek situation. The question arises whether it would not be better to impose an absolute veto on all messages from Greece rather than, by allowing the truth to be published, to lay bare the failure of the Allies to deal with the situation. In their relation to the war events in Greece have, of course, no longer any special significance; but those who are jealous of the reputation of the Allies as the arbiters of a final, just and acceptable settlement in the Near East regret to find this apparent indifference towards even the least important item in the Near Eastern question.

By no means the least satisfactory feature of the new spirit that is inspiring Roumania, as a result of her sore trials, is the determination to remove any reproach that may have lingered in connection with her handling of the Jewish question in the past. As is well known, the question has been complicated by a variety of issues; it has not been as simple of solution as was urged in some quarters; but there remained the impression in the minds of impartial students of Roumanian affairs, and, let it be said, in the minds of many Roumanians themselves, that with a little more good will and a definite effort to arrive at an understanding it was possible to deal once and for all with the problem in a way satisfactory to all concerned. This stage, there is good reason to suppose, has now been reached. The whole Jewish question is to be brought before the Jassy Parliament this session. King Ferdinand, however, has in the meantime taken upon himself to be the mouthpiece of the new spirit.

One of the old grievances against the Jews in Roumania was that they did not identify themselves sufficiently with the national interests. The fact that they offered their services in the war against Bulgaria turned opinion some way in their favour; but the easy circumstances attending that campaign, perhaps, prevented the good impression from sinking very far down in the mind of the public as a whole. With the present war the whole situation is changed. The Jews have suffered with the rest of the community. There may be doubtful instances among those who have remained in the conquered territory, but these will not affect the general record. King Ferdinand could not anticipate the details of any decision to be reached by the Roumanian Parliament; but to a deputation of Jews which waited on him on May 11 he could give a very clear undertaking: "All who have striven for the realization of the aspirations which Roumanians had entertained for so many ages, by shedding their blood, by enduring the difficulties and sacrifices imposed by war and invasion, whether they are Christians, Jews, or adherents of any other form of belief, will equally have a right to the gratitude of the country and to that of the King, and will enjoy equal rights in a free, great, and flourishing Roumania, closely united, all of us, under the folds of the national flag."

The report that German intrigues have been revived in Afghanistan destroys the good impression conveyed by Mr. Austen Chamberlain when a few months ago he was able to announce the failure of the German mission to the Ameer. Enemy agents, it is stated, are once more striving to persuade the Afghans to make a move against Turkestan, declaring that the Russian forces are insufficient to prevent an invasion, and that the Mohammedan population is in a state verging on revolution against the Russians. As the Allies have been able to rely upon the Ameer until now to defeat such plans, we need not be unduly perturbed by these fresh intrigues. Their existence, however, points to the necessity for vigilance on the borders of Afghanistan, and for offering the Ameer the strongest moral support amid the difficulties that confront him in his efforts to stand loyally by Great Britain and her Allies.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The High Commissioner at the Native Courts.

Cairo, April 30.

The High Commissioner paid a ceremonial visit this week to the Native Court of Appeal. His Excellency, who was accompanied by the Hon. Mervyn Herbert, was received on his arrival by the President, Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, and the Vice-President, Judge H. W. Halton. He was conducted to the former's private room, where the Procureur-General, Ahmed Pasha Talaat, the Counsellors of the Appeal Court, and the legal staff were presented to him. Sir Reginald then went round the various offices, including the Parquet-General, where Talaat Pasha introduced to him Attia Bey Husni, Chief of the Cairo Parquet; Mr. George Hughes, Senior Inspector, and the other inspectors. Subsequently he visited the library, where Yehia Pasha presented the Leader of the Native Bar, Ahmed Bey Loutfi, and his two predecessors in that dignity, Ibrahim Bey Helbawi and Abdel Aziz Bey Fahmy; and before he left he inspected the court-room of the Cassation and Assize Court, where, at the time, a case was in course of hearing. The High Commissioner's visit has given the greatest pleasure in native legal circles, more especially as this is the first time for many years that H.B.M's representative has paid the Egyptian Courts this compliment. The last occasion, if I am not mistaken, was during Lord Cromer's tenure of office.

This morning His Excellency visited the premises of the Legislative Assembly, where he was received by Ahmed Pasha Mazlum, the President, and Saad Pasha Zaghlul, the Vice-President.

Anzac Day.

Anzac Day was fittingly celebrated here. A memorial service was held at the Anzac Hostel, where the Rev. E. A. Burroughs delivered an admirable address. The High Commissioner was represented by Lieut.-Colonel Watson, who brought a letter from His Excellency, which was read out by Mr. Jessop, the Secretary to the Y.M.C.A.; and General Murray by Major T. B. Arbuthnot. The service, which was well attended, was simple, but very impressive, and closed with Kipling's Recessional, the Dead March in "Saul," and the "Last Post." A most beautiful and generous contribution of flowers was made by various residents and by the hospitals, notable among the latter being the floral crosses made by "Gallipoli" men at Bulac Dacrur Convalescent Hospital. All these floral tributes were conveyed to the British Cemetery at Old Cairo, where they were placed on the graves of the Gallipoli heroes who have been laid to rest there.

The National Mission.

The last meeting in connection with the National Mission of Repentance and Hope was held on Tuesday at the Sultania Opera House, where a large number of residents and military responded to the invitations which had been issued. Bishop MacInnes presided, and he was accompanied on the stage, where accommodation had been found for about 200 soldiers, by the Archbishop's Messengers, the Very Rev. Dr. Storrs, Dean of Rochester; the Rev. E. A. Burroughs, Fellow of Hertford College; and the Rev. C. T. Horan, Chaplain of All Saints'. The meeting opened with a short prayer, after which the Bishop read a letter he had received from the High Commissioner, in which he expressed his great regret at not being able to be present, and thanked the Messengers for their work, from which he hoped much good would result in directions where a change for the better is greatly needed. Mr. Burroughs and Dean Storrs then delivered their addresses, after a few introductory words in each case from the Bishop. Both dealt with the after-war problems, and dwelt on the many weak points in our religion and our relations with our Creator; and both speakers were listened to with rapt attention, especially the Dean, who spoke without notes, and whose serious, though optimistic, words, contrasting with the equally serious, but somewhat pessimistic views of his colleague, seemed more accurately to reflect and more directly to appeal to the feelings of his audience.

The Late Sir Armand Ruffer.

It was with widespread regret that Egypt received the news of the tragic death of Sir Armand Ruffer whilst on his way back from Salonika, where he had gone some three or four months ago at the request of the Provisional Government to give his advice on local sanitary matters. Sir Armand Ruffer had been connected with Egypt since 1896, when he came out here as a Professor of Bacteriology at Kasr-el-Aini. In the following year he was appointed President of the International Quarantine Board at Alexandria, a post which he still held at his death. He was an indefatigable worker and a born organiser—his administration of the Quarantine Board showed that. In addition to his ordinary duties, he was Vice-President of the Alexandria Municipality, a post he had held for several years, and since the war he had also acted as Deputy Commissioner of the British Red Cross in Alexandria; to both the Municipality and the Red Cross he rendered invaluable services. Sir Armand Ruffer, who had a most charming personality, was *persona grata* with every element of the local population. Egyptians, foreigners, and Britons alike had a great respect for his ability and his sterling qualities. By his death Egypt loses a trusted worker and sincere friend, and the medical and scientific world a member whose contributions to research work were asknowledged by all to be of the greatest value.

The "Philippides" Case.

The indictment in what is known as the "Philippides" case has now been drawn up, and the trial has been set down for the Cairo Assizes on June 4. There are several charges, the more important being that Philippides Bey, as head of the Secret Police in Cairo, took bribes from Mahmud Eff. Mohammed, his assistant, and various Mamurs (officers in charge of police districts) to obtain their promotion, and from relations of political prisoners and other accused persons to secure their release. His wife and his orderly are accused of having acted as intermediaries in these transactions.

With regard to the Behera torturing case, about which I wrote last week, the men who were accused of murder in one of the cases in connection with which the torturing took place, and who had in the meantime been sentenced to imprisonment for life, have appealed against their conviction on the grounds that the confessions on which the Court based its decision were obtained by unfair means. As the details of the investigation lend a certain colour of truth to their allegations, the Court of Cassation, to which they made their appeal, has decided that a retrial is desirable, and has ordered the accused men to be brought before another Assize Court.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Legislative Council.

The first session of the new Council was opened on the 24th April. After reading his opening speech the High Commissioner left the Chamber, and—the office of Chief Secretary being vacant—his place was taken by the King's Advocate, Mr. Rupell. The speech was then read in Turkish and Greek, the former having precedence, as when the island was still an Ottoman possession. It was agreed, as usual, that a sub-committee, consisting of two official members with one Turkish and three Greek members, should draft a reply, to be submitted to the Council on April 30. The reply consists of one paragraph only, thanking the High Commissioner for his address. Other paragraphs were proposed by the Greek members, but these were rejected by the British, the Turkish member, Irfan Bey, concurring. They included, as need hardly be added, a statement of the Greek aspirations for union with Hellas.

Sir John Clauson in his speech congratulated the members of the new Assembly on their election. Of the twelve native members whom he knew ten years ago, only four now have seats. The new members, he was sure, would maintain the traditions of the Council, and work to advance the interests of the people. Mention was made of the draft laws (about seventeen in number) which will be introduced for consideration. Allusion was made at some length to the need of a new law to deal with the election of village headmen (*mukhtars*). The Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, in his report on Criminal Statistics for 1914-15, stated that "the election of village officials is a fruitful source of crime." The persons elected are often unsuitable, and the elections "stir up bad feeling and hostility among the people, which is frequently a cause of crime." Again, the Mukhtar is in many cases the money-lender of the village, and by virtue of his office has to sell up the villagers in execution of the judgments he has obtained against them! In a case of attempting to murder a Mukhtar, which came before the Assize Court, "the defence, which turned on a question of identity, was that there were at least six or seven persons likely to shoot him. . . . He had to seek police protection when going from his house to the café." A law of an experimental character will be introduced to alter the mode of election. Reference was also made to the Field Watchmen Law, a very important one for Cypriot agriculturists, which has been found open to many objections and requires considerable amendments.

A Notable Pronouncement.

By far the most remarkable part of the speech referred to a proposed measure for the relief of debtors. Very interesting allusions were made to Solon, and his legislative enactments in this field. The proposed law is based on principles recognised by that great law-giver. The High Commissioner again quoted the Chief Justice, whose reports have shown how the poor Cypriot who falls into the clutches of the money-lender is never again a free man, but, except in the rare cases in which he can repay both capital and exorbitant interest, sinks into a state of abject and hopeless servitude. The draft law deals with the present disastrous situation in the spirit of Solon, who grappled with the troubles and difficulties that existed in Attica in the 6th century B.C., including some not dissimilar to those in Cyprus, so far as regards the grievous condition of debtors. Solon, who naturally met with some opposition, exacted an oath from the Athenians that they would observe his laws without alteration for ten years (according to Herodotus). He then left Athens for ten years, and, after visiting Egypt, was received in Cyprus with honour by King Philocyprus. It is to be hoped that now, after the lapse of 2,500 years, Cyprus may profit from his economic teaching. Solon, in view of the existing distress, cancelled outstanding debts; but his great measure, the *σεισάχθεια*, or disburdening law, contained various provisions for the relief of debtors, without infringing more than was necessary the lawful rights of creditors. He made it illegal to lend money on the security of the borrower's person, or to sell into slavery for debt, while a limit was also set to the rate of interest. The measure now contemplated will not, observed the High Commissioner, interfere with the legal interests of creditors or the business transactions of merchants. The present law of Cyprus allows creditors to obtain 12 per cent. interest. It is right that creditors should be protected against the risk they incur by advancing money to poor debtors; but that a poor man who honestly tries, but fails, to fulfil his obligations should be obliged indefinitely to bring all his produce to his creditor, at prices fixed by the latter, and should be reduced to slavish dependence, with nothing to look forward to but hopeless labour or emigration to a foreign country, implies an intolerable state of things, and one which is injurious to the State. Such a man must be enabled to make a fresh start and find a livelihood, as a free man, in his own country. The object of the projected law, which is much needed, is most praiseworthy, and the statement of Sir John Clauson may be regarded as perhaps the most noteworthy pronouncement yet made by a High Commissioner in an opening address to the Council.

Estimates for 1917.

The estimated revenue for the current year, including the grant in aid of £50,000, is computed at £455,500, as against £414,620 for the last financial year. The expenditure, including the £92,800 levied for the Turkish Debt, is estimated at £419,933, as against £401,779. The surplus would thus be £35,567, as against £12,841 last year. Some critics are sceptical as regards the yield of tithes, estimated at £111,000, in view of the unfavourable agricultural outlook.

According to statistics of births and deaths during the last calendar year, there were 8,414 births, or about 28 per thousand; and 5,128 deaths, or 17 per thousand. The total population is given as 298,775.

THE JEWS OF ROUMANIA.

The following message has been received by H.E. the Roumanian Minister from his Government, and by him communicated to the Press:—

On May 11 a deputation from the Roumanian Jews waited upon the King to present to him the assurance of their loyalty and devotion. The deputation expressed to his Majesty the griefs of the indigenous Jews and assured him that they would prove in all circumstances that they were an element of order, sincerely devoted to their native land and to the Crown, as was the case with the Jews in all countries where they enjoyed full equality.

The deputation handed to his Majesty a note in which they respectfully begged him to take the native Jews under his protection as he had done with regard to other sons of the Fatherland. To this note the deputation joined a copy of an appeal which the native Jews distributed at Jassy the previous Sunday. In this appeal the Jewish Committee set forth their wish for national unity and the victory of our armies; they denounce those among them who have shown that they do not share the patriotic views of the nation, and they state that they rely on the wisdom of the Roumanian people as regards the solution of their question. The manifesto lays stress on the decision arrived at by the Roumanian Jews at the beginning of the war not to increase the difficulties of the situation in which the common Fatherland found itself by raising their question at the present time. The manifesto concluded as follows: "Having confidence in our fellow-citizens, we will do our duty towards our country, sparing no sacrifice and taking into consideration nothing but the welfare of Roumania.

His Majesty the King replied as follows:—

After having been long in close touch with the daily life of all classes of people in the country, I formed the conviction—and I am pleased to bear testimony to the fact that in the present circumstances that I was not mistaken—that all the inhabitants of Roumanian soil, irrespective of differences of origin, of race, or of religion, were actuated by the same exalted notions of fraternity. This fraternity and community of ideas and aspirations constitute the surest guarantee for the future of the country and the realisation of our national ideal. One of the glorious characteristics of our native Princes was that, while preserving the faith in its traditions, they permitted the existence and the celebration of all the religions of their subjects. King Carol was so faithful to this tradition that he, a Roman Catholic, requested that his body might be laid to rest in one of the oldest religious monuments belonging to the worship of our ancestors. I ascended the throne impressed with the same sentiments. When I undertook the task of uniting all Roumanians under the same flag, I realised that that flag must be at the same time a symbol of the union and of the religious, political, and economic freedom of all the sons of the Fatherland. All who have striven for the realisation of the aspirations which Roumanians have entertained for so many ages, by shedding their blood, by enduring the difficulties and sacrifices imposed by war and invasion, whether they are Christians, Jews, or adherents of any other form of belief, will equally have a right to the gratitude of the country and to that of the King, and will enjoy equal rights in a free, great, and flourishing Roumania, closely united, all of us, under the folds of the national flag.

It is announced that Serbia will shortly open Legations at Lisbon, Copenhagen, and Stockholm.

Reuter's Stockholm correspondent reports under date of May 19:—The Secretarial Department of the Socialist Conference has received a telegram from the Jewish Societies in Palestine stating that the Turkish Government has given orders for the Jewish population to evacuate Palestine, and has proceeded with the execution of these measures with increasing severity. The orders received are aimed at Judea, Jerusalem, and afterwards Galilee. The official Turkish agencies do not even take the trouble to deny the bad treatment and pillage of the population of Palestine.

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THE MEVLEVI DERVISHES.

The Mevlevi order of Dervishes is the most widely known to European travellers of all the religious "paths" in Islam. Few tourists who can spare the time omit to witness the Friday performance of the "Whirlers"; and those who can squeeze it into their programme also visit some meeting place of the "Howlers." In Professor H. Léon's recent lecture at the Sufi Khankah in Ladbroke Road, an excellent account was given of the Mevleviyeh, of which mention was made in THE NEAR EAST of May 11. Some points not touched upon by him may be of interest.

The Mevlevi order is not one of the earliest. It was founded by Jelal-ed-din Rûmi, the famous author of the Mesnevi esh-Sherif, who was born at Balkh in 604 A.H. and died at Konieh in 672 A.H. (1273 A.D.) His father was a noted Sheikh, Beha-ed-din, who, after various changes of abode, settled at Konieh, at the time when the dynasty of the Seljukian Turks in Asia Minor was coming to an end, and the Osmanli Turks were beginning to consolidate their power in the diminished territories.

The headquarters of the order is at Konieh, and the office of Sheikh, or spiritual chief, is hereditary in the family of the Chélebi. It is said that should the line of Osman become extinct (as it very nearly did, in the person of Murad IV., in 1640 A.D.) it is from the family of the Chélebi that a new Sultan of the Ottoman Empire should be chosen. The Superior of the order has the privilege of girding on the sword of Osman at the enthronement of a new Sultan at Constantinople. The order regards itself, and is perhaps regarded generally, as the most aristocratic, or, so to speak, exclusive of orders. Many princes of the families of Sultans, Khedives of Egypt, and others have been affiliated to it. Rich presents have often been made to its Sheikhs, and the *tekkiehs* of the Mevlevis have not fallen into that state of decay to which so many have been reduced in Mohammedan countries.

The order has had its vicissitudes in the course of Turkish history, and has not escaped attacks, when the hostility of orthodox Ulema, and of the people, towards the free-thinking tenets of the Dervishes and Sufis have reached a climax. Thus, to take two instances, in 1656, in the Vizirate of Mehmet Kauprili (reign of Mehmed IV.), an attempt was made to suppress at least four of the principal orders, including the Mevleviyeh. Again, in 1826, the destruction of the Janissaries by Mahmud II. was at once followed by a raid upon the convents of the Bektashi order, whose association with the Janissaries was so intimate, and then on those of other fraternities. Mahmud, however, relented, or intervened, and the orders were soon able to restore their influence. The Sultan himself was a member of the Mevlevi order, whose *tekké* in Pera he sometimes visited, as he did that of the Nakshibendi order.

The *zikr* of the Mevlevis, as well as the *Sema' Khan*, in which it takes place, has often been described. No one witnessing it can fail to conclude that it symbolises the motions of planets round a central sun, though the *zikr* is not, perhaps, a relic of sun worship. The Mevlevi must go through his 1,001 days of probation in lower grades of domestic service, chiefly the kitchen (being called at this period a *Kara Kolak*, or jackal), passing, theoretically, at least, through eighteen cells, until he can partake in the mystical building of the Kaaba. The points of resemblance with the grades of Freemasonry in the Mevlevi, as in the Bektashi, order have often been touched upon. The common, but erroneous, definition of a Dervish used to be that he was "the monk and Freemason of the East." After the probationary period it depends on the individual himself whether he will be of the few who pursue the upward path towards those higher grades to which a *murid* may aspire.

As regards the outward appearance, everything in dress is, as Professor Léon pointed out, symbolical. Perhaps the most conspicuous feature is the "sugar-loaf" felt cap of the Mevlevi. This is said to represent the vase, purer than crystal, in which the soul, not only of Mohammed, but of every mortal descended, and in which it will return.

In addition to what we know of Jelal-ed-din—no sketch could be attempted here—innumerable legends have grown up around his name, as in the case of other saints of Islam. He is regarded as the "Sultan i-evlia," or chief of the *Welis*. The Meshevi reveals the religious philosophy and the poetic talent of Jelal. It treats of Divine unity. From the Deity all existing beings proceed, and to Him all should return. The visible creation is but a reflection of the reality which it symbolises. The form changes, the essence remains. We may trace glimpses of the doctrine of the indestructability of matter and of the persistence of force. All nature is filled with Divine love, and Easterly unions are but symbolical of the Divine. There are remarkable descriptions of the material world and its beauties. All is mystic and allegorical. According to Sufi doctrine the soul was created before the body, which is the perishable frame. The vital element lives on and must seek reunion with that from which it emanates. We know not what we were, though we may have vague reminiscences of previous existences, and in the future the soul may pass through various stages or migrations. Since all is one, good and evil are both from God. They are terms for exaggeration of a state which may become good or bad, according as original potentialities are applied or misapplied; just as the earth may bring forth either fruits and flowers or poisonous weeds.

If we assume original purity and lofty aims in the original doctrines of some of the *Pirs*, or founders of orders, or of some of the Sufi poets, we see, nevertheless, that they contain the seeds of a corrupt fatalism, and lead—when pushed to extremes—by logical process, to conclusions that are destructive of all religion and morality. If man is identified with the Deity, and there is no difference between good and evil, God is the author of all the actions of men, who are thus relieved of responsibility. And so Sufism meets, on common ground, the conclusions of extreme materialism.

R. M.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

"A NEW SITUATION IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A friend has sent me a copy of Mr. Woods' article on this subject, and—though my letter is somewhat belated—I hope you may be able to spare room for it.

Mr. Woods seems to me to have struck fundamentally the right note—to have made the right qualifications. Neither Serbia nor Bulgaria can repudiate logically the arrangements made mutually and freely by themselves at a time when both foresaw a redistribution of territory; the basis of their understanding was the Allies' principle of nationality, and neither of them should feel serious hesitation—still less see anything dishonourable—in accepting the decision of the Allies on that point. That is to say, while accepting the voluntary and private agreement between the two States as the basis of settlement—because the embodiment of the principles asserted—the Allies would draw the actual text of the treaty to suit topographical, economic, strategic, and other details.

For instance, assuming Serbia to have got full access to the Adriatic, she would have no longer any excuse for extension into a region where the article is post-fixed—*e.g.*, south of Uskub; and, assuming Greece—as the trading nation—to have secured control of the railway system along the coast as far eastward as the Struma and up the Vardar valley (where it is on the *west* bank), she would have no longer any excuse for demanding Kavalla. So, assuming the Turk to have vanished from Europe, there would be no excuse for not allowing Bulgaria to advance up to the lake-and-swamp belt which makes the natural Chatalja lines.—Yours, etc.,

L. W. LYDE.

THE CHAIR OF HISTORY AT ROBERT COLLEGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention is called to a letter that appeared in THE NEAR EAST, in which Mrs. Alexander van Millingen very fittingly corrects a misstatement of one of your reviewers about my connection with Robert College. Since I have not been in Constantinople for four years, and was at Robert College only temporarily to replace Professor van Millingen during a sabbatical year, I am very much surprised that this error should have been made. Neither in the *New Map of Africa* nor in any other book or article have I ever spoken of myself as the holder of Professor van Millingen's chair. In fact, I have never mentioned Robert College, or my connection with the college, in anything I have ever written, on title page, in preface, in text, or in footnotes. On the other hand, when I have had occasion to refer to my personal knowledge of the Near East, it has always been as correspondent of the *New York Herald*. I live many thousands of miles away from my American publishers, and am not responsible for their advertisements. As I have no copy of the *New Map of Africa*, I do not know what they may have put upon the paper jacket of the book in question, but feel sure that they did not intend to make it appear that I was still in Constantinople or the holder of Professor van Millingen's chair.—Faithfully yours,

HERBERT ADAMS GIBBONS.

[As stated in our issue last week, the paper jacket of Mr. Gibbons' book described him as Professor of History at Robert College.—ED.]

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

As far as one can judge from various indications, "Tsar" Ferdinand of Bulgaria seems to be enjoying a certain amount of popularity among his subjects at present. But it was not always thus. Not many years ago he was an object of mingled contempt and dislike to most Bulgarians, and his frequent and prolonged absences from the country did nothing to restore him to favour. A tale, told by one who took part in the entertainment referred to, illustrates this phase of Ferdi's career. At a party given in Sofia and attended chiefly by university professors and men of letters, the company was amusing itself by playing a game not unlike our "Animal, Vegetable, or Mineral," in which one person, by questioning the others, must find out who, or what, they are thinking of. In the Western game—or exercise, rather, for most "players" find it a very stiff mental exercise—every question must be so put that it can be answered either "yes" or "no"; in the Bulgarian version more latitude is allowed. In both cases, of course, all the company except the "guesser" have to think of the same person or thing.

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In the particular game at Sofia to which I refer, a lady had been selected as the guesser, and when she returned to the room, after the others had selected their object, she asked the usual questions. First came, "Is it a man or a thing?" The answer was: "It is a man, but it is also a thing." The lady's eye twinkled, and she began to put her questions very quickly. At last she asked: "Is it often seen in Bulgaria?" "It is seen," came the cautious reply, "but not often." And at once she guessed, correctly, that it was King Ferdinand. The incident was significant. For the players of this game were amongst the élite of Sofia intellectual society; and their opinion—their contempt of their ruler—was quite unconcealed, although there was at least one foreigner present. Yet Ferdinand is still in the saddle!

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A quaint story about Bulgar acquisitiveness is told by a well-known Serbian professor. Before the war, and before the Balkan Wars also, this professor was spending some time in Sofia writing up a particular subject, and put in a good deal of time at one of the museums and libraries. The head of this institution one day said to him: "Ah, the Bulgarians are terrible thieves of books and manuscripts." The Serbian guest treated the remark as a joke, but the Bulgarian assured him that it was true, adding: "I know only too well." Soon afterwards the Bulgarian went out of the room, and on returning carried in a pair of goloshes. "Are these yours?" he asked. "Yes," said the visitor. "Then, for goodness sake, why leave them outside the door?" "Because they are very dirty." "True, but never mind. You will have them stolen." Again the Serbian treated the matter as a joke. But the Bulgarian put the goloshes *in* the room. The sequel came some days later. Then the Serbian attended a lecture by the Bulgarian; left his goloshes at the door, and—found them stolen when he wanted to put them on when leaving. Sorrowfully he sought out the Bulgarian. "You know your countrymen better than I do, after all," he said. "I left my goloshes at the door this evening, and——" "And now you will believe, perhaps, about the books and manuscripts," said the Bulgarian calmly.

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The *Welsh Gazette*, of Aberystwyth, contained recently a long article about King Nicholas of Montenegro and the state of the Balkans generally. This article began: "Our townsman, Mr. T. D. Jenkins, of Bodhyfryd, had the honour of being received last week by H.M. the King of Montenegro, at his residence in Paris. King Nicholas, who is now the oldest crowned head in Europe, is a great admirer of our compatriot, Mr. Lloyd George, and considers he is to-day the astutest statesman in Europe," etc., etc. And it concluded: "The King gave one the impression of a kind and thoughtful monarch, absolutely democratic in his ideas, in sympathy with all sections of his kingdom, and in touch with all the tortuous currents of European politics. One could not fail to be struck with his simplicity and 'agosrwydd'; dysgai wers mewn symlrwydd boneddigaidd i lawer Cadeirydd Pwyllgor Cymreig." I have heard before of King Nicholas's simplicity, but never of his "agosrwydd." I hope it is all right.

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I heard recently a pleasing story of Queen Marie of Roumania, in the days when she was only the Crown Princess. She had accompanied the late King Carol to Constanza in connection with the official opening of that port, and the Royal party was on board one of the boats owned by the Roumanian Maritime Service. King Carol discovered by chance that the chief engineer was a Scotsman; and thereupon promptly took steps to present the lucky man to Princess Marie, describing him playfully as "a fellow countryman of yours." The Princess was very gracious, and the engineer's heart was completely won in the short time she chatted to him. Later, when the Royal party was about to leave the boat, she remembered the Scot, and sent for him. "For," said she, "I must say good-bye to my fellow-countryman." He came; and once more the Royal lady spoke graciously. The Scot sought desperately to rise to the occasion. He cudgelled his brain for a pretty phrase, but all he could produce was: "Aye, but ye're a bonnie lassie." The genuineness of the feeling behind the words was, however, evident; and I suspect that Princess Marie left the boat not unpleased by the Scottish compliment.

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How would it sound, I wonder, if, instead of "The Order of St. Michael and St. George," we had "The Order of St. Spiridion"? It looks strange in print, and it has a strange sound, too; but, as a matter of fact, the shorter name was first suggested, and before Michael and George entered the field, "St. John of the Isles" was Spiridion's only serious rival. All these facts, together with a great many more about the famous Order, are set out in a most interesting article contributed by Mr. Ernest C. Stembridge to the May *United Empire*, which I would strongly advise you to read. The idea of the Order sprang from the brain of Sir Thomas Maitland, the first Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands, who wanted to have some showy reward for the services of distinguished Ionians. Then Malta, of which Sir Thomas Maitland was also the Governor, was included in the scheme. So "St. John of the Isles" does seem to have been quite a happy suggestion.

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But the title actually chosen is more suitable for the extended scope of the Order—if one may use such an expression of so august a thing as an Order. A few years after the British Protectorate over the Ionian Isles ceased, membership of the Order was extended to the colonies generally, and since then the membership has been enlarged by admitting those who have served the Empire in foreign countries as well as those whose work has been done in the colonies. But it is curious to reflect that the Order, one of our proudest and most coveted, may almost be regarded as a souvenir of our occupation of a group of fascinating little islands which we held for a half-century.

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Prisoners in Mesopotamia. May 22.

In reply to Mr. MACCALLUM SCOTT, Mr. MACPHERSON said two men who had only recently been missing in the course of the military advance in Mesopotamia had been reported recaptured from the enemy. This fact was at once notified to the relatives. The other prisoners of war had been removed from Baghdad prior to our entry.

The Operations in Palestine. May 23.

Mr. MACPHERSON, replying to Sir P. MAGNUS and Colonel SANDERS, said:—As already announced, the operations in Southern Palestine which took place between April 17 and 19 resulted after heavy fighting in the capture of the Turkish advanced positions in the vicinity of Gaza, and we are now in close touch with the enemy's main positions defending the town between the sea and Sheikh Abbas, a front of 14,000 yards. This position has been extended by a series of redoubts and trenches to Abu Hareira, 11 miles south-east of Gaza. The Turkish forces, which have been reinforced, have made good use of natural obstacles, and their main position in front of Gaza is one of great strength, while the left bank is protected by broken and waterless country. In view of these conditions our progress has necessarily been slow, and there has been no serious fighting since April 19, but we have continued to gain ground and have organised and consolidated the positions captured in April.

FISHING-RODS FOR MESOPOTAMIAN TROOPS.

The rivers of Mesopotamia are full of fish, and there is a great demand for fishing-rods and tackle by our troops there. The Mesopotamia Comforts Fund appeals to fishermen at home to contribute from their stores of old salmon, trout, and trolling rods, reels, artificial and spinning baits, and the like. Messrs. Hardy Brothers, 61, Pall-mall, S.W.1, and Messrs. C. Farlow and Co., 10, Charles Street, S.W.,1, have consented to receive and forward gifts of these to the offices of the Fund, provided that labels are attached, "For Mesopotamia Comforts Fund." All kinds of rods and tackle are welcome, but it will facilitate despatch if units are sent complete—the rod with all its lengths in canvas cover, with reel to fit.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE RUIN OF HELLENIC IDEALS.*

MM. Louis-Paul Alaux and René Puaux have enjoyed exceptional facilities for following the tangled politics of the Near East. Before war broke out M. Alaux represented the Paris *Temps* at Constantinople, and his collaborator has served as special correspondent of that journal during the Balkanic struggles of 1912-13. They speak with the authority of experts on a subject of vast, if not vital, importance to the future of civilization; and their work should be studied by statesmen on whom the herculean task of reconstruction will devolve. It traces the successive phases of Hellenic effort during last century. The process of evolution began by building up an organised State amid the wreckage left by Turkish misgovernment. With consistent support from the Western Powers, it proceeded to assimilate populations of Greek descent which had groaned for ages under an alien yoke. Lastly, it created many centres of Hellenic influence in the Ottoman Empire which had proved themselves capable of limitless expansion.

But the "Young Turk" faction, the Bulgars, and the Germans were plotting to thwart the realisation of a dream of empire which might well have become the bulwark of civilization in South-Eastern Europe. The party in power in Constantinople had abandoned Mohammed the Second's policy of toleration in favour of one which was calculated to destroy every Christian element in their puppet Sultan's dominions. The innately warlike and restless Bulgars saw in the Hellenic renascence an obstacle to their design of securing the hegemony of the Balkans. The Teuton hordes had made catspaws of their partners in an unholy Alliance inspired by the Pan-German chimera.

One statesman, and one alone, was capable of withstanding these destructive forces. While King Constantine followed the advice of Elevtherios Venizelos, he was able to steer the ship of State through stormy waters. When he threw the empire-builder overboard at the instigation of Berlin he startled the world by a display of unparalleled ingratitude, and sealed his country's fate as a factor capable of counting in the resettlement of Europe. The triumph of civilization is assured; but it would, perhaps, have come ere now, if King Constantine had pursued the policy dictated by the genius of the Hellenic race and the geographical position of its territory.

Our authors are tactfully silent regarding the manifold blunders perpetrated by Western diplomacy. But, reading between the lines, it is clear that they attribute the existing deadlock in South-Eastern Europe to the vacillations of our Foreign Office and of those of our allies. A firmer attitude with regard to King Constantine's ceaseless intrigues would have saved the Entente from incalculable loss of blood, treasure and prestige.

F. H. S.

A ROUMANIAN MANUAL.†

When the war broke out there was a dearth of Roumanian grammars in English. An attempt has since been made to supply the deficiency, but there was still room for a book which, without advancing any elaborate claims, set out to enable the student to acquire easily an elementary knowledge of the Roumanian language on practical lines. Those who remember the previous grammar issued by the Trübner Press will welcome the appearance of a new volume, which is a marked improvement on its predecessor. Mr. Ackerley was prompted to write the book by his experience a few years ago when he started to learn Roumanian. Consequently he gives us most of the things a beginner wants to learn, and anyone mastering the contents of the small manual will have a workable acquaintance with the language. The index might be made a little more complete; it does not contain all the words required for the exercises. Further, the printing of the Roumanian and English words in a sentence in the same type is not to be commended, especially when stops are economised. One paragraph begins as follows:—Tot all before the definite substantive must be translated "all the"; or again: "another" is expressed by alt other preceded by the indefinite article. Italics would overcome the difficulty.

* "Le Déclin de l'Hellenisme," par L. P. Alaux et René Puaux. [Paris: Librairie Payot and Cie., 1916. 2 fr. 5 cs.]

† "A Roumanian Manual." By Fred G. Ackerley, B.A. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd.)

BOOK NOTES.

The Oxford University Press will publish shortly "Akbar, the Great Mogul, 1542-1605," by Mr. Vincent A. Smith.

In "The Revolt in Arabia," Dr. C. Snonck Hurgronje discusses the rising of the Grand Shereef of Mecca against Turkish tyranny. Messrs. Putnam are the publishers of the book.

The latest number (144) of "The Times' History of the War" gives the story of the Salonika Expedition up to the capture of Monastir. It contains some useful maps and many interesting illustrations.

The brilliant series of articles, "The Scene of War," that has been appearing in *Blackwood's Magazine* is now published in book form by Messrs. Blackwood, at the price of 5s. net.

Messrs. Constable have just published "The Expansion of Europe," by Professor Ramsay Muir. The volume is a continuation of the author's former work, "Nationalism and Internationalism."

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have published "Roumania and Great Britain," by A. Herscovici Hurst. The volume, to which a preface is contributed by Sir Thomas Dunlop, Bart., Lord Provost of Glasgow, contains a brief, concise summary of the history, characteristics, and resources of Roumania and her people, and of Roumania's relations to international politics and the war. It is intended to inform the people of Great Britain as to their Ally, and to assist the funds of the National Roumanian Relief Fund.

Among Mr. Humphrey Milford's recent publications is "The Intermixture of Races in Asia Minor," by Sir William Mitchell Ramsay.

The Royal Asiatic Society has undertaken for the Prize Publication Fund a volume by Sir George Grierson on "Iskasmi, Zebaki, and Yazyulami," three members of the Pamir group of Iranian languages.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Mechanism of Exchange: A Handbook of Currency, Banking, and Trade in Peace and in War. By John A. Todd, B.L. (Oxford University Press. 5s. net.)

The Russian Revolution and Who's Who in Russia. By Zinovy N. Preev. (Bale, Sons and Danielsson. 2s. net.)

History of Serbia. By Captain H. W. V. Temperley, M.A., F.R.H.S. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

A young Egyptian doctor has been engaged to attend to 3,000 panel patients in the Benwell district of Newcastle in the absence on war service of the resident medical practitioner.

The Wounded Allies' Relief Committee has removed from Grosvenor Gardens, and the headquarters of the organisation are now at Bank Chambers, 329, High Holborn, W.C.1.

Speaking at an English Zionist Conference at the Armfields Hotel, the other day, the president, Dr. Weizman, officially stated that it was premature to speak of an independent Jewish State in Palestine, but he could say that His Majesty's Government, in conjunction with the Allies, favoured the grant of self-government to the Jews in Palestine under the protection of a just great Power.

A congress of Mussulman delegates from all parts of Russia adopted by 446 votes to 271 a resolution in favour of the institution of a Federal Republic in Russia.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. May.	1917. May.		1335. Shaaban	5677. Sivan
25	12	Friday	3	4
26	13	Saturday.....	4	5
27	14	Sunday	5	6
28	15	Monday	6	7
29	16	Tuesday	7	8
30	17	Wednesday	8	9
31	18	Thursday	9	10

To-morrow is the birthday of H.M. the Queen.

Wednesday is the birthday of Princess Theodora of Greece, second daughter of Prince Andrew and Princess Alice, who was born in Athens, in 1906.

The Roumanian Minister, on Wednesday, received at the Legation the members of the Colony, who came to offer congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Independence and Proclamation of the Kingdom of Roumania.

M. Cretziano, the Roumanian Minister in Madrid, left London for Spain last week.

A Reuter message from Jassy states that in an audience granted to the French Minister by the King and the Crown Prince Carol, the Minister informed the King that the French Government had conferred the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour upon Prince Carol as it was anxious to show that it was not ignorant of the active part played by his Royal Highness since the outbreak of war at the front as well as at home. Prince Carol, while entirely devoting himself to his patriotic and democratic duties, had shown his deep affection and enlightened devotion for the valiant Roumanian people whose misfortunes had not depressed their courage or confidence. Prince Carol has very often remained several days with the troops, gaining the admiration of all for his coolness, taking a great interest in all details, and showing an extensive knowledge of technical matters. The Prince, on returning from his last inspection of the troops, expressed his satisfaction at the moral of the army and his conviction that Roumania had an army in which the country could place its entire confidence.

M. Venizelos has returned to Salonika from Crete. He had a triumphal reception in his native island, and was received with enthusiasm during a nine-days' progress through various districts where he reviewed the Cretan troops destined for the Macedonian front.

M. Gennadius, Agent to M. Venizelos' Government, was among the callers at the Foreign Office on Wednesday.

Sir Courtauld Thomson, Chief Commissioner of the British Red Cross for Malta and the Near East, has left Rome for the East.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling has returned from his visit to the Italian fronts on the Carso, Isonzo, and in Trentino.

Under date of May 22, Reuter's Petrograd correspondent reports:—Owing to the change of Government on the eve of M. Sazonoff's departure to succeed Count Benckendorff as Russian Ambassador in London, the question of a successor to the latter remained open. It is now definitely announced that M. Isvolsky, Russian Ambassador in Paris, will be the new Ambassador in London.

Admiral Sir Douglas A. Gamble, K.C.V.O., who has been placed on the retired list, at his own request, was formerly head of the British Naval Mission to Turkey. He resigned that appointment owing to ill-health, and was succeeded by Admiral Williams, who, in turn, was succeeded by Admiral Limpus.

Admiral Sir John M. de Robeck, K.C.B., who has been promoted from Rear-Admiral to Vice-Admiral, relieved Admiral Carden as Commander-in-Chief at the Dardanelles when the latter's health gave way.

Professor W. J. R. Simpson, C.M.G., vice-president of the London School of Tropical Medicine and Professor of Hygiene at King's College, London, has left for the Salonika front, where he will act as chief doctor to the Serbian Relief Fund Hospital Unit No. 6, in succession to Dr. Aldo Castellani, who has been appointed Italian representative on the International Committee of Hygiene in Paris. Professor Simpson, as a Government Commissioner, has inquired into the causes of various epidemics abroad.

It is understood that the tour of inspection which the Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan has just made, and which was the first undertaken since he assumed his new post, was in every respect most satisfactory. The demonstrations of loyalty and esteem with which he was met at every place he visited were marked with genuine enthusiasm. At each of the principal towns he visited he held a levée at which the principal sheikhs and notables of the province or district were present. To many of these he gave presents as mementoes of his visit, and at each place liberal distributions of alms were made to the poor. In all the places he saw, Major-General Stack paid special visits to the schools, where he was received with songs and addresses of welcome by the boys. His Excellency took several opportunities of conversing with both boys and masters, and his evident interest in all that the schools were doing cannot fail to be a great encouragement to all concerned in their work. He was much impressed throughout his tour by the prosperity and contentment apparent among all the communities which he met.

As the result of a special meeting held on April 25, at Omdurman, presided over by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education, a sum of over £E400 was subscribed for the Kitchener Memorial Fund. Mr. Crowfoot was assisted by Mr. A. B. B. Howell (Asst. Private Secretary), Mr. J. D. Craig (Senior Inspector, Khartoum Province), and Samuel Bey Atiyeh (of the Intelligence Department).

The *Egyptian Gazette* says:—"A local newspaper announces that Mr. Ronald Storrs, of the Residency, will shortly leave Egypt to occupy a high position in Mesopotamia, and that it is rumoured that Mr. Robb, of the Ministry of Education, will most likely be his successor owing to his knowledge of Arabic. We have not been able to obtain official confirmation of this news."

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, the late Sir Armand Ruffer sent the Minister of War of the Greek National Government a letter written in ancient Greek, in which he said: "I will keep the diploma and the medal of the National Government in order to recall to my mind the country where blooms the olive-tree of Minerva and the sacred laurel of Apollo, a symbol of wisdom and harmony." The Minister of War has ordered that the name of Sir Armand be given to a ward of all the field hospitals, and has sent a cable to Lady Ruffer announcing this decision.

Cardinal Gasparri has telegraphed to Mgr. Dolci, the Apostolic Delegate at Constantinople, to ascertain any available details about the reported capture of Mr. Bonar Law's son by the Turks in Palestine. If it is proved that the officer is among the prisoners the Apostolic Delegate is instructed to obtain from the Ottoman authorities permission to communicate with him.

Mrs. Lloyd George was unable to be present on Wednesday at a meeting held at the Holborn Restaurant of helpers and workers in connection with the Armenian Flag Day on June 13. She wrote expressing her great interest in the work and promising to help. Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory said that since the Armenian Relief Fund had been started £75,000 had been raised. A report had been received from Mr. Backhouse, their agent in the Caucasus, that the work of repatriation had already begun. The Committee immediately sent him £5,000, and another similar amount would be sent.

Miss Emily J. Robinson, hon. sec. of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, will read a paper on "Armenia and the Armenians" before the members of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society, at the Imperial Institute, on June 5, at 3 p.m. The Rt. Hon. G. W. E. Russell, LL.D., will preside.

Captain A. T. Cull, Seaforth Highlanders, attached R.F.C., a member of the Egyptian Staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, is reported missing on the 11th inst. He was heavily engaged in an aerial fight at the time, but he is known to have been a skilful pilot; so it is hoped that news may come through that he is safe though a prisoner.

An engagement is announced between Mr. J. P. McGeagh, Sherwood Foresters, attached Nigeria Regiment, second son of Dr. and Mrs. R. T. McGeagh, of Lezayre, I.O.M., and grandson of the late Sir George Morice, R.N., K.C.M.G., of Alexandria, and Evelyn, younger daughter of Mr. C. F. Boston, of Liverpool.

The marriage will take place in the autumn of Major C. Robert L. FitzGerald, D.S.O., Indian Infantry, lately attached Northumberland Fusiliers, eldest son of the late Mr. G. Beresford FitzGerald and of Mrs. FitzGerald, 14, Kensington Court Mansions, and Edith Barbara, younger daughter of Mr. Francis E. Crow, C.M.G., H.B.M. Consul, Busreh, and of Mrs. Crow, 17, Pembridge Gardens, Notting Hill Gate, W.2.

It is reported that Herr von Bethmann Hollweg, at the invitation of the Turkish Grand Vizier, will visit Constantinople and the Turkish fronts in the summer. He will also have an audience of the Sultan.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is to visit the Kaiser at main headquarters He will also visit the King of Bavaria at Munich.

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OBITUARY.

MARSHAL PUTNIK.

A Reuter's telegram from Nice announces the death in that town last week of Marshal Putnik, formerly Commander-in-Chief of the Serbian Army. He was in his seventieth year.

The son of a schoolmaster, he was born in the Shimadia district, and he was sent by his parents to the Military Academy at Petrograd, where he soon acquired quite a reputation as a brilliant student. In 1886, in the war against the Turks, he was a captain, and nine years later, in the fighting against Bulgaria, he had risen to Chief of Staff. In the Balkan wars he was in supreme command, and his great talent was largely responsible for Serbia's successes.

In the present war he was again placed in command of the Serbian forces, and at first achieved wonderful success, holding the enemy's advance up in a way that won the admiration of the world. His achievement was all the more noteworthy because he suffered from ill-health, being a victim of asthma, and he had to travel from point to point in a specially warmed carriage, which he seldom left. It may be mentioned, to Austria's credit, that on the outbreak of war Marshal Putnik was in Austria, for his health's sake, and was made prisoner, but on the personal intervention of the Emperor Franz Josef he was released.

He was a keen student of mathematics and of tactics, and was the author of several military books of repute. Before taking command of the Serbian forces in the field, he had been Minister for War, and had been very active in the work of reorganising the Army.

The death is announced, at the age of forty-three, of Dr. Webb-Jones, M.D., F.C.R.C., who had for several years practised in Egypt. The funeral, which took place on the 1st inst., was attended by practically the whole British community of Alexandria.

The death is also announced of Mr. W. Chatterton Adams, late director of the Technical School, Boulac, Cairo. Mr. Adams had been in the service of the Egyptian Government for about fourteen years. For the last few years his health had given cause for some anxiety to his friends and relatives, but it was only quite recently that he was invalided out of Government service.

It is announced that Colonel Warner Heriot, late of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry, has died at Norham-on-Tweed, aged seventy-one. The eldest son of the late Rev. George Heriot, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, he was educated at Rugby and Cambridge. He became private secretary to Musurus Pasha, who was at that time Turkish Ambassador to the Court of St. James, and in 1872 he married the Ambassador's daughter, Imaragda. A sister of Colonel Heriot married Lord Byron's grandson, Lord Wentworth.

The death has taken place at Billingshurst of Mr. Israel Harding, V.C., R.N., at the age of eighty-four years. On board the *Alexandra* he took part in the bombardment of Alexandria, during which he picked up a ten-inch shell that had penetrated the side of the ship and plunged it into a tub of water.

The Dardanelles Commissioners further considered their Report at the House of Lords last Friday.

The *Morning Post* last Friday announced that it was authorised to state that the Mesopotamia Commission Report had been signed and presented to the Government.

The Postmaster-General announced last Friday that letter mails from Northern Persia (amongst other places) had been lost at sea through enemy action. The probable dates of posting of the lost correspondence at some places is given as :—Teheran, March 12-29; Enzeli, March 15-18; Tabriz, March 17-24. The notice adds that no compensation is given by the Post Office for losses due to enemy action; and if more definite information is required the sender should apply to the office of posting.

In the course of a letter recently received, a member of our Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force writes :—"Whatever may have happened at the beginning of this campaign I can only say that our rations now are absolutely excellent, both in quantity and quality. In addition there are Expeditionary Force canteens, where all sorts of good things can be bought at cheap rates, and there are also retail ordnance stores for officers' kit, where one can buy everything one wants at pre-war contract prices! The whole show is really admirably run."

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DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

MUSTERS.—At 28, Victoria Avenue, Sliema, Malta, to Olga, wife of Lieutenant J. D. A. Musters, Royal Navy—a son.

PAXTON.—On April 30, in Cairo, the wife of B. C. Paxton, Ministry of the Interior, of a son.

MARRIAGES.

GAY—MOSS.—On April 30, at the British Consulate, Alexandria, Egypt, and afterwards at the R.C. Garrison Church, Mustapha, William George Moultrie Gay, Lieut., The Buffs, elder son of William Gay, Esq., Crowhurst Park, Battle, Sussex, to Katherine Josephine, widow of Frederick Wood Collins Moss, late Barrister-at-law, of Alexandria.

GOODE—TOWNEND.—On May 21, in Cairo, A. W. Norman Goode, Warrant Officer, A.E.F., attached to the Egyptian Survey Department, to Evelyn Mary, third daughter of the late Charles H. Townend and Mrs. Townend, of Park Lane, Carshalton.

MURRAY—KITCHENER.—On May 15, at the Brompton Oratory, by the Rev. Father Ross, Captain Terence Desmond Murray, Leinsters, eldest son of his Excellency J. H. P. Murray, C.M.G., Lieut.-Governor of Papua, and Mrs. Murray, to Philippa Chevalier, youngest daughter of the late Lieut.-General Sir Walter Kitchener, K.C.B., and Lady Kitchener. Colonial papers, please copy.

DEATH.

BARBER.—On the 18th inst., at 9, St. Albans Road, Highgate Road, N.W.5, Thomas Andrew Barber, for twenty-five years British Vice-Consul at Oran, Algeria, the eldest son of the late Thomas Barber, of East Looe, aged sixty-eight years.

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FRIDAY, MAY 25, 1917.

THE SETTLEMENT OF MESOPOTAMIA.

So long as the military operations in Mesopotamia continue they inevitably command most of the attention that can be spared to this distant theatre of war from the more exacting interest of the Western front. But British troops have been in occupation of the major part of the Busreh vilayet for nearly two years, and, with the battle line now advanced a hundred miles north of Baghdad, there has been time for the administration of the country, which at first would reflect merely the military exigencies of the moment, to conform at least in part with the needs of a permanent settlement. Some light is thrown on the subject by a correspondent who writes to *The Times* clearly with inside knowledge. The picture drawn is "the peace of Great Britain invading in the track of her armies lands to which peace had long been a stranger." For generations the vilayet had been deliberately given over by the Turks to a regime of lawlessness. Conscious of their own inability to govern it, they had adopted the policy of keeping its peoples divided amongst themselves, to obviate the risk of common cause being made against the nominal rulers. "The bonds of union which existed were consistently weakened, any sheikh who showed capacity for exercising control was countered by official hostility and intrigue, group was pitted against group, tribe against tribe, and section against section, until through the chaos which ensued neither Turkish official, nor merchant, nor traveller could secure safe passage." It was into this scene of anarchy that the British administration was introduced in July, 1915, with the occupation of Nasiriyeh and Suk-es-Sheyukh on the Euphrates, west of Kurna. In spite of the difficulties of the position, and of the necessity of imposing on the inhabitants certain military measures, such as an embargo on goods passing to the enemy, the reports of local political officers, we are told, bear witness to the satisfactory nature of the results achieved. "Influential headmen have received recognition, and been made responsible for their communities. Arbitration on the basis of tribal custom is encouraged; petty disputes over boundaries are adjusted, and, with the help of sheikh and sayed, blood feuds are adjudicated and squabbles peacefully settled. Schools and dispensaries are being instituted and are eagerly welcomed, and a beginning has been made in the collection of revenue."

The Arab has not been slow to appreciate the advantages of the new order. His views on its moral aspect may not be strictly orthodox; but when moral and material progress go hand in hand, he is practical enough to accept the first in order to attain the second. Abundant and well remunerated employment both in the towns and in the country districts has more than compensated him for the disabilities arising from the war—the lack of river transport, a shortage of imported wares, the blockade and the enhanced price of living. Not the least important factor in the situation is railway construction—an invaluable aid in the settlement of all undeveloped countries. A statement quoted from a recent report from a district on the Euphrates illustrates the point: "The gradual progress of the railway is having a wonderfully calming effect. Perhaps more than anything else the advent of the line has quieted the tribes. The change from their almost openly hostile attitude last March (1916) has been remarkable. The permits issued to Arabs to travel by rail to Busreh did good. Many townsmen and tribesmen have ridden out to railhead on a visit of inspection, and all came back impressed." A railway, however, is not only a civilizing influence; in a country of great distances it may also bring with it a sense of solidarity, of a community of interests, which was altogether lacking in the era of slow and precarious communications. Attention has already been given to the connection between the advent of railways and the growth of the spirit of nationality. The Austro-Hungarian Government had divined something of the tendency at work, when it set itself so to develop its railway system that it should be of the least value to those parts of the Monarchy where it was anxious to see the influence of the natural barriers maintained. Those who despair of securing unity in the Arab world may pause to weigh the possibilities of the introduction of rapid communication into these parts. Again, as it is to Great Britain's interests to see settled conditions established from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, that, in the words of the Proclamation to the people of the Baghdad vilayet, "the Arab race may rise once more to greatness and renown among the peoples of the earth, and that it shall bind itself together to this end in unity and concord," one of the first cares of the new administration should be to direct its railway policy not only to promote commercial prosperity, but also with an eye to the solidarity of the Arab race. From El Arish on the west and Kurna on the east the twin steel rails are heading boldly towards the intervening desert. For the moment there may be little intention of continuing them along the same latitude in order that they may meet, inasmuch as commercial considerations will require them to be deflected in order to tap more prosperous districts. But while the latter course calls for no vision, the former would testify to confidence on the part of Great Britain in the future of a people whose destinies this war has unexpectedly placed in her hands.

In addition to railways, irrigation work must also be taken in hand at the earliest moment. The absence of a large agricultural population may be held to render the financial success of big schemes problematical; but apart from the encouragement that settled conditions will give to the people to turn to agriculture—hitherto always at a discount, as it exposed the labourer to the exactions of the Turkish taxpayer—we have to reckon on the probable effect of the gradual extension of law and order among the purely nomadic tribes. Lacking the incentive to regard their neighbours as actual or potential enemies, they will also be brought into touch with the material advantages of the new regime, and each year will find them sending their quota from the desert to the land of plenty. At this stage it is hardly necessary to insist that nothing in these plans clashes with the principle of nationality which is being cited so freely these days as a handmaid of German propaganda. The Turk is an intruder in Lower Mesopotamia. His ejection will free the Arabs who have long resented his rule; and although a plebiscite might show a desire on the part of the people as a whole to be left entirely to their own devices, the interests of the world's peace—no less an object of the present war than the principle of nationality—require the retention of such authority as will enable the Arabs to be trained in the science of self-government without danger to the tranquillity and economic development of the country.

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THE BAHARIA OASES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Not long ago Mr. Morcos Sidaros was kind enough to lend me the manuscript of a book in which he had described the Baharia Oases, their orchards, springs, monuments, and the life and customs of the inhabitants. As a Government official, the author had exceptional opportunities of gathering full and accurate data during a stay of a year in those outlandish parts; and his manuscript was, I found, of extraordinary interest.

The recent occupation of these oases by the British Forces has served to attract widespread attention to them; and in view of these circumstances some extracts from Mr. Sidaros's work will, I hope, be welcome to many readers.

An account of oasis life has always a peculiar interest; but when, as in this case, the oases described form centres of Senussi influence and teaching, such interest is greatly enhanced. It is noteworthy that up to the time these notes were made by their author, the influence of the Senussi was exercised exclusively along religious lines. The following account of some dealings which the author happened to have with a German so-called archæologist may serve to throw some light on the later development of that influence along political lines, which, under Turco-German intrigue, gradually led to the militant campaign that this sect carried on, first against the Italians and then against the Allies.

In the latter part of 1913 a party of Germans, said to be delegated by certain scientific societies, arrived in Egypt, with special recommendations from the German Government to their representatives, to afford them every possible facility and help in their research. In May, 1914, the author happened to meet a German who complained of having been swindled to the amount of £40 by a native, the latter having undertaken to guide him to Jaghabub, the Senussi stronghold, and failed to do so. He gave as his name Paul Burkhardt Batouta, and declared that he had embraced Islam, as he had the conviction that he was a descendant of the great Arab traveller and historian, Ibn Batouta. He said he was an officer in the German Army on the retired list, although he looked hardly over twenty-five years of age, and that he belonged to the German scientific mission. He had asked Lamloum Bey el Sa'di to provide him with an escort to Jaghabub, but the latter had declined, explaining to him the great risks of such a journey—especially at that time, when the Senussi was at war with the Italians—and that the fact of his having embraced Islam would not be likely to afford him any protection, on account of his being a German and Germany being (then) the ally of Italy. Herr Paul had, therefore, to be satisfied with the less ambitious trip to the Baharia Oases. He evinced special interest on learning of the book written about these oases, but expressed keen disappointment and regret when he was told that it was written in Arabic, which language he did not know. He was specially interested to learn that his interlocutor had taken another route from that which he had himself followed, and his interest developed into astonishment when he was further told that there are at least six other routes leading to these oases from the *mudirieh* of Minieh, besides two or three routes from the Fayoum, and others from Assiut. When he learned that a detailed description of the route was given in the preface of the book, he was quick to suggest that, since it was not yet published, it should at least be submitted to the Khedivial Geographical Society; and at once volunteered an introduction to Professor Schweinfuth, who, despite his age, had come out to Egypt to assist and direct the Mission. The Professor was one of the founders of the society, and he would be able to help in arranging for a lecture in French about the book, and especially that part dealing with the description of the desert route, to be delivered in the hall of the society. The Professor, in fact, recommended to the society not only to arrange for the delivery of the lecture, but also to help in printing the book at its own expense. He, also, was careful to recommend that the lecture should deal especially with a full description of the desert route, representing that this was of particular importance to travellers and scientific men, engaged in archæological research. The secretary of the society very kindly promised to comply with the Professor's recommendations; but as the lecture was to be delivered in French, and further time was required for the issue of invitation tickets, it was proposed to postpone the matter till after the summer vacation. Meantime, the war broke out and interfered with these, as with so many other, more important, arrangements.

It will be noticed that both of these German so-called scientists attached much more importance to the preface, embodying a description of the desert trip, than to the book itself, which, from a purely literary and scientific standpoint, has a far greater value and interest. My excuse for giving such a detailed account of these transactions is that they afford a further illustration of the Germans' method of gathering information of military value under the cloak of science.

Of all the routes leading to the Baharia Oases, the one followed by the author is the shortest and most practicable. It is called Darb el Asasawi, and starts from the village Al Messeed, Markaz Meghagha, taking, all along, a westerly direction. Camels, not dromedaries, were engaged for this trip, and the fact that as many as sixteen of them were required, one-half to carry the official, his servant and their baggage, and the other half to carry the water skins, shows how awkward and expensive is the present primitive means of communication with these oases. The whole distance is a waterless waste, which, at the slow camel pace, cannot be traversed in less than fifty-two hours, assuming, as in the case of the said official, that, in the four days' trip, an average travelling of twelve hours, out of the twenty-four, was done, meals being taken on camel back.

Along this route, mounds and dunes, rocks and gullies are met with, to which the Arabs have given special names, illustrative of an historical event, or legendary story. The following are those deserving special mention:—(1) A mound reached on the second day of the journey, and called El Balad el Kherba ("the ruined town"), in which a mass of broken pottery is to be seen, evidently remains of an old town whose existence in this arid desert spot opens up a field of speculation to the historian and scientist; (2) a gulley (wady), reached on the third day of the journey, and called Wady el Talh, where wild shrubs and trees grow; (3) the dry bed of a river called El Bahr (river), from the description of which it may be deducted that it used to be the canal through which the waters of the Nile even once led, to be stored in Lake Karun, Fayoum.

The Baharia Oases are encircled by a line of hillocks broken at intervals by passes that lead to the oases, thus forming a sort of natural defence. These hillocks rise above the surrounding country to a height of about 200 metres. Within this girdle of low hills lies a stretch of land mixed with pebbles of a variety of colours, in which red, yellow, and black predominate, with certain elevations, whence gush forth the springs that irrigate the rich patches of land that form the oases. The following order invariably obtains in the division of these cultivated lands: first comes the part containing the dwelling-houses, stretching from the southern limit northward; then the palm groves and orchards, where fruit trees are left to grow in wild confusion; and, finally, northward still, the fields where different kinds of grain are sown, rice for the summer crop, and wheat and berseem for the winter crop. These fields end generally in a sort of depression into which the surplus water flows, and which is bounded to the north by gradually rising hillocks of fine yellow sand. This order is determined by natural causes. The people built their houses first, next to the springs, to secure control of their waters and its distribution, and the facility of supply for domestic requirements: then they laid out the palm groves and orchards, so as to ensure for them an abundant and handy supply of water, since dates and olives, and olive oil, form the staple products constituting their chief revenue; and finally, the fields to grow the grain destined only for local consumption.

Each plot of land cultivated in the above-mentioned order is called by the oases people a *hatiya*, and these *hatiyas* are fairly numerous. Thus in Nahiet el Qasr there are about seventeen, besides those of Al Hayuz—a sort of secondary group; and in Nahiet el Baweety there are two, one of which belongs to the secondary group just mentioned; while Nahiet Mandeesha comprises twenty-three *hatiyas*, and Nahiet el Zebu eight *hatiyas*. These latter are detached from the principal group of *hatiyas* which constitute the chief wealth of the oases. While the orchards in each Nahiet have their respective limits well defined, there are two large patches of open land which are owned conjointly by

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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Nahiets el Qasr and el Baweety, one being used for growing rice in summer, and the other for growing wheat in winter.

All the cultivated land is irrigated by the water of the springs. As these springs stand on a higher level than that of the irrigated lands, the work of canalisation is facilitated by the force of gravitation and necessitates no mechanical appliances. The Baharia springs may be divided into two categories—the natural and the artificial. The first-named are those whose waters are driven to the surface according to the law of water seeking its level aided by two factors—viz., the nature of the geological formations—strata of porous soil and the proximity of a number of subterranean streamlets formed of infiltrations, which on meeting together acquire sufficient impetus not only to overcome the resistance of the overlying soil, but also to rise to the surface, with considerable momentum, a fact which distinguishes them from the artificial springs which will be described hereafter. The natural springs are by far the most important on account of their comparatively large volume of surface water, which constitutes the chief supply of the oases. The largest of these springs is Ain-el-Beshmu, known also by the name of Dardeer, which lies at the boundary separating the chief villages of El Qasr and El Baweety, and at the extremity of a rocky layer extending beneath some of the dwelling-houses of these villages, and ending at its northern extremity in a sort of a gorge about 100 metres long, 20 metres wide, and about as many high. This spring originates in two sources, about 25 metres apart, which burst out of a sandy layer underneath the rocky one just mentioned, and finally flows through the said gorge.

A remarkable phenomenon is that while the water of one of these sources is cold that of the other is hot, the difference of temperature between the two being 10 degrees. The cold water holds in suspension a kind of reddish earth, which is triturated and carried up from the depths of the soil in the course of its upward rush to the surface; while the hot water contains a sort of whitish sand. The joined waters of these two sources flow through mounds of sand and stone at the bed of the gorge until they reach the canals leading to the agricultural lands. The volume of water supplied by these double springs is estimated to be equal to that of a subsidiary canal of the Nile. The flow of this water is continuous and unabated day and night.

The artificial springs are those whose waters have been brought up to the surface by some of the industrious inhabitants of the oases digging through the rocky strata that lie on the surface, when the subterranean waters, held hitherto under them, are freed, and flow over the lower part of these rocky layers. As, however, there is not sufficient force to drive them up to the surface of the shaft a passage, leading gradually down through the earth until it opens out on the surface of the lower ground, is cut through, and in it the accumulated waters of subterranean infiltrations flow. These springs are, however, rather feeble, owing to improper subterranean canalisation, and are liable to be choked up through sandy accumulations, which, when not removed by the lazy owners, lead to the complete drying up of the springs, and, as a natural consequence, to the ruin of the cultivated lands which used to be supplied by them. By careful and watchful attendance to one of these artificial springs some industrious people of El Qasr have been able to reclaim as many as 5,000 feddans of land.

Each of the *hatiyas* aforementioned has a spring which bears its name. Besides these springs, there are many others. Thus in Nahiet El Qasr there are fifteen of them, besides a quarter of the powerful spring of El Beshmu, already described; while Nahiet el Baweety owns thirteen such springs, besides three-quarters of the waters of the spring El Beshmu. These springs serve to irrigate only the date groves and orchards, while the abundant waters of El Beshmu spring are mainly utilised for irrigating the grain fields lying further to the north of the orchards, only a small part being used for watering the date groves and orchards.

In Nahiet Mandeeshy there are, besides the springs which bear the names of their respective *hatiyas*, seven other springs, of which the largest is Ain Hamra; all of these irrigate the date groves and orchards. As to Hatiyat el Haret, which forms part of Nahiet Mandeeshy, there are five springs in it, which serve to irrigate both the orchards and grain fields; while in Nahiet el Zebu there are six such springs, which also serve to irrigate both the orchards and *hatiyas* pertaining thereto.

It is to be observed that the surplus water that exceeds the needs of the *hatiyas*, and cannot be utilised in other low-lying lands whose soil is unfit for cultivation, flows into the depression already mentioned, and forms there a stagnant pool, which serves as a breeding-place for mosquitoes, some of which are of the malaria-bearing species. Had it not been for the unusually dry desert air and the intense equatorial heat of summer, which cause rapid evaporation, the danger to the public health of these oases would have been greater than it is at present. In certain seasons birds of passage flock in large numbers to this pool, and the oases people contrive certain ambushes from which they shoot down the tired and unsuspecting birds.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY JOSEPH OFFORD.

In 1915 Monsieur Clédat, who supervises the search for antiquities in the neighbourhood of the Suez Canal and eastward to the Palestine boundary, published in the *Recueil de Travaux* a small object made of stone, the usage of which he was uncertain about. It proves to be a Gnomon, or shadow clock, and two Egyptologists, MM. Henri Sottos and Charles Kuentz, have published a description of the apparatus. This is so scientifically constructed as to be available as a fair computer of the time for a whole year. It is also sufficiently accurate astronomically for these savants to prove that it was made to be used in the latter part of the fourth or early part of the third century B.C. This is not the place for giving details of its construction and the lines and symbols placed upon it, together with a list of the Egyptian month names which is engraved upon the face of one of the stones making up the Gnomon: that upon which the shadow fell. It may, however, be mentioned that in order to enable a user to know that the shadow producing stele was absolutely vertical, there was a projection upon one side of it for the suspension of a plummet line. This utilisation of a plummet as indicator of accuracy was developed at a most primitive period in Egypt, because it may be seen attached to the scales, used for weighing the heart, or deeds, of the dead at the judgment seat of Osiris as depicted in vignettes which illustrate the "Book of the Dead." The Gnomon of this type is also used as one of the pictorial hieroglyphs determinative of the word for hour.

Sir Hanbury Brown, K.C.M.G., in the *Journal of Egyptian Archæology*, has been giving his views upon the historical "record" of some of the earlier wars of the Pharaoh Menepthah, which contains a reference to a defeat of Israelites. Although hitherto this inscription has not been considered as an allusion to the events of the Hebrew Exodus, Sir Hanbury thinks otherwise, and that it is really the Egyptian Annalistic report of that occurrence. He quotes from the 6th Anastasi papyrus, which dates from the eighth year of Menepthah, the account of Shasu nomads being allowed to dwell in Goshen, as proving that by this time the Israelites could no longer have been there, and well summarises the other evidence. One point that he makes is very interesting: while for the other tribes, or places, Menepthah boasts of conquering the usual determinative sign for a country or district is appended, for Israel, for some particular cause, this is omitted. He considers that reason to have been because they had disappeared into the wilderness, and so did not possess any locality as a people. The portion of the text referring to Syria does not indicate in any way the geographical direction in which the list is made up; it merely appears to enumerate the surrender of the various enemies in the order of their submission, Israel coming fourth upon the Asiatic catalogue.

Owing to the war, reports of discoveries in Egypt are belated, chiefly because of the difficulty of printing the journals in which they appear. In the *Annales* of the Cairo Museum we now have from Ahmed Bey Kamal an account of the exploration of the magnificent tomb at Meir, whose existence was disclosed quite accidentally just about the time when Sir Gaston Maspero left Egypt. This proves to be one of the finest sepulchres known of the early era of the sixth dynasty. Its owner's name was Pepi-onkh-her-ab, and he was a priest of the goddess Hathor of Cusae. So numerous are the tableaux and texts in the tomb that nearly fifty pages of the journal are occupied with a summary of them. Many of the scenes of farming, agriculture, hunting, and so forth, are similar to those in other grave chambers and passages; also the copy of the menu at the funeral banquet, and the list of all its constituents are of the usual kind. But one hall contains four specially fine and realistic representations of Nile boats which will be often used to illustrate nautical matters at this primitive period.

The smaller of these two barques has two steering sculls and what seems to be a tame lion cub, or cheetah, on board, standing close to the owner, or captain, upon the cabin roof. In addition to a few sailors, there is shown a row of ten men, whose heads only just project above the ship's side. They may be either servants or passengers, slaves, or part of the crew. Probably they were for use as tow rope toilers when the wind failed. Two other boats are for rowers only, with awnings instead of cabins, and the fourth is of smaller size. One other tableau should be mentioned because it is so particularly well done and well preserved. It shows the side show entertainment at a feast, and depicts a man playing upon a flute, and two young lady harpists coiffured as "flappers," with the hair tied up in a ball at the end, and two men playing at draughts with pieces of two various shapes. The tomb had been rifled by robbers many centuries ago, and so the jewellery and vestments and finer vases were absent.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Progress in Mesopotamia.

On Saturday *The Times* published an article, "British Work in Mesopotamia," written by a correspondent in that region, and dealing with some of the good work done by British political officers. The article begins:—

The history of the Mesopotamian campaign has a double aspect. Side by side with the tale of conquest by arms runs the story of victories no less renowned, the peace of Great Britain invading in the track of her armies lands to which peace had long been a stranger. Before the smoke of conflict has lifted, within hearing of the guns, the work of reconstruction has been initiated.

In the days of Turkish dominance the entire region presented what the writer well describes as "a comprehensive picture of lawlessness," and it was Turkish policy to "rule" the Arabs by setting one against the other and carefully heading off any attempt at union. The Arabs, of course, passed their time largely in fighting and intriguing one against the other. The article goes on to say:—

Into this prevailing anarchy, enhanced if possible by European war, the British administration entered with the occupation of Nasiriyeh and Suk-es-Shuyukh in July, 1915. To north and south the Turks and their adherents were ready to tempt the tribes with bribes and promises; military needs imposed measures, such as the blockade of goods passing to the enemy, which were galling to the population, and, apart from circumstances connected with the war, the habit of social order is a delicate plant to rear Yet the periodical reports of local political officers bear witness to the wisdom of the measures adopted, and to the results which they have achieved. Influential headmen have received recognition and been made responsible for their communities. Arbitration on the basis of tribal custom is encouraged; petty disputes over boundaries are adjusted, and, with the help of Sheikh and Saiyid, blood feuds are adjudicated and squabbles peacefully settled. Schools and dispensaries are being instituted and are eagerly welcomed, and a beginning has been made in the collection of revenue.

It is gratifying to learn that the political officers have in many cases already won the goodwill and confidence of the natives:—

That the political officers in all parts of the occupied territories have been skilful in exercising a happy combination of force, patience and persuasion is shown by the personal friendship and confidence which exists between them and many of the Sheikhs with whom they have to deal. Not least among the elements of persuasion are the constructive works which have been undertaken, mainly for military purposes, along both rivers. A recent report from a district on the Euphrates says:—"The gradual progress of the railway is having a wonderfully calming effect. Perhaps more than anything else the advent of the line has quieted the tribes. The change from their almost openly hostile attitude last March has been remarkable. The permits issued to Arabs to travel by rail to Basra did good. Many townsmen and tribesmen have ridden out to railhead on a visit of inspection, and all came back impressed."

Ctesiphon: 1915.

The May *Blackwood* is of extreme interest to all who are following the operations in Mesopotamia, for it contains, besides the second part of "Besieged in Kut—and After," a vivid account of the fighting at Ctesiphon in 1915, written by "El Hamran." From the latter article we take this description of the fighting in the neighbourhood of the famous "Arch" of Khosroes palace:—

There were bunches of men, British and Indian, mixed together, irrespective of regiments. Some of these were firing over the bank of the ditch at an invisible enemy entrenched 150 yards away; many lay huddled up—the battle for them was over; others held the heads of wounded men above the rapidly rising tide of muddy water, now coloured with shifting streaks and flecks of red.

Twenty yards in rear of the ditch shells from a heavy howitzer were dropping at regular intervals, shaking the ground and sending up black columns of earth and smoke. So it went on.

But, by degrees, the crack of the rifles became less frequent; ammunition was running short, and no man had more than a few rounds left, although the dead and wounded, as their numbers increased, contributed to those who could still use their rifles.

A Sikh slammed back the bolt of his rifle and pressed a fresh charger into the magazine; he smiled as he poked his rifle over the bank, and with infinite caution raised his head; but before he could fire there was a thud, and he slipped slowly down the bank, turned over with a grotesque sprawl, and disappeared in the muddy water. A British soldier crawled to the spot and tried to lift him; another turned and looked. "'E's all right, poor blighter! Copped it in the 'ead, so you may as well let him stop; but give us 'is rounds." And the two divided the dead Sikh's remaining cartridges.

And here is a passage describing the transport of some of the wounded from the trenches, in which they had been sheltered, more or less, from the Turkish fire, to the boat that was dignified by the name of "Hospital Ship":—

The surfaces of the deserts vary; the surface of this particular desert, or of this part of it, may best be likened to that of ploughed fields baked hard to the consistency of concrete, and intersected every 200 to 300 yards by channels and nullahs. The springless iron carts bumped and jarred over the rough surface, and jolted into and out of the ditches; now and then the ponies broke into a bucketing trot. On their backs on the bottom of the carts lay the worst cases, while all who could possibly manage it were sitting huddled against the stretchers, clinging as best they could to the iron sides. The carts rattled and bumped and jarred; for the first few hundred yards (and *that* seemed eternity) the men stuck it, but before a mile was covered there arose from that slow procession sounds that are best forgotten.

There were endless delays and frequent stoppages—sometimes it was to pick up wounded men crawling over the desert who had somehow missed the stretcher-bearers; sometimes a man would give out and drop limply from the cart, unable to hold on any longer; at last, when twelve miles had been covered, the river and the Hospital Ship were reached.

Unhappily, that was not the end of their sufferings. But for the rest of the story the reader must refer to *Blackwood's* itself.

Bulgaria Under War Conditions.

A correspondent contributes to the *Manchester Guardian* (May 21) an article entitled "How It Goes in Bulgaria," which gives quite a rosy picture of the state of that country. "Of all the countries of the Central Alliance," says the writer, "Bulgaria has been the least affected by the war":—

Not only has her soil not been invaded, but her armies have occupied and are holding territories which even the most extreme of Bulgarian chauvinists has never thought of claiming. If participation in the European war was highly unpopular, it must be admitted that the occupation of the whole of Macedonia has done much to dispel the serious misgivings with which the people viewed King Ferdinand's policy. Their ardour found a further incentive in the war against Rumania, which was exceedingly popular, for the Bulgarians had not forgotten the attitude of their Rumanian neighbours during 1913.

The peasant population of Bulgaria, which forms 80 per cent. of the total, has undergone few privations, while on the other hand it has greatly profited by the increase in the prices of agricultural produce. Representatives of the German Food Bureau have been over-running the country and buying all foodstuffs at prices unheard of previously, and the thrifty Bulgarian has taken full advantage of the opportunities offered him. The ensuing prosperity can be gauged from the returns of the savings banks during 1916. Deposits reached 55 million francs, a figure far surpassing all records. Although the export of foodstuffs is prohibited, smuggling has been carried out to such an extent that even stocks of cereals have become depleted, and the Government has been obliged to order a search of all farmsteads and the requisitioning of hidden stocks of grain in order to assure the subsistence of the military and civil population. The Germans have conciliated the peasant population also by helping to build light railways in outlying districts, constructing roads, furnishing motor-ploughs, and tilling free of cost the farms of those peasant families whose men were at the front. Of course, all these things were not done for the purpose of placating the Bulgarians, but for military reasons that can be easily understood. Nevertheless, they have contributed to allay the hatred of the "Schwaba," common to all Slav people, the Bulgarians not excepted.

Nevertheless, the Germans do not appear to be entirely welcome guests, at any rate in the capital:—

The number of Germans in Sofia has greatly increased. Hotels are crowded, and housing accommodation is inadequate to lodge these uninvited guests. They seem to dispose of everything at their will. They even had the effrontery to commandeer some of the premises in which the Sofia University was lodged, and did not seem to be affected by the protests that the public raised. A big committee of German officers is permanently sitting at the Ministry of War, and to all intents and purposes seem to be in control of the military operations and of the railways and telegraphs. So considerable is the number of German officers that a big building has been transformed for their convenience into a German military club.

America and Armenia.

The *Independent* (New York) contains an article, "Our Ally Armenia," which suggests an idea that many people in the Old World, as well as in the New, would like to see put into practice. The writer begins by saying that since the Russian Revolution overthrew the "hateful autocracy" which was "the Achilles heel of the Grand Alliance," there is not one of the nations with which America is now associated of which Americans need be ashamed or distrustful. But, he continues, we must remember that there are other allies than those nations which march to the front under their own flags . . . these are the submerged, half-forgotten peoples who cannot stand in their own strength to fight the Central Powers, but have the best of reasons for wishing the victory of the Grand Alliance. The article continues:—

When we read of the sack of a Belgian or Polish village we are rightly stirred with pity and indignation, but what shall be said of the Government which drove more than half a million men, women and children from their homes to perish in the desert? American soldiers will be sent, of course, to whatever field of action where they can best assist the general cause; but we confess that we should like, for reasons of pure sentiment, to see the American flag floating by some new-chosen banner of a free Armenia on the hills of Asia Minor. In view of the long service of thousands of American teachers, doctors, and missionaries in that neglected corner of the world, it could scarcely be matter for surprise if our people should single out from the leagued nations afflicted Armenia as the particular ally and protégé of the United States.

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Palestine and the Jews.

In view of the statements and discussions recently published relative to a projected Jewish settlement in Palestine on a national basis, the Conjoint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association have circulated to the Press the views they hold.

Since the dawn of their political emancipation in Europe, the Jews have made the rehabilitation of the Jewish community in the Holy Land one of their chief cares, and they have always cherished the hope that the result of their labours would be the regeneration on Palestian soil of a Jewish community, worthy of the great memories of their environment, and a source of spiritual inspiration to the whole of Jewry. Accordingly, the Conjoint Committee have welcomed with deep satisfaction the prospect of a rich fruition of this work, opened to them by the victorious progress of the British Army in Palestine.

The Committee intimated to the Zionist organisations as far back as the winter of 1914 their readiness to co-operate with them on the basis of the so-called "cultural" policy which had been adopted at the last two Zionist Congresses in 1911 and 1913. This policy aimed primarily at making Palestine a Jewish spiritual centre by securing for the local Jews, and the colonists who might join them, such conditions of life as would best enable them to develop the Jewish genius on lines of its own. Unfortunately, an agreement on these lines has not proved practicable, and the Conjoint Committee are consequently compelled to pursue their work alone on the basis that "the Jewish population will be secured in the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty, equal political rights with the rest of the population, reasonable facilities for immigration and colonisation, and such municipal privileges in the towns and colonies inhabited by them as may be shown to be necessary."

The Conjoint Committee does not approve of the Zionist leaders' claim that the Jewish settlements in Palestine should be recognised as preserving a national character in a political sense, nor the proposal to invest the Jewish settlers in Palestine with certain special rights in excess of those enjoyed by the rest of the population.

Our Fighting Friends.

In the *War Illustrated* Mr. H. Charles Woods draws an interesting pen-portrait of "The Serbian as I Know Him."

If we wish to understand anything of the depth and power of the character of the Serbian soldier it is a primary necessity that we should recognise that the army is the nation and the nation is the army. The true spirit of the people is seen not among the politicians and townsmen, but in the personalities of the peasants and country folk who constitute the backbone of the race and make up the army. Possessed of the strength of lions and the hearts of children, their lives, thoughts and actions are influenced by the traditions, proverbs and national customs according to which they have been brought up.

Partly as a result of the patriarchal or communal system, according to which large families live together in one homestead, the people are affectionate, simple and kind-hearted. Patriotic, of course, they are, but patriotism in Serbia means not so much love of king and country as absolute adoration of home, village and friends.

The character of the Serbian soldier may be described by saying simply that he is a hero, a born fighter, and a fatalist, or it may be dwelt upon in an account that would fill many pages.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The appointment of Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, Sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, to be the first general manager of the British Trade Bank, or, to give the institution its authorised title, the British Trade Corporation, is not only a tribute to Mr. Dickson himself, but to Egypt. I have heard some criticism of the appointment on the ground that the great bulk of Mr. Dickson's experience has been gained in the Near East. Well, that is so, but it would have been impossible to have secured a man whose banking and financial experience embraced all the world, and, that being the case, no better appointment than Mr. Dickson could have been made.

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Mr. Dickson began his career in the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and, after a year's training in the London office of that famous concern, went East, where he filled various posts in the bank in different parts of Turkey. The British authorities recognised his great abilities and appointed him Financial Adviser at Candia; later, he joined the Ionian Bank, in which he held the most important posts in Greece, and afterwards went over to the National Bank of Egypt. In Egypt Mr. Dickson has long been regarded as a pillar of finance and commerce, and there is no doubt that many companies in the Land of the Nile owe their existence to-day to his sound judgment and wise and fostering care.

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It ought not to be necessary to point out that the Near East, after the war, will present as great trade and commercial problems to the British manufacturer and merchant as any region in the world, and that, of course, is one of the reasons why I regard Mr. Dickson's appointment as being so satisfactory. None has a greater knowledge than he of the complicated and peculiar conditions that prevail out there, and British traders may rely on it that their interests will be safe in his hands. Lord Faringdon and his colleagues have done well in this their initial appointment, and if they continue to choose as wisely all will be well with the corporation and the interests which it has been established to represent.

***

The corporation has been in the public eye and ear a great deal lately. Some weeks ago the fear was expressed that one of its principal objects would involve competition with the many excellent exchange banks already operating in the Empire, and it was suggested that owing to that fact it would not receive the financial backing from the banks which had been anticipated. In the last week or two the first necessary million of capital has been subscribed, and a considerable portion of it, if not all, has come from London banks. This point ought to be made clear because, if the money has been found by them, as the City Editor of the *Morning Post* points out, the fact will give a lead to investors, and, moreover, will dispose of the fear I have referred to. A more recent allegation was that the corporation is to be invested with all the privileges of monopolists. If that charge had been true, or even only partly true, it would have been a serious matter. It has been specifically denied, however, and in such a way as to be convincing.

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The official returns of British vessels sunk by enemy submarines in the week ended on last Sunday leaves us very much where we were before. In the previous week, it will be recalled, the amended figures were:—Ships under 1,600 tons sunk, 5; over 1,600 tons, 17; unsuccessfully attacked, 14; total, 36. The figures this week are:—Ships under 1,600 tons sunk, 9; over 1,600 tons, 18; unsuccessfully attacked, 9; total, 36. At first sight this may seem satisfactory; but reflection will show that in proportion to the number of attacks more vessels have been lost, which, in view of all the optimistic estimates we have had lately, is not so rosy, after all. We are still without any information regarding the loss of tonnage, and, to judge from Sir Edward Carson's recent statement, we shall have to "carry on" patiently without it. After all, I suppose, we must assume that the Admiralty, which is responsible to the nation, must be allowed to know best.

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A Greek correspondent informs me that the plight of tobacco merchants in Egypt is to be relieved. It is stated on very good authority that some time ago an arrangement was reached with the Venizelist Government that three Greek ships, belonging to the MacDowall Company, should leave Volo for Alexandria with full cargoes of tobacco, and that they should be convoyed by naval craft. If my information is correct—and I believe it is—some of the much-wanted weed is already in the possession of the importers in Egypt.

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I am glad to see that the authorities in Egypt are checking the activities of those who trade with the enemy. Judge Kershaw has decided in the charges against Adolph Stross, and as he has convicted on certain of the counts, and imposed the pretty smart fine of £E1,000, there is little room for comment. The charges brought against Ch. Geahel and Pharaon were dismissed, but in another case a native was fined £E25 and warned to be more careful. I have read all the Egyptian proclamations regarding trading with the enemy, and see no reason why the simplest man need err. The matter is important, and I hope the authorities will continue to keep a watchful eye on it.

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Sane Germans are awaking to the fact that the money which they have lent to Turkey is in some danger of being lost. Writing in the May number of the *Preussische Jahrbücher*, Herr Emil Zimmermann declares that unless that adequate flank protection is secured in Africa—which he appears to make the equivalent of the *status quo ante*—"Nearer Asiatic Turkey has no vitality. *Without this protection the money which we have advanced to Turkey during the war is lost.*" (The italics are Herr Zimmermann's.) "The sum involved is already nearly £T150,000,000. Turkey can never repay this sum if there arises in Africa a great self-contained British Empire, which, in order to be united with India, will continue to aim at the possession of Arabia and Southern Persia."

According to the translation of this frank article in *The Times*, Herr Zimmermann declares that "the great English Empires about the Indian Ocean will make their own policy, and a great British Empire in Africa will easily be able, after fifteen or twenty years, to mobilise a million men. Turkey will be protected from attacks from this side only if a great German Colonial Empire in Africa holds Anglo-African ambitions in check. Nearer Asia cannot continue to exist without this covering of its flank. That is the meaning of the German colonial question." If that *is* the meaning of the German colonial question, no banker who operates on common sense and prudent lines would regard Germany's £T150,000,000 as very sound security.

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Three per cent. above the average does not represent a great quantity in bulk, perhaps, but the fact that official estimates of the Egyptian wheat and barley crops give that increase has been received in this country with much satisfaction. The world's supply will be very much on the short side this year; indeed, despite the acute food situation in this country. Italy has already had to appeal for wheat and substitutes, and, of course, the British authorities are proud to extend all the help they can. It is not possible to say definitely what form the assistance will take, but Lord Devonport, the Food Controller, has undertaken to do his best to meet Italian requirements, so that even the smallest additional aid from our oversea friends will be more than welcome.

***

Mr. C. W. Twelves, in a lecture before the Sultania Society of Economics, Statistics, and Legislation on the subject of "The Internal Trade of Egypt," indicted commission agents in the country with dishonesty. He quoted an Egyptian merchant as his authority, but disagreed that legislative intervention was necessary, at least for the present. He expressed the view that those who deal with the agents could exclude the "crooked" man and make honesty all the more profitable to the "straight" one. That is possible, of course, assuming that merchants and dealers could be induced to combine closely enough to impose conditions in a special form of contract; but would they be prepared to do so? The combination would have to be complete to be successful, and in every country there are always to be found men who prefer to retain absolute independence of action. The matter is none the less important, and should be taken in hand without delay.

COMMENTATOR.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

A Small Refuse Destructor.

Some time ago reference was made in these columns to a system of refuse destruction, used with success by a number of local authorities in England, and in France; and the writer pointed out the advisability of using similar means for the destruction of town refuse in certain large towns in the Near East, instead of dumping it over the outskirts of towns, thus endangering the health of the inhabitants. It has been stated recently that the question was discussed by a town corporation, but, owing to the cost, which was considered as beyond the means of the corporation, the matter was set aside. As the need seems to be pressing, and the danger arising from accumulation of refuse has been admitted, and as the hot season approaches, it may be as well to procure another destructor, of small size, which can easily be obtained and fixed quickly where needed. One of its leading features is that it is mounted on a circular track in such a way that, by means of suitable handles, it can easily be turned round to such a position that its large air inlet faces the wind, thus rendering the destruction of the refuse much easier than would otherwise be the case. The casing of the furnace is a strong square casting, into which is dropped a massive liner, or fire-box, provision being made for the free circulation of cold air between the casing and the firebox. The bottom grate is of a special shape to increase combustion, and can be tilted upright for the discharge of ashes. The chimney is from 8 ft. to 10 ft. high, and can easily be cleaned. One or two pairs used regularly are sufficient for a small town.

Land Reclamation in Egypt.

Commenting on Sir William Willcocks's suggestions regarding the reclamation of waste land in Egypt, a correspondent who, apparently, differs on some points, writing to an Egyptian paper, states that there are many other factors in the problem which require careful study and elucidation before reclamation can be regarded as anything more than an adventure; he suggests that it would be wiser for the Government to continue to devote its attention to irrigation and drainage, and to leave the completion of reclamation to the adventurer. The correspondent calls the attention of Sir William and others to what is "to his mind one of the most important questions in land reclamation schemes, that of cheap fuel." He tells them that "most land that has been left unreclaimed by Pharaoh and by the fellah has been so left either because its level is too high or too low," and that "in either case pumping for irrigation or for drainage is frequently the primary consideration. "Pumping," he writes, "requires energy, and in Egypt the production of energy outside that yielded by the muscles of its human and animal population means fuel consumption, and fuel means coal or mineral oil, whose transport makes their price always high and sometimes, especially in the Sudan, prohibitive."

Utilising Sun Energy.

He contends that even land of inferior quality may be made to yield vegetable growth which, if properly dealt with, will furnish excellent and economical fuel for internal combustion engines. He suggests, too, that the most satisfactory method of dealing with this vegetable growth, be it in the form of trees or sticks, or stalks, is to convert it into charcoal, which is well known as an explosive gas producer; and he firmly believes that by the use of a new system of charcoal producer, which is now being tried in Egypt, and in which (we presume) the sun's energy is utilised, the problem of economically converting sun energy into engine power will be solved, the essential of such conversion being the utilisation of vegetable growth as an intermediary between the engine and the sun. In conclusion, the correspondent says it is now "up to" the cultivator to set to work and grow a sufficiency of the necessary raw material. We cannot see the connection between "conversion of sun energy into engine power" and the suggestion of Sir William Willcocks regarding the reclamation of waste lands in Egypt. Is it wiser for the Government to "leave the completion of reclamation to the adventurer" and take no notice of Sir William's suggestions because a new method of producing charcoal from vegetable growth in Egypt has been invented? That the Government devotes its attention to irrigation and drainage is beyond question. In THE NEAR EAST (March 30, 1917) we referred to some interesting irrigation facts and figures which Mr. W. R. Williams, late Inspector of the Public Works Department in Egypt, gave to interested Australians. These proved the benefits of British rule.

The Charcoal Producer.

We have no details of the new charcoal producer in which the sun's energy is to be utilised; but it is probable that it is a very suitable apparatus for tropical climates. Whether it solves the problem of economically converting sun energy into engine power has to be proved. If we are not mistaken, this producer converts vegetable growth into charcoal by the sun's energy; and this charcoal is used for the production of gas for suction-gas engines. There are British types of suction-gas plants which will work continuously on chips, wooden blocks, shavings, sawdust, bark, olive refuse, cocoanut husks and shells, rice husks, cotton pods, and many other waste materials, and vegetable growth, as well as lignite coke, peat, etc. If the new charcoal producer can do the same work at less cost it will succeed.

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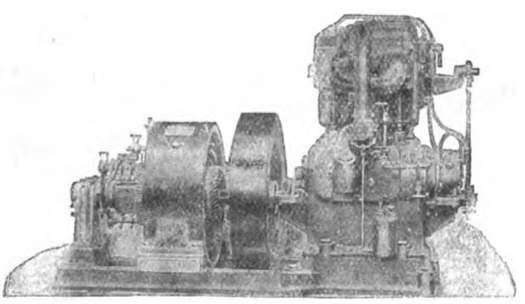

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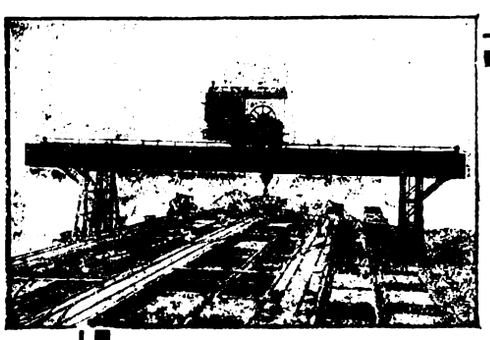

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Increase in Price of Raw Material.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, May 23.

The market during the past week has been under the influences of higher rates in raw cotton and, in sympathy, spinners and manufacturers have had to put up their quotations for yarn and cloth. The hardening tendency has forced out more inquiry in some directions, with increased sales, but many departments of the market are still badly in need of relief.

The proposal to stop the spinning mills for the whole of Whit week and the Monday following has failed to secure the support of the members of the Masters' Federation, and individual firms will have to make their own arrangements as to extending the usual holidays. The settlement of the weavers' wages dispute is in sight, and the trades union officials have agreed to recommend the acceptance by their members of the offer made by the employers.

It is understood the proposed settlement is for an increase in wages of 10 per cent., from the beginning of next July. Egyptian cotton rates have not advanced to the same extent as in the American staple, and, owing to favourable reports relating to the growth in Egypt, some people are looking forward to a fall in values.

In yarn made from Egyptian cotton, ordinary qualities continue to do badly, and in numbers such as 60's to 80's the prices ruling at the moment show a loss on the basis of current rates in the raw material. Some producers of specialities have booked fairly substantial orders in descriptions suitable for sewing cotton manufacturing.

The general demand in piece goods for Egypt remains healthy, but merchants are harassed by occasional losses on the sea and restricted shipping facilities. There has not been much doing in sized materials, but in printed and dyed goods quite an encouraging turnover has transpired.

The offtake in grey shirtings for India remains very disappointing, and many makers are in a wretched position. Some producers of dhooties and jaconets have sold rather more freely for Calcutta. The undercurrent of demand for China in several kinds of cloth has been fairly encouraging.

A little more activity has been reported for South America. A trying time continues to be experienced by manufacturers as a body, and, although more business has been done, the orders secured have not been sufficient to strengthen the general position.

Prices in American yarns have gone against buyers, and users have been stimulated to purchase rather more freely, chiefly in coarse and fine numbers. Supplies remain plentiful in medium counts, especially wefts. In small lots a little more trade has been reported in bundle yarns for India, and further buying has also transpired in yarns suitable for France.

THE CORINTH CANAL.

It is reported that, in order to defray certain expenditure which has been incurred in development, the Corinth Canal Company has decided to increase its passage dues by about 10 per cent. as from April 14.

A copy of the new tariff list (in French) may be consulted by British firms interested at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
May 15 } May 16 }	340.000	290,000
May 17	230.000	200,000
May 18	170,000	100,000
May 20	310.000	230,000
May 21	190,000	160,000

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EGYPTIAN TRADE.

Lack of Tonnage Reduces Imports and Exports in March.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, April 30.

The March Customs returns show a slight falling off in both imports and exports, as compared with the same month of the previous year. This was only to be expected in view of the difficulty in finding ships for the transport of merchandise, and we must be prepared for the same feature in the returns for the coming months.

Imports during March came to £E2,173,241 and exports to £E3,230,867 as against £E2,469,781 and £E3,249,688 respectively in March, 1916, a decrease of £E296.540 and £E18,821. The totals for the quarter are, however, still in excess of the previous year, imports by £E185,928 and exports by £E1,047,801, whilst compared with 1914 the former are £E352,968 down and the latter £E2,846,112 up.

Principal Imports.

The principal imports during the month were :—Meat, £E114,325; flour, £E55,444; coffee, £E53,885; beer, £E24,349; stationery, £E40,050; coal, £E211,623; chemical manures, £E47,746; cotton tissues, £E500,132; cotton threads, £E53,679; wool tissues, £E48,232; silk tissues, £E36,624; sacks, £E36.012; ready-made linen and millinery, £E32,974; worked iron and steel, £E101,925; and tobacco, £E221,892.

The chief increases were in meat, £E92.897; coffee, £E22.348; cotton tissues, £E262,601; worked iron and steel, £E65,861; and tobacco, £E142,075; the main decreases were jams and preserves, £E48.673; beer, £E25,630; petroleum, £E110,709; and liquid fuel, £E26,159 (of which none was imported); furniture, £E141,370; coal, £E215,462 (the quantity fell off by 38,094 tons); chemical manures, £E68,077; sacks, £E34,048.

Exports.

Under exports the chief items were eggs, £E108,186; tanned goods, £E40,320; onions, £E75,273; cotton seed and cake, £E396,904; cereals, £E53,980; sugar, £E103,742; gum, £E22,871; cotton, £E2,341,896; and cigarettes, £E33,520. Increases were recorded in eggs, which improved by £E47,008, and 34 million in quantity; tanned goods, £E26,026; cotton seed and cake, £E216,132 (in both cases an increase also in quantity); gum, £E20,177; and cotton, £E29,073 (a decrease of 191,846 cantars). The chief items in which a diminution in value took place were onions, £E46,197, the quantity increased slightly, however; sugar, £E67,189; alcohol, £E14,205; and wool, £E42,388.

Distribution.

Great Britain accounted for 50 per cent. of the imports and 75 per cent. of the exports. Her chief sales to this country were beer (80 per cent.), coal (all), chemical manures (60 per cent.), textiles (70 per cent.), of which cotton and wool tissues represented the major portion, worked iron and steel (90 per cent.). She took from Egypt all the eggs, cotton seed and cake, and gold and silver, practically all the onions, and 75 per cent. of the cotton. India and Australia improved their sales, the latter sending as usual nearly all the meat and 30 per cent. of the flour, and the former a large portion of the flour and coffee, all the indigo, half the cotton threads, and all the sacks and gunny cloth. India also took 30 per cent. of the sugar exports. Of the other countries, France, Greece, China, and Sweden improved their sales, but the United States, Chili, and Italy showed a marked falling off; while under exports no country except Great Britain improved—her portion more than doubled—the United States, Spain, France, Greece, Japan, Russia, Italy, and Switzerland all having very large decreases against them.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan was very much on the upward trend during March; imports from the latter to the former were £E225,831 against £E112,081 the previous March, and exports in the other direction £E124,417 against £E74,896. The principal imports into Egypt were live stock £E44,438, maize £E72,229, sesame £E50,322, charcoal £E7,542, and cotton £E12,371. Exports to the Sudan were flour £E4,677, sugar £E33,291, and textiles £E36,999.

TRADE NOTES.

Opening.

The Collector of Customs at Valetta, Malta, reports that a firm in that town desires to obtain sole agencies, for that centre, for United Kingdom manufacturers of silk, woollen and cotton hosiery and underwear. United Kingdom manufacturers of hosiery and underwear, desirous of being represented in Valetta may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade. The reference number (195) should be quoted.

Wool Restrictions.

The British Army Council have issued an Order, under date May 9, to the effect that (1) the Orders of the Army Council dated April 19 and April 30 are cancelled, and (2) no person shall after May 9 sell or offer to sell any crossbred or merino wool in stock in the United Kingdom at prices exceeding the basis of prices set out in a schedule to the Order.

The Army Council have issued a further Order, also dated May 9, ordering that (1) no person shall after the date of the Order sell or offer to sell any crossbred or merino tops, or East Indian, Egyptian, Persian and other foreign wools in stock in the United Kingdom, except under permit issued by or on behalf of the Director of Army Contracts; (2) possession is taken of all stocks of Australian, New Zealand, South African and South American crossbred and merino wools excepting any wool of the description aforesaid held by users for the purposes of manufacture by the holder; and (3) the Order of the Army Council dated April 27, 1917, of May 3, shall continue in force until further notice. For the purposes of the said Order tops invoiced or paid for on or before April 27 shall be deemed to have been delivered on or before the said date.

The Wool Section of the War Office notifies that the effect of the above two Army Council Orders is to remove the prohibition on dealings in alpaca, camel hair, cashmere, goat hair, and crossbred noils. As regards merino noils, all stocks that have been offered to the Department and released under permit may now be bought and sold. All restrictions on the purchase and sale of wool outside of the United Kingdom are removed, but any stocks of crossbred or merino wool which may be imported can only be sold under licence once they have arrived in the United Kingdom.

"NATIVE" RIGHTS.

Mr. H. Wilson Fox, M.P., honorary secretary of the Empire Resources Development Committee, writes to The Near East that it has been brought to the notice of his committee that "its proposals for the development of Empire resources are being widely misrepresented, and that the committee is being accused of a desire to interfere unjustly and ill-advisedly with the existing interests and trade of Europeans on the one hand and to disregard, on the other, the rights and the welfare of the native inhabitants of the tropical possessions of the Crown."

Mr. Fox proceeds :—"As the suggestion has been made in certain quarters that the committee has been formed to promote private interests, I am asked to place on record that the committee has been formed with the sole object of urging upon the Government the adoption of a certain line of policy. If and when it succeeds in this object the committee will disappear, and the Government alone will be responsible for the creation of the machinery required to carry out the policy, and for decisions as to the manner and the directions in which effect can best be given to it."

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TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

Fine of £E1,000 Imposed on Adolph Stross.

Judge Kershaw, at the special court at Alexandria, delivered judgment, on May 2, in the case in which Adolph Stross, an Austrian merchant, was charged on eight counts with trading with the enemy. The facts have already been reported in THE NEAR EAST.

On the two first charges that Stross made 294 new insurance contracts with the Assicurazioni Generali of Trieste, for the profit of Trieste, after the proclamation was published, the judge pronounced the accused "Guilty." On the third charge Stross was acquitted. Regarding the fourth charge his Honour found that the "compensation" was not paid by Stross until after the issue of the proclamation of January, 1915, and he was found "Guilty."

The judge said in regard to the fifth and sixth charges that if a man sent money under cover to a relation in order to pay money in an enemy country, it would constitute an offence. The present, however, was a *bonâ fide* case of caring for the well-being of a relative, and the two charges come under the heading of "Not guilty." With regard to charges seven and nine, the war put an end to floating policies. If Mr. Stross did make an error in this case it was a legal error such as might easily have been made by a man who was not very well versed in legal matters.

The fine was imposed in respect of the first, second, and fourth charges. The accused was warned in respect to the fifth, sixth, seventh, and ninth.

WARNED AND DISCHARGED.

On May 3, in the case of the Syrian firm (under French protection) of Ch. Geahel and Pharaon, coal and iron merchants, Judge Kershaw found the accused "Guilty" on three charges made, but, taking into consideration the "moral standing and well-known integrity of the firm," dismissed him with a warning.

The first charge was that the firm, being of enemy nationality, origin Beyrout, continued to do business without a licence, thus offending against the proclamation of August 15, 1915.

The second charge dealt with the payment of £5,000 to a person in Beyrout, being enemy territory. The third charge was that the firm in October, 1915, attempted to make a payment of 40,000 francs for the benefit of P. Pharaon and Geahel, Beyrout. This draft was negotiated through the Credit Lyonnais Bank, Alexandria. The sub-manager of the bank appeared in Court and said that after they had cabled this sum as requested doubt arose that it was to an enemy subject, and they cabled a second time annulling the draft and asking Mr. Ch. Geahel for the authority he had for sending this money. Under charge three, no offence was actually committed, the offence being in the "attempt" to pass money. Mr. Geahel pleaded ignorance of having to obtain a licence for trading nor did he consider himself an enemy firm, being under French protection. Philip Pharaon, to whom he had sent money, was considered by him as domiciled in Switzerland, though for business purposes he constantly went to Beyrout. The accused said he had nothing to hide, his books were open, he had simply never thought of obtaining a licence, and he had no intention whatever of infringing the proclamation.

FINED £E25.

In the case of Ramadan Youssef, the accused was charged with making payments in February and May, 1915, to G. Kaul, residing in Constantinople, thus violating the Proclamation of January, 1915. The second charge was that he failed to give notice of his indebtedness to Kaul to the Public Custodian, thereby infringing the Proclamation of July, 1916. Kaul was an engineer and had a contract for the Government in Alexandria, and when the work was finished there he went to Constantinople.

The money due to Kaul was eventually sent to him through Rudolph Misrachi, director of the Salonika Cigarette Company.

After two payments had been made in this manner, Ramadan said his attention was drawn to a reported case, the circumstances of which were similar to this, and he realised he had committed a breach of the Proclamation. He gave every facility to Mr. Bridson to make an examination of his books, even giving him more particulars than he had been asked for. He did not declare the sum of £75 still owing to Kaul to the Public Custodian because he considered Kaul a Belgian subject.

The Judge said the Court had decided that Ramadan should be fined £E25, and that he should be more careful to take cognisance of the Proclamations.

RIVAL TO BAGHDAD LINE.

American View of Anglo-Russian Scheme.

Railway connection between Europe and India through the Hindu Kush, reducing the mail time between London and Delhi to six days instead of seventeen, as required at present by the sea route by way of the Suez Canal, is proposed under British and Russian influences as a competitor to the Bagndad Railway projected by the Turkish and German Governments. The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington has received a communication on the subject from Mr. Henry D. Baker, United States Consul.

Mr. Baker approaches the subject of railway activity in this Transcontinental area from four different sides:—The Baghdad Railway to the south, and its probable extensions east, through Persia and Baluchistan; by way of the Caucasus district of Russia, Persia, and Baluchistan; the Afghanistan-Baluchistan route, viâ Kusha, in Turkestan, to Herat and Kandahar, in Baluchistan, the latter city being only eighty miles distant from New Chaman, in Baluchistan, which is the terminus of the British Indian railway systems; the Bokhara Railway, with its extensions south to the Oxus River, and eastward along the north bank of this stream to the present terminus at Termez.

Termez to India.

"Termez is only 550 miles from Peshawar, on the Indian side of the famous Khyber Pass," says Mr. Baker, "and has been considered, both in a commercial and military sense, the gateway of India.

"The Bokhara Railway in a few months will have reached Sarai to the east, near the junction of the Kundus and the Oxus Rivers, and then the great task of bridging, or, more accurately expressed, tunnelling, the Hindu Kush will have to be undertaken. The distance from Sarai to the terminus of the Indian railways is only about 400 miles. But this 400 miles will call for some wonderful engineering, incidentally entailing the boring of a 15-mile tunnel beneath the Hindu Kush, famed in story as 'the roof of the world.'

An $8,000,000 Gap.

"Careful surveys have been made by Russian engineers, and they have reported that, but for this tunnel, the problem is comparatively easy, costing an average of £20,000 per mile, or £8,000,000 for the gap. When this is done, then the distance from the Hook of Holland, which could be reached by fast steamer from England in record time to the Indian capital at Delhi, will be as follows:—Hook of Holland, Berlin, Warsaw, Moscow, 1,836 miles; Moscow, Orenburg, Tashkend, 2,082 miles; Tashkend, Kagan, estuary of Kundus River, 750 miles; estuary of Kundus River to Peshawar, 400 miles; Peshawar, Delhi, 627 miles; total, 5,695 miles.

"A new railway in Russian Turkestan is now under consideration viâ Alexandrof, in south-eastern Russia, which will skirt the north-eastern coast of the Caspian to Khiva and Bokhara. This railway, if constructed, would make a saving in distance of over 800 miles in the proposed route between Russia and India viâ the Hindu Kush

"The Hindu Kush route from the Hook of Holland to Delhi, after the proposed shortening of the present route through Turkestan, would be about 4,918 miles; the Trans-Persian route viâ Trans-Caucasia would be about 5,500 miles, and viâ Constantinople and Baghdad about 5,745 miles, and the Afghanistan route from Kusha by way of Herat and Kandahar to New Chaman, in Baluchistan, would be about 5,295 miles. The cost of the Northern Trans-Persian Railway would be about £34,000,000, and the southern probably somewhat more."

COMPANY MEETING.

IONIAN BANK.

The annual general meeting of the Ionian Bank, Ltd., was held on May 22, at 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C., Mr. Falconer Larkworthy, C.O.R., the Chairman, presiding.

The Chairman, in the course of a comprehensive review, said: You are aware how closely your bank is associated with the Near East, how for many years until now it has been the only official economic connecting link between this country and Greece, how it existed before the consolidation of the Greek kingdom, and how it derives its authority to issue notes and transact business in Greece by treaty between and under the protection of the Great Powers and Greece. The principles and policy which have guided your directors in the past have stood the strain of the untoward political events which have occurred there, and have resulted in an almost absolute clean sheet as far as known losses there are concerned, and against the serious shrinkage of business at most branches in Greece we are able to place a healthy increase of business and profit at the head office and throughout the branches and agencies in Egypt. We cannot see into the future, but we have every expectation that not only will no serious loss have occurred, but that the position of the bank in Greece will be strengthened and its prestige indefinitely extended by the manner in which it has been able to meet and pass through the unhappy events which have transpired. That its position has been strengthened, that the liquid character of its assets has been maintained and the safety of its ever-multiplying depositors increased by the revision of its advances, and the reserves that have been made, there can be no question. To these depositors we give the assurance that the bank of their choice was never in a sounder condition.

Speaking of War Loans and bills and the part played by the banks, the Chairman said: It is a fallacy to suppose that wealth consists only in the accumulated surplus profit of labour as expressed in £ s. d., multiplied in some mysterious fashion by the creation of what is called "banking credit," and a mistake to ignore its existence in the energy, enterprise, industry, powers, capacities, services, and invented and manufactured machinery of man, which, if there were no banks at all, would still constitute the major part of the liquid wealth of mankind, and could be pledged for the purposes of war or any other rational purpose. Bankers are not creators of credit when they take up portions of Government loans or make loans to others. They create nothing. The only created things, as far as this world is concerned, are the organic and inorganic systems, and the higher of these reacts upon the lower for the multiplication of life and sustenance, and the surplus, after sustentation, is liquid wealth, until it is placed artificially in the more permanent category of invested wealth. The banks are the storekeepers of a part of the liquid wealth of the country, and the medium of helping their customers to exchange one kind of liquid wealth for another, or to transfer liquid wealth into invested wealth. In fact, every banking transaction is either a transfer or hypothecation of wealth. If this is correct, when the banks lend to the Government, and the Government pays out for goods supplied, there is neither duplication nor creation of credit. The suppliers return to their credit at the banks not new deposits, but their own capital, which they had withdrawn previously from the banks to enable them to fulfil their contracts with the Government, plus their profit, which may happen to be, in some cases, 30, 60, or even 100-fold. When that profit proves to be excessive it excites over-speculation, and, as a result, over-production and reaction, and should be stopped by the banks in its early beginning. Official England has financed herself mainly by means of the contributions of private character out of her citizens' huge liquid fund, through the banks, of which deposits are only a part, by the process of profits always overtaking the expenditure, and this explains the almost "fantastic" success of the great Victory Loan.

Last year for the second time I brought before you and the financial world the reformed currency system of Greece, as embodied in the Dragoumis Act of 1910.

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I demonstrated that 25 millions per annum were lost through guaranteeing, indirectly, the dividends of the world's gold companies by the maintenance of the fixed price for gold. Also that at least 25 millions per annum, on average, represented the loss of interest on the world's commercial movements when the Bank Rate is placed above normal level for the purpose of maintaining the gold reserve quite irrespective of the loss in the value of securities. I now add—the untold millions which are lost in times of crisis and panic, when, in order to get gold to make provision for possible requirements, securities are thrown on the markets of the world, simply through fear. And, finally, our latest experience—the loss of interest on borrowings by the richest nation of the world from our own people in the time of war at enormous rates, and at still higher rates from foreign nations, with the humiliating condition of depositing collaterals for such loans with a margin of 20 per cent. These terms are a bar on the escutcheon of financial England. Is there not something weird about the continuance of such futilities and waste when a currency system is worked by another nation which has been demonstrated over a period of several years to be highly protective to economic interests, which steadies the value of capital, does not lend itself to panic, fixes the exchanges, balances trade, maintains an undepreciated paper currency, borrows millions from its own people upon simple notes of hand without paying any interest upon them, and maintains a gold fund of equal proportion to its paper currency, from which it derives a profit? The three facts—first, that Greece possesses an absolutely fixed exchange; second, the highest gold reserve 100 per cent.—in proportion to its circulation of any country; and, third, that out of a circulation of nine millions sterling odd it makes about £208,000 profit per annum—are sufficient of themselves to stamp the Greek reformed currency system as extraordinarily suggestive.

In referring to the 1844 Bank Act I have used the term "discredited." Why? Because the authorities who are bound to try to keep the law have, in their emergency expedients, discredited it by doing in detail, with no fault on their part, that which, if the various parts were pieced together, with certain additions, into a well-considered whole, by legislative enactment, would be done economically and perfectly—perfectly in the sense that it would suit existing conditions. For example, the authorities, to provide against the dangers of shipping gold on a great scale to Egypt under war conditions for the purpose of gathering the cotton crop—that is, for exchanging the wealth of Egypt for the wealth of Great Britain and of other countries—established after the Greek model, but imperfect in some details, a forced currency system of paper notes. The system, according to the Peel Act, ought to provide £E100 in coined Egyptian gold, or nearly so, for every £E100 issued in paper: and it did this, but how? On April 24 last, according to the National Bank of Egypt return, the circulation amounted to £E21,200,000. The securities deposited against this amount of notes were: Gold in London £E5,930,710,445. Treasury bills in lieu of gold £E4,669,289,555—£E10,600,000, equal to 50 per cent. Other securities held for like purpose: Egyptian Treasury bills £E2,876,250. Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government £E555,788,555. British Treasury bills £E7,167,990,445 - £E10,600,000, equal to 50 per cent. The distinctions between the two systems are that the Greek system provides 100 per cent. of liquid wealth for 100 in notes; they admit the principle of the cover being held abroad, but the Greek system does not admit of Greek Government securities being held as part cover. Therefore, to the extent of more than 50 per cent. the Greek system is more advantageous, and has more liquid reproductive wealth behind it than the Egyptian system. Further, the Egyptian system does not admit of the gold fund being temporarily employing for other purposes, such as the import of necessaries, where the security of the fund is maintained, or for the maintenance of the balance of trade, in which case the security is not parted with, but is transferred to another centre. At first certain facilities were afforded to banking interests in Egypt for obtaining bank notes on the deposit of cotton with the Government agents there, but this system proved objectionable and unworkable. The principle now adopted in the case of banks requiring to transfer their funds to Egypt is that they can do so by depositing gold with the Bank of England against notes to be handed to them by the National Bank in Egypt.

As a concrete case, showing the weakness of the system, your bank had to transfer to Egypt for the purposes of harvesting the cotton crop a very large sum. It held interest-bearing securities of the very highest class in London which it was ready to deposit in London against an equivalent in currency in Alexandria; but no—nothing but gold coins would be received, which meant that your bank must sell its securities or borrow on them in London to get gold and deposit the coin, and thus lose interest in London. But if the Greek system had been adopted in its entirety in Egypt, and the whole of the Egyptian gold fund had been held in London in a liquid condition—in short, interest bearing securities—the question of a gold coin deposit in London would not have arisen, and there would have been no legal difficulty in the way of carrying out our original proposal. At the same time, under the existing Egyptian system, which considers that the law is satisfied by depositing in London only about 25 per cent. in gold coin, the principle of which is admitted in the practice of the British Government, and the remainder in interest-bearing securities in London should not have satisfied the law, and have been considered otherwise sufficient. The only use of this Egyptian coined gold fund in London is that it maintains a modicum of the principle of a gold coin basis for notes, supposed to be secured by the Bank Act of 1844, without any real compliance with the principle of the Act itself; and, indirectly, recognises that first-class interest-bearing securities are not only equivalent to gold, as they can be immediately converted into that metal, and are better than gold, as they are interest-bearing. This system of forced paper currency has been in existence since the war began with perfect success, and apart from the actual saving of transporting gold to and from Egypt, it has had the effect of preventing the hoarding of gold coin by the natives and forcing their wealth into productive channels. If applied to India it would have the same beneficial effect on the countless hidden millions of gold in the hands of the natives of that country.

The principle of fixing by law the rate of exchange has been conceded by the authorities in fixing the exchange value of the rupee in India at 1s. 4d., and by creating a gold reserve in the Currency Department of £25,000,000 held in London in coin. And also, lately, in accordance with the policy adopted in Egypt, of holding a portion of the reserve in British Treasury bills. That portion now amounts to £16,000,000. How would the principle of a fixed exchange be prejudiced if the whole of the reserve were kept liquid in London in first-class interest-bearing securities, convertible at any moment into currency or other liquid wealth? It is absolutely unanswerable that a system which provides a gold fund, or a fund of liquid wealth, to the full value of every paper obligation on demand issued by any Government using it, and that requires its gold fund to be so placed as to balance, where necessary, the foreign trade of the country; and that scrupulously provides for the soundness of that fund; and that the note issues which provide the fund shall never exceed the country's natural requirements of currency, must be preferable to the discredited and haphazard system of the so-called "sound finance" of the 1844 Act. Another precedent has also been conceded, the British pooling venture has anticipated the economic union of the States, and has been confined to the pooling of a part only of the four great banks' coined gold reserves, of England, France, Russia, and Italy. This pooling of the gold reserves of the respective States, in liquid form, after adopting the Greek system, would be one of the greatest and most beneficent economic changes the world has ever seen, for each federal gold reserve would be at the services of all the States. Further, if the system were adopted by Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy, and their respective gold funds were internationalised, there would be available at all the great centres of finance and commerce an aggregate capital of £1,470,000,000 for regulating the respective currencies, equalising the value of money, maintaining the balance of trade and steadying the exchanges of the world, at merely the cost of administration, and with the probability of a considerable profit being realised on working.

Again, the principle, which is a part of the Greek system, has been conceded of holding the gold reserve in various parts of the world other than in the centres where the notes are issued, not for meeting the payment of the notes, but for the purpose of balancing the exchanges or for other purposes in different localities. There are certain of the world's great banking institutions—notably Russia and France—that show the proportions of their gold holdings abroad, exclusive of those at home, but the practice has not yet been adopted in England. The fact is that the proportion of coined gold held in England under the 1844 Act to the aggregate note circulation of the country is so small, even when the British Treasury gold reserve against its notes and also the holdings abroad are included, and the liabilities that are based on that aggregate reserve are so disturbing, that it is courting disaster to allow things to remain as they are, and a more protective system is absolutely necessary. Seeing that war is abnormal and that its vicissitudes disorganise, if they do not destroy, all economic systems, the suspension of pacific relations with Greece, the blockade, and the embargo placed on all monetary relations of the Allies with her, necessarily suspended the working of the Valaoritis scheme; but this liability to temporary disturbance in no way affects its value in times of peace or its benefits to Allies in times of war. When the secret military and financial history of Greece during the 1916-17 period shall be authoritatively written it will be found that the key to the sudden change of attitude of the King and his Ministers to the Entente Powers, their acceptance of the Allied demands, and their readiness to afford reparation for the events of December 2 did not lie only in their realisation that the assistance of the Central Powers was yet a long way off, nor in the pressure of the food blockade, but in the punitive terrors of the financial blockade, which was instituted officially on December 13, 1916, and rigorously applied by the Allies. The opposition of the King and Government and Press collapsed in a few hours, and peace reigned in letter if not in spirit. Surely this is proof enough that the existence of the Greek gold fund had a beneficent influence in the direction of peace; and if other countries adopted the Valaoritis system and pooled their gold funds, then the universal international gold fund would be a powerful bond of union, and its safety during the time of war and its productiveness during peace would be guaranteed by the terms of union and by its international corporate management.

The following steps should be taken if it be decided to adopt in Great Britain the Valaoritis currency reform scheme of 1910:—(1) Pass a short Act repealing the Peel Act of 1844 and making Treasury notes (outstanding and to be issued) "legal tender" throughout the realm. This will at once turn into inconvertible permanent indebtedness the existing Treasury and Bank of England issues and free all existing gold reserves to be used for the purposes of the Act. (2) Create a gold fund out of all existing gold and bullion reserves, the net amount of the Empire's visible stock being £222,293,109, and out of any further liquid wealth, including coined gold, which will accumulate by means of fresh issues of Treasury notes, to be applied as follows:—(3) Maintain, if thought desirable (but not necessary, as the gold market as a commodity will be free to all), a store of bullion to be dispensed at the market price of the day, on proof that it is required for foreign export or for art purposes. (4) Compete in the market for bullion that may be required for Government purposes, for payment of foreign indebtedness or to equalise exchanges. (5) Invest in foreign neutral securities of first-class character. This would enable the Treasury to redeem the collaterals for loans at present pledged in the United States, and should the amount of the new gold fund admit of it, to increase its holding of such securities in

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foreign neutral countries to provide for contingencies connected with international trade. (6) Fix the exchanges between England and neutrals at an estimated margin representing the cost of the shipment of bullion—that is, fix the maximum exchange for selling on foreign centres by the Controllers of the Currency—and leave bullion and foreign bills to be competed for by them in the respective markets within reasonable limits. (7) Supply all banking and financial institutions with currency on the deposit of adequate collaterals on the basis of legitimate and non-speculative trade. (8) Authorise the pooling of the British fund with the gold funds of all friendly countries adopting the system. The main principle of the Act should be that the gold fund or liquid fund of the country should be maintained intact, and not be applied to perishable and non-productive investments, and should be regarded as an indirect basis of security for the non-convertible circulation of the country, in excess of the estimated amount of its natural requirements. To the State adopting the scheme it would be found an important source of revenue. If under the existing conditions in Greece, Paris, and London, £208,000 can be earned from an average circulation of £9,200,000, what under similar conditions could be earned out of an Empire circulation of 2,170 millions, not in the hands of an ordinary bank, but in the hands of an independent Board of Control, or in the hands of a National Gold Reserve Bank constituted for the purpose, where the State would secure the whole of the profits less the cost of administration? The income from such a fund would be £49,000,000; but if it had been invested here at, say, 4 per cent. on average, the gross income would have been £86,800,000. To this would have to be added the economies, amounting to at least £50,000,000 per annum from demonetising gold, and from the saving of interest, or a gross total of £136,800,000. If currency reform on the system suggested were adopted throughout the Empire, the general commercial interests would at once benefit to a minimum of £50,000,000 sterling, and probably to a very much greater extent, and the Exchequers of Great Britain and the Dominions and Dependencies, in proportion to their respective circulations, to a total of at least 86 millions sterling odd. And if its operations were confined to Great Britain alone, whilst the general commercial interests would profit, as in the former case, by 50 millions sterling, the British Exchequer would benefit by 16 or 17 millions sterling. That latter sum in itself would make a respectable sinking fund for the repayment of the National Debt. I ask for fair consideration of the evidence given in these remarks as to the comparative value of the Valaoritis system. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

The motion was seconded by Mr. C. S. S. Guthrie and unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors, Messrs. Nicolo Marchetti and John J. Stavridi, and the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co.) were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded the proceedings.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.—The Ordinary General Meeting of the above Company will be held in Cairo on May 31, 1917. Shareholders wishing to be represented at that Meeting should lodge their share warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., not later than May 16.

THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED. Notice is hereby given that the TRANSFER BOOKS of this Company will be CLOSED from the 18th to the 31st May, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board,
GEO. H. SOUL, Secretary.
27, Clements Lane, London, E.C.4, 24th April, 1917.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

There has been a good deal of activity in our market for Egyptian securities this week, and general interest continues to grow, not only in Egypt, but also on this side. The very satisfactory reports that are constantly coming forward fully justify the revival which is taking place, and which promises to make steady progress.

In Government stocks City of Alexandria 4 per cents. have changed hands in a small way at 77, Unifieds have been done up to 83¾, but are rather quieter at the finish round 83¼, and Egypt 3½ per cents. continue strong at 71, but the lack of sellers checks business. Turkish 4 per cents. (1891) and 3½ per cents. (1894), both secured on the Egyptian Tribute, continue to be favoured by English buyers round 79 for the former and in the neighbourhood of 70, an advance of 1½, for the latter. A fair number of transactions have taken place in National Banks round 13 9/16, and the close is firm again at 13⅝, as all the shares on offer have been absorbed. Agricultural Banks have also been fairly extensively dealt in, and, after some liquidation by local holders, which brought them down at one time to 5 1-32, are again closing firmer at 5⅛, with a very few sellers on the market. The report is an exceedingly satisfactory one, and shows that, although the bank's dividend was restricted to 7s. per share, its profits were equal to over 13s. In the circumstances the shares appear to be a very attractive purchase at anything near their par value of £5.

Anglo-Egyptians are ⅛ firmer at 12⅜, and Land Banks are wanted at 5⅜ without finding sellers. Among land shares the feature has been a sharp rise of 1 in Behéras to 9 on an insistent demand from Egypt, but sellers even at the present advanced level are very scarce, as most holdings on this side were effected at considerably higher prices. The present improvement is a rather belated recognition of the immense improvement in this company's position during the past year. Delta Lands have recovered on the dividend, and it would not require very much buying to cause a sharp advance in the price. Some transactions have taken place in Gharbiehs round 20s., while New Egyptians are unchanged round 10s. 9d., a price altogether inexplicable in view of the fact that this company's land is practically all in a fully developed condition and ripe for sale. United Egyptian Lands have been done in the neighbourhood of 9d. to 10d.

Alexandria Water shares, after business at 12⅜, continue in demand without sellers. Salts and Sodas have been done at 23s., and Khedivial Mails have jumped up 1s. 6d. to 31s. 6d. on Egyptian buying.

In Greek securities, Monopolies, Rentes, and Fundings are one point down—rather nominally. On the other hand, 1881, 1884, and Larissa are all wanted at about 54, an advance of one point since last week. Ionian Banks are also a firm spot round 4½ (cum.-div.).

Oil Shares.

Dealings in oil shares have been on restricted lines, generally speaking. Yesterday Roumanian Consols were dull at 9s. 9d., and Anglo-Egyptian "B's" eased to 15s.

Paris Bourse.

Near Eastern Securities were quoted on the Paris Bourse on Wednesday as follows:—Egyptian Unified, 91.30 (against 91.10); Serbian (1895), 58 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 63.60 (against 63.25); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 690 (against 689); Ottoman Bank, 430 (against 429); Suez Canal, 4,350 (against 4,354).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.
Receipts for ten days ended April 20, 1917.

	1916. £E.		1917 £E
April 11-April 20	4,571	..	5,623
April 1-April 20	9,310	..	11,280

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from
J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,
22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price May 18.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83⅛	83
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	71	71
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	55	54
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	53	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	51	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	53	54
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53	52
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	71xd	71xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5%, 1911	91	75¼	75¼
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p.....	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	69½
Do. 4% Unified.....	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5⅞xd	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12½	12⅜
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2⅛	2⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	5⅝	5⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	13⅜	13⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅜	5⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%...	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	1⅛	1⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	2⅜	2⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	8	9
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/-	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9/3	9/7½
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	6/-	6/-
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅞	20/-	20/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	10/9	10/9
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	1/32	1/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1½	1½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/9
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1 1/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1/16	23/-	23/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	30/-	31/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅛	3¼	3¼

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON APRIL 27.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	13⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New	Frs.	65
" Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	79
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	86
Privilégiée		72½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5½
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	3
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅞
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		32/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		7½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	160
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	307
" Div.	Frs.	250
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	210
Egyptian Salt and Soda		21 9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	625
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	334
" 1903 "	Frs.	266
" 1911 "	Frs.	265
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅛

Anglo-Egyptian:—Gemsah, 24 tons against 23 tons; Hurghada, 2,000 tons against 2,164 tons.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to Issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

BANQUE FRANCO-SERBE.

Head Office—
14, RUE LE PELETIER, PARIS.

Paid Capital - Frs. 12,000,000

Central Office—Belgrade.
Branches—Skoplye (Uskub), Bitolj (Monastir).

London Office—
27, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

NATIONAL BANK OF ROUMANIA

Head Office: BUCHAREST.
Branches: BRAILA, CRAIOVA, GALATZ, JASSY.
Agencies at

Bacau, Barlad, Botoshani, Buzau, Calarashi, Campulung, Caracal, Constantza, Bazargic, Dorohoiu, Falticeni, Focshani, Giurgiu, Husi, Piatra-N., Piteshti. Ploeshti, Roman, R-Sarat, R-Valcea, Silistria, Slatina, Targovishte, Tecuci, T-Jiu, T-Magurele, T-Severin, Tulcea, and Vaslui.

Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.
DIRECTORS:
N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI, CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.
CENSORS:
DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU, C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.
GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:
AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Lt. Col. J. LEIGH WOOD, C.M.G. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bart.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 5 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - 485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - - 65,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens. Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Fasohen, and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - - £1,500,000
Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - 690,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

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RESERVE - - - - - £150,000
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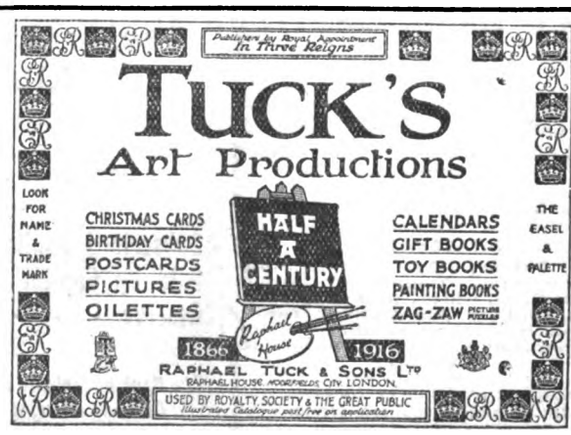

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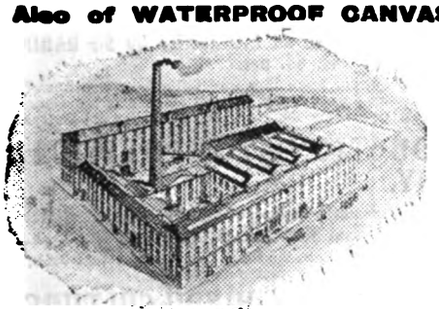
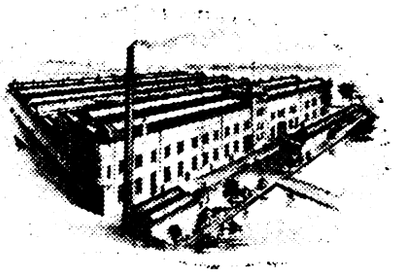

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 317.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Not the least cause for a more optimistic feeling in regard to Russia is the vigorous stand taken by the higher command of the army under the leadership of the Minister for War and the outspoken denunciation by popular generals of the disintegrating tendencies which have temporarily demoralized the troops. It is fair to the latter to say that over the greater part of the battle-front climatic conditions have for a long time imposed a truce on hostilities. As a result of their enforced idleness the soldiers became a more easy prey to intrigues which battened as much on ignorance as on any lack of patriotism. When all allowances were made, however, the situation could only be regarded as critical; and in this connection it may be well to insist that the anxiety felt in the other countries of the Alliance was not based on the statements of possibly ill-informed or nervous newspaper correspondents, but on the public utterances of prominent Russians. The Admiral of the Black Sea Fleet spoke of the armistice existing along virtually the whole front; military commanders deplored the fraternization with German troops, and the Russian Commander on the Roumanian front was not alone in warning his men that the country was in danger. Throughout the crisis, however, the faith of the Allies in the Russian people as a whole has not wavered.

A significant commentary on the improvement in the situation is the enemy announcement that fighting activity has increased during the last few days along the whole front and that Russo-Roumanian attacks are expected. If they take place, we shall hope to find them bearing out the statement of General Shtcherbatcheff, the Commander-in-Chief in Roumania, that Russia was never so strong, and the enemy before her never so weak, as at the present time. General Russky has also announced that there is no deficiency of shells, and he felt confident that, if the moral of the troops continued to improve at the same rate and the armies fulfilled their duty to their own country and their Allies, the enemy could be beaten by the autumn. We are thus led to infer that, while the extremists of the Committee of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates have been monopolising the arena, the Provisional Government has been making good headway towards repairing the shortcomings of the old régime in regard to the organization of military supplies and transport. There was no lack of munitions in Russia as a whole before the Revolution; but the trouble was that owing to incompetence and corruption only a small proportion of it ever reached the army in the field. It remains to be seen whether the vast stores that have "gone astray" between Vladivostok and Riga can be found and utilized by the new authorities.

President Wilson is understood to have addressed a message to the Russian Government on the subject of the Allies' peace terms, and it is hoped that, in view of the natural regard paid by the new Republic of the Old World to the old Republic of the New World, his definitions will help to clear away finally any existing misapprehensions. If the published synopsis of the document is accurate, it is to be feared that Mr. Wilson will still try to accept the unfortunate phrase chosen by the Russian Internationalists and seek to fit it into practical politics. He is credited with having declared that "peace will have to be signed without any annexations or indemnity, but with such restitutions as the return of Alsace-Lorraine to France and Trieste and the Trentino to Italy, while as regards Belgium the United States will impose due reparation." We shall be well advised, perhaps, not to place too much reliance on the abbreviated anticipation of the President's message. What are restitutions in the eyes of some people will doubtless be annexations in the opinions of others; the dividing line between an indemnity and reparation is still harder to fix. Nor will it do for President Wilson to limit the war horizon to France, Italy and Belgium. Reparation is called for in the case of Serbia as well as for Belgium; it is needed also from one end of Turkey to the other, and is applicable to the natives of East Africa and South-West Africa, to the people who have had ships—their temporary homes—sunk under their feet as well as to those who have had their more permanent homes destroyed over their heads.

The war has raised such complex questions and complicated issues that there is always a danger in any single-handed attempt, whether on the part of a President or a people, to embody the whole problem in a single document. Still less can it be disposed of by a few apophthegms. This was the burden of Lord Robert Cecil's masterful speech in the recent debate on the "No Annexation" question in the House of Commons, and it is to be hoped that the points he then made have been taken to heart by President Wilson and the rest of our Allies. General Smuts has also had something to say on the subject: "You may talk about peace without annexation or indemnity; but you must re-

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member that you are talking to a people who will swallow every formula, and everything besides, and will swallow you in the end, if you are not careful." The United States Government may feel tempted to think that after dealing with France, Belgium, Italy, and perhaps Poland, they can leave the rest of the problems raised by the war to be settled by formulæ. But what of the Ottoman Empire? It seems as if the fighting Boer General were going to prove more solicitous than President Wilson of the fate of the hapless populations over which the Turks have tyrannised for so many a long year. "One of the results of the war," General Smuts insisted, "will be the freeing and liberation of all the peoples who have groaned for hundreds of years under Turkish power." It matters not whether the change be called restitution or annexation so long as it takes place and is not thwarted by failure to remember the weak as well as the strong who have suffered through this war.

If both Russia and the United States are going to forget the existence of Armenia in the settlement after the war, it is to be hoped that the British Government will not do so. The reference to peace without annexations or indemnities had not unnaturally aroused the misgivings of the Armenians, and it is not surprising that the Union Intellectuelle Arménienne de Paris has felt compelled to thank Lord Robert Cecil for his championship of those who have survived the disasters of their unhappy country. They welcomed the Russian Revolution as being calculated to reinforce their expectation of being able to win salvation for Armenia; but they urge that a peace which entails no punishment for the executioners of the Armenians or reparation for their victims will be opposed to all justice. The Ottoman Empire, the signatories point out, has been merely a vast Bastille where old nations have been lying in chains for centuries. Armenia, it is added, counts on autonomy under the protection of the Allies. Here is only one of many modifications which will have to be made, if the unfortunate catchword evolved in the streets of Petrograd during the early days of the Revolution is to displace as the leading principle in the Allies' peace terms the sounder policy of aiming at a permanent settlement based on nationality.

A fresh turn has been given to the Greek kaleidoscope by the emphatic declaration of the National Government at Salonika against King Constantine and his dynasty. For a long time M. Venizelos tried to prevent the movement from being labelled anti-dynastic. He clung to the hope that King Constantine would eventually bow to the inevitable, recognising that the weight of public opinion was against a pro-German policy. But month after month has elapsed and the breach between the two Greek camps has widened. A little while ago M. Venizelos indicated that he despaired of seeing the King fall into line with the national will. Now at last, in formal statements to a correspondent of *The Times*, the members of the Provisional Government have declared that there is no room left for a *rapprochement* with the dynasty. M. Venizelos announced that he rejected all idea of reconciliation "firmly, flatly and finally." "The King," he continued, "who is in constant secret relations with Germany, has trodden underfoot the Constitution, turned traitor to our treaty obligations with Serbia, brought Greece to the verge of ruin, and, having once been a King, has become no more than a party leader." M. Politis, the Foreign Minister, insisted that no compromise was possible between Liberal Greece and the reigning dynasty. The Minister of Education was more explicit. "The one and most important thing," he said, "is that the dynasty of Constantine should, like the Turks, be turned bag and baggage out of Greece. Later, at the war's end, we can hold a constituent assembly, at which the people will be able to decide whether they desire a Republican or a monarchical Government, and in the latter case the crown can be offered to a suitable monarch."

One of two factors will have prompted the Provisional Government to choose this moment for their declaration of war on King Constantine. Either they feel strong enough to bring matters to a head themselves or, fearing that the King is on the point of consolidating his position, they are anxious to force a decision on the Entente Powers, before the difficulty of bringing King Constantine to book is enhanced. Both theories find support in the recent course of events. M. Venizelos has just concluded a tour of the islands, and has probably been able to gauge the actual and potential strength of the movement. There can be little doubt that even in Royalist Greece the people are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with a state of affairs which brings them much suffering and inconvenience, without even the moral advantage of being able to wax enthusiastic over the cause to which they are nominally attached. The visit of King Constantine's brother, Prince George, to Denmark at this juncture has naturally given rise to some speculation. It is true that his other brothers have been generally used by the King as his emissaries; but the fact that Prince George has hitherto held aloof from the Athens policy makes him, perhaps, a more effective agent in the closing stages of the drama.

The chief force that may be said to be in King Constantine's favour at the present moment is the approach of the harvest season in Thessaly. This province in ordinary years supplies not only the mainland of Greece, but the islands as well, with grain It is supposed that King Constantine intends to requisition the whole of the harvest, in order to make himself independent of the Allies' blockade, and at the same time to reinstate himself in the public esteem. As the blockade has been responsible for the small measure of amenability that the King has shown towards the Allies, it would inevitably follow that the replenishing of the Athens granaries would result in a fresh display of recalcitrancy or something worse. A severe blow would be struck at the prestige of the Entente; a solution of the Greek *impasse* might be postponed for some months, and in the meantime the Germans would be working to change the situation in the Balkans. The islands, moreover, which have thrown in their lot with the National movement would be left without grain. The Provisional Government cannot fail to be seriously exercised by the outlook. Even if it is not able to bring off a trial of strength with the King, it has called the attention of the Entente Powers to a condition of things which is equally prejudicial to them, and they will hardly allow King Constantine to make himself once more master of the situation, with every prospect of a new regime of terror similar to that which followed the attack on the Allied landing detachments in December, 1916.

Plenty of activity, with no definite results, continues to characterize the military situation in Macedonia. For the troops actually engaged on each side, however, the position is exacting enough. The summer finds the Allied forces virtually in the same places as those which they occupied last year, when sickness took such a heavy toll of them. Improvements in sanitation have been made in the interval, but there has not been time to eliminate malaria. At most we can hope that the adequate equipment of the Allied Army this year will render the troops more immune from disease. It is unfortunate that the great hopes formed of the Macedonian campaign have not been realized; but the unforeseen development of the submarine menace in the Mediterranean has rendered a task at no time easy almost impossible. Nevertheless, General Sarrail's force has served a useful purpose; it has interposed a barrier to the rounding-off of German designs in the Near East, and it has kept the Bulgarians occupied to an extent which may yet exercise an important influence on the course of the war. Whether the expenditure of men and treasure is disproportionate to the results obtained, we have not the data to determine. But there can be no question that the decision to send a force to Salonika

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was sound and that it has been the means of preventing even worse developments than those which have taken place in the Balkans.

A stimulus to the discussion of the future of Palestine has been given by a letter in *The Times* from the Conjoint Foreign Committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Anglo-Jewish Association. The signatories felt constrained to dissociate themselves from any large Zionist scheme "of an essentially political character," and they were led into a disquisition on the claims of Jewry to be regarded as a nationality and on Judaism as a religious system, which should be kept distinct from questions of political status. From the storm that the letter has raised it is evident that Zionism is in no lack of powerful support; but at first sight there would seem to be much ground common to the two sets of disputants. The Conjoint Committee claims to take its stand on the following proposal to the British Government:—"The formal recognition of the high historic interest Palestine possesses for the Jewish community, and a public declaration that at the close of the war the Jewish population will be secured in the enjoyment of civil and religious liberty, equal political rights with the rest of the population, reasonable facilities for immigration and colonization, and such municipal privileges in the towns and colonies inhabited by them as may be shown to be necessary." Mr. C. Weizmann, President of the English Zionist Federation, writes:—"The Zionists are not demanding in Palestine monopolies or exclusive privileges. . . . It always was and remains a cardinal principle of Zionism as a democratic movement that all races and sects in Palestine should enjoy full justice and liberty, and Zionists are confident that the new suzerain whom they hope Palestine will acquire as a result of the war will, in its administration of the country, be guided by the same principle."

Both schools of thought in Jewry seem to welcome the prospect of British suzerainty over Palestine. The organ of the British Palestine Committee takes the position so much for granted that it discusses the relative advantages which might be expected to accrue to Palestine as a Crown Colony or as an Egyptian province, and unhesitatingly pronounces in favour of the former. In such circumstances there might not be in practice any wide gulf to bridge between the municipal privileges anticipated by the Conjoint Committee and the "national autonomous life in the Holy Land, publicly recognized and legally secured," which the vice-president of the Zionist Congresses states is the Zionist programme. The tendency of the Jewish population would be to occupy contiguous stretches of territory, and municipal rights would be merged without difficulty into a measure of political autonomy. The bogey raised by the Conjoint Committee of a Jewish nation in Palestine intolerant of the presence of non-Jews in its midst, and thereby calling down upon their co-religionists in other countries the disabilities from which they have struggled so long to emancipate themselves, would hardly seem to enter the picture—not, in any case, at this stage. It is certain that Jewish aspirations will be taken into consideration in connection with the settlement of Palestine, and for this reason it is to be hoped that an exchange of views at this stage will enable a moderate and practical plan to be put forward with something like the unanimous approval of Jewry.

Satisfactory news reaches this country from Southern Persia, where the effects of the régime inaugurated by Sir Percy Sykes are now beginning to be felt. British influence, we are told, has been restored throughout Southern and Central Persia, the Austro-German agents have been eliminated, and the mutinous gendarmerie have been transformed into efficient and obedient troops. With the establishment of law and order the first great need is adequate communications, and projects for railways, or at least serviceable roads, between Bunder Abbas and Kerman on the one hand and Bushire and Shiraz on the other are being considered.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 6.

The 1917 Census.

Since March 6, when the enumeration work was carried out, the Statistical Staff has been occupied with the sorting and verification of the papers in connection with the census. Work has so far advanced that it is now possible to give some figures, and the Controller of the Census, Mr. J. I. Craig, has just published, with a short explanatory note, the following provisional statement:—

Administrative Divisions.	Census 1907.	Census 1917.	+ %
GOVERNORATES—			
Cairo	646,000	785,000	21·5
Alexandria	352,000	435,000	23·6
Canal	61,000	90,000	47·5
Suez	18,000	34,000	88·8
Damietta	51,000	31,000	—
Total Governorates	1,128,000	1,375,000	21·9
Lower Egypt—			
Beheira	775,000	884,000	14·1
Sharqiya	880,000	947,000	7·6
Daqahliya	861,000	977,000	13·5
Gharbiya	1,485,000	1,649,000	11·0
Qalyubiya	435,000	527,000	21·1
Menuffya	970,000	1,068,000	10·1
Total—Lower Egypt	5,406,000	6,052,000	11·9
Upper Egypt—			
Asyût	877,000	969,000	10·5
Aswân	233,000	251,000	7·7
Beni Suef	372,000	449,000	20·7
Fayûm	442,000	507,000	14·7
Girga	793,000	854,000	7·7
Giza	468,000	523,000	11·8
Qena	771,000	829,000	7·5
Minya	653,000	757,000	16·0
Total—Upper Egypt	4,609,000	5,139,000	11·5
Grand total (provisional)	11,143,000	12,566,000	12·7

The grand total is, it must be admitted, considerably lower than that which had been generally expected, but the Controller is of opinion that the "popular" estimates have all along been too high, and have been proved so by known factors. To begin with, the figure of fifteen millions mentioned by some was obviously an impossibility, seeing that the consumption of food in Egypt and a comparison with other countries show that there is not nearly enough food annually produced and imported into Egypt to support a population of this size. The records of births and deaths, which, although admittedly defective, suffice to give some idea of the increase of population, likewise conduce to prove that the "popular" estimates have been exaggerated. Between May 1, 1907, and March 6, 1917, there were registered 4,977,000 births and 3,149,000 deaths; so that the apparent natural increase was

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1,828,000. Added to the total for the 1907 census, this leaves us far from the fifteen million mark. At the same time it gives a figure somewhat in excess of the provisional grand total for 1917.

There is reason, however, to believe that the figure given for the deaths does not represent all those taking place in the period. Registration of births and deaths is compulsory, but, whilst in the first instance there is no incentive not to register, in the second there are at times obvious reasons why evasions of the law should be attempted. During the latter half of the past decennial period a steady and considerable rise in the number of deaths registered has taken place, amounting to as much as 81,000, or 28 per cent. per annum, between 1912 and 1916. Whilst, of course, some of this rise is due to a real increase in the number of deaths, the Controller is of opinion that a considerable portion, probably one-third, is due to better registration. This would mean that about 27,000 deaths have passed unrecorded each year. If allowance is made for this source of error, the population, gauged from the addition of excess during the intercensal period of births over deaths to the figures of the last census, should to-day be 12,840,000. This figure is still somewhat in excess of the provisional grand total given for the whole country; but the figures in the table do not include the desert Bedouin, the inhabitants of the Western Directorate recently formed to cover the territory on the Tripoli frontier, or civilians in other military zones. The figures for these are being worked out, and will be published later. They will, of course, substantially increase the above provisional grand total; but when it is mentioned that at the last census the estimated Bedouin population was 97,381, it will be seen that the provisional grand total is not so very far short of the figure which the vital statistics of the country during the past decade give us.

Migration to the Towns.

Some interesting facts emerge even at this early date from the census figures. The report on the census for 1907 expressly mentioned that at that date there was no marked evidence of the migration towards the towns which had already made itself so felt in Western countries. In the comparative figures given in the above table it will be noticed that the percentages of increase are greatest in the governorates where the principal large towns are situated. This leads to the natural and quite correct inference that the growth of the towns at the expense of the country has now started in real earnest in Egypt. Although the eventual spreading of this social phenomenon to Egypt was quite to be expected, and its extent is at the present moment not alarming, it is a feature which will have to be very carefully dealt with by the authorities from now onwards. Another point is the rapid growth of population in districts where irrigation has been most extended during the past ten years. Beni Suef province is a striking instance of this phenomenon, which, it appears, is not unknown in other Oriental countries. Thirdly, it is interesting to note that Cairo by its increase in population has now become equal to Glasgow, and shares with the latter the honour of being the fifth city in the British Empire in regard to population.

The Controller points out that, whilst census operations in Western countries are generally regarded as being errorless, in Oriental countries it is perhaps too much to hope for the same degree of precision as in the West. Especially is this so in Egypt, where popular suspicion and the unavoidable employment of native enumerators combine with other factors to introduce errors, mostly those of omission. Tests have therefore been carried out, with a view to ascertaining where and to what extent errors exist in the results. The conclusion is that in Cairo and Alexandria the figures are on the whole within one per cent. of the truth, and that in the provinces they are well within that figure. All things considered, this must be regarded as very satisfactory indeed. Meanwhile a staff is proceeding with the counting and tabulation of the figures, work which is being done by machinery. This will take yet another year to complete. After that must come the analysis of the figures, and the whole work will, it is hoped, be finished by October, 1918.

Union Jack Club in Alexandria.

On Friday last, a Union Jack Club was opened in Alexandria in the Rue Nebi Daniel. There was a large representative gathering present, and the opening was performed by the G.O.C. of Alexandria, Brigadier-General Boyle, C.B., who read messages of good wishes from the High Commissioner and General Murray. The club, which owes its creation to the generosity and the co-operation of Alexandria residents and officials, should prove of the utmost value to the sister Services, for the use of whose members it is, of course, intended.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Local comment on the High Commissioner's speech to the Legislative Council by the Greeks is mainly unfavourable, disappointment being expressed that attention is not given to matters which they regard as of chief importance for the island. The revision of the law relating to education is a matter upon which Greeks insist as one of the most urgent needs. The High Commissioner expressed his regret that "in present war circumstances" it was impossible to meet the general desire. The Greek community has long desired that the people should be relieved of all direct financial responsibility for the maintenance of schools, but that they should retain direct control and management of elementary education in the appointment and dismissal of teachers and as regards the curriculum and the books.

State of Education.

The state of education has been admittedly unsatisfactory, in spite of very great reforms introduced under British administration; and the need of "an independent inquiry" was long recognised both in the island and by Secretaries of State. The latter have always refused to sanction any great increases in grants to elementary schools without such inquiry, and would not consent to it except on the clear understanding that increased government did not involve some increase of control. Expenses for the inquiry were, however, finally voted; it was carried out by Messrs. J. E. Talbot and F. W. Cape, whose excellent and comprehensive report was published in 1913. The report dealt primarily with questions of administration and finance, and in a lesser degree with the teaching given in schools. To those interested in Cyprus the report gives much useful information. One thing was clear—that more money is required for public elementary education, and that Government should contribute a larger proportion. But, as the High Commissioner points out, in England "there has never been any difference of opinion as to the principle that the expenditure of any of the proceeds of any kind of general taxation (whether direct or indirect) must necessarily be controlled by the Government which raises and collects the money." Sir John Clauson expressed the hope that in the course of debates "members might furnish materials towards the solution of the education question, as soon as circumstances permit."

The Position of Teachers.

Greek Cypriots are extremely anxious that teachers, as a body, should receive better salaries, and that provision should be made for adequate pensions. In connection with their influence in the island, the following remarks made by M. Theodótou, M.L.C., one of the ablest Greeks, "with uncompromising candour," to Messrs. Talbot and Cape, may be quoted. "We cannot deny," he said, "that school teachers are factors in the country, socially and politically. No one could deny this, or that the teachers have helped us in our controversies with the Government. They have, for instance, helped to bring about the reduction of the Tribute to Turkey, and there are other subjects in which we are still at variance with the Government. They have in this way educated the people in fighting for their political rights. The teachers in our hands are a weapon difficult to fight against, and we don't want to hand them over to the Government. If they were under the sway of the Government, some would resign, while others would feel timid, and would not work for the support of the country." This is plain speaking, and shows plainly how village teachers are employed for political propaganda throughout the rural districts.

Drought and Wheat Shortage.

Drought has continued to cause gloomy forebodings. In many quarters control by Government of all available wheat and barley supplies is advocated, in order that the people may not become dependent on merchants in any coming crisis. A Government monopoly alone could provide grain at reasonable prices for the poor.

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THE TURKS IN MEDINA.

(From a Correspondent.)

In view of the official announcement lately made in Parliament with regard to the isolation of the Turkish force in Medina, and the ignorance of the Turkish Government as to its fate, the following description of the state of that town, which appeared in *El Qibla*, the Grand Shereef's organ, is singularly interesting. The value of the information is enhanced by the fact of its having been imparted officially to the King of the Hejaz by a deputation of fugitive Ulema and Medina. It was on a Friday morning when this deputation was granted audience by his Highness, and the vast hall of the Hashimite Palace was filled to overflowing with the notables of the land, according to immemorial custom.

"We have heard," said his Highness, "many reports of the flagrant injustices committed by these autocrats in the town of the Prophet, but we could hardly believe that the situation was as grave as you have described it to the supreme Kadi. We desire, therefore, to hear the story direct from you."

One of the deputation then stood up and delivered an eloquent speech, of which the following is an extract:—

"One of the many injustices of the Turks is the withholding of all food from man and beast, and, finally, the rationing of people with 30 drams of bread per head every twenty-four hours. Even this rationing degenerated into irregular doles, which finally were stopped altogether, and it was then that we had no other alternative than to leave the town. No food was to be seen in the bazaars, save dates, and even these they finally laid their hands upon in order to give them to the troops, and thus the inhabitants were threatened with death from hunger. Not content with all this, they dispossessed the notables of their mansions and turned these into barracks or hospitals for their sick or wounded soldiers. But the climax of their wrong-doing was reached when they started actually demolishing houses and cutting down date and other trees for no religious or worldly benefit, but out of mere love of destruction, and this culminated in their demolishing the grand buildings surrounding the Prophet's Mosque. The last act of this horrible tragedy was their turning out of the sacred town the entire civil population, both high and low, men, women, and children, and this spectacle, unprecedented in the history of Islamic Arabia, was such as to make the hardest-hearted shudder. Their impiety was such that they would sometimes take away Ulema in the act of prayer in the Prophet's Mosque.

Some of the neighbouring tribes used to come into the town with loads of rice, tobacco, dhurra, and the like, which relieved, in a way, the distress of the population, but soon the Turanian tyrants began to maltreat these Bedouin, rob them of their goods, and sometimes put them to death. Consequently, the Bedouin stopped altogether coming into the town, and all sources of revictualling were thus cut off. Then, to re-entice the Bedouin, the deceitful Turks sent out criers into the town to proclaim, "Oh, Arabs of the desert, whoever of you shall enter the town, even unjustly, shall be allowed to leave it free and safe. You can bring in with you whatever you like without let or hindrance." Some Bedouin, whose greed blinded them to the oft-proved treachery of the Turks, ventured into the town with some loads of rice and wheat, which they started selling at exorbitant prices. The authorities maintained an encouraging silence until the inhabitants had bought over all the stuff with their money, and then they laid hands on it."

A previous issue of *El Qibla* says:—

"In spite of the efforts of *Tanin* and *Tasvir Efkar* and other Unionist organs to misrepresent facts and distort the truth in connection with the ransacking by the Turanians of the Prophet's Tomb, and the robbing therefrom of 'Kaukab el Durri' (a famous jewel stone said to be the gift of one of the queens of Egypt, Shajaret el Durr) and other jewels, it is now ascertained, beyond any shadow of doubt, that the Minister of Wakfs came himself from Constantinople to Medina and took away all the jewels of the Prophet's Tomb, together with all moneys found in the Prophet's coffers. These moneys alone amount to 13 million piastres. It is known that these moneys and jewels are contributions of the devout from all parts of the Moslem world, accumulated throughout the centuries, since the rise of Islam. They have been guarded with scrupulous care and sacred respect all these hundreds of years, until the desecrating hand of the Turanian robber was insolently laid on these holy treasures."

Lieut.-Colonel Gregory stated recently at a meeting in the Holborn Restaurant that since the Armenian Relief Fund had been started £75,000 had been raised. A report had been received from Mr. Backhouse, their agent in the Caucasus, that the work of repatriation had already begun. The committee immediately sent him £5,000, and another similar amount would be sent. Armenian Flag Day is to be celebrated in London on June 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

"THE MAN IS MINE ENEMY, THEREFORE A ROGUE."—Q. E. D.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issue of May 25 "Corsair" tells a funny story of some Serb who left his rubbers outside a door, and how somebody "pinched" them. The loser laid it to a Bulgarian. Why? The thief may have been a Greek, or a brother Serb, a Jew, gipsy, Turk, Vlach, or German—all abound in Sofia. Why, upon such slender evidence, ground a charge that all Bulgars are rogues? The present writer has left his gum-shoes outside many a Bulgarian door—worse, he once left several tons of salt in bag and 3,000 sacks of flour beside the railway line twenty miles north of Adrianople. The stuff was intended to revictual the city on its surrender, but it held out, and the trucks having to be released, it was piled in a public-house shed and actually in the open air beside the rails, under tarpaulins. There it lay for months in (nominal) charge of an elderly *chef de gare* and an aged porter. Observe, the place was a 'rail-head; there were about twenty sidings, where hungry troops were detrained at all hours under small supervision. A village of 2,000 souls lay handy; flour and salt are merchantable commodities. Yet when Odren fell and my property was taken over by the Government of King Ferdinand, it weighed out intact; not a sack was broken or missing, and I was paid in full. I had not seen my stuff for eleven weeks nor been able to exercise the least supervision. Observe, too, that a loosely-corded hamper of canned foods and delicacies, lemons and so forth, had been left behind with the flour, and was also intact. (Two cheap glass tumblers had disappeared, *c'est tout.*)

This was no solitary experience. One learned to expect such treatment. Between December, 1912, and May, 1913, my comrade and I carried no arms. We travelled across Bulgaria safely and quite unmolested from Bourgas to Kustendil, and from the Danube to Odren, penetrating the loneliest gorges of the Rhodopes, and sleeping rough and in wild company. Neither of us were ever robbed of a *lev*, nor was the smallest imposition practised upon elderly and helpless strangers.

The Bulgar may be a very truculent fellow; the Turk saw that side of him—I did not. But he is no rogue, as anybody who has had commercial or financial transactions with him is aware. Despite the military disasters of 1913, he kept his word to his creditors, and lifted the moratorium *on the date fixed before the first war*, and long before Greece or Serbia lifted theirs. He kept up the service of his external debt until the outbreak of Armageddon upset everything. Let us fight the Bulgar if we must, but stop abusing him.

Yours, etc.,

H. M. Wallis.

Reading, May 28, 1917.

The Wounded Allies Relief Committee has removed from Grosvenor Gardens, and the headquarters of the organisation are now at Bank Chambers, 329, High Holborn, W.C.1.

The Postmaster-General announces that in future mails will be despatched to India and the East fortnightly instead of weekly. The first mail under the new arrangement will be despatched next week.

Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, is going to Constantinople to return the Grand Vizier's visit to Vienna.

A Constantinople communiqué dated May 25 reports that two Turkish airmen landed with their machine near Salmore, ninety miles south-west of Gaza, and destroyed the telegraph lines and the British Army's water supply pipes.

In recent encounters with the Bulgarians the Venizelist troops had nine officers and 125 men killed and 22 officers and 400 men wounded.

A memorandum addressed to the Greek Government from shipowners states that the Greek steamers torpedoed by the Germans number 102, with an aggregate tonnage of 400,000.

According to the Athens newspapers, the Greek cruiser "Helli" has been placed by the Allies at the disposal of the Venizelist Government.

Drunken soldiers of the garrison at Corinth fired recently at some houses, including one belonging to a prominent Venizelist. Order was maintained by the troops and the offenders were arrested.

It is reported that locusts have appeared in Upper Egypt. However, it is not thought that the invasion will be serious, and there is no danger, as the food crops have already been harvested.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

A few days ago I heard again a story that was first told me in Baghdad in those bad days when the Vali Pasha and his Turkish underlings spent their time in extorting the uttermost *girsh* from the hapless citizens. It was told then about a native Christian, while the more recent version made the hero a Jew. But the story was practically the same, and it ran thus:—A certain *Tel Kaifi* of Baghdad, who was desperately hard up and badly wanted to give an entertainment of some kind in honour of his daughter's betrothal, got written a letter addressed to God, setting forth his desires in explicit terms. This epistle he took up to the roof of his house, and there solemnly launched it upon the winds. The winds, it so happened, bore the petition to a good Catholic priest, who, after reading it, decided to play the part of Providence in a small way, and proceeded to call upon the *Tel Kaifi* and present him with a certain sum. The recipient was profuse in his thanks, but when the visitor had taken his departure he remarked to his family: "Only three *mejideh*. No doubt the priest kept the rest that God sent for us."

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Lecturing in Oxford recently, the Rev. Khodadad Keith, of the Society for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews, quoted a great Moslem writer as saying: "Woman is a calamity, but no house ought to be without her." This would hardly do for a woman's suffrage society's motto; but another quotation made by the lecturer might do very nicely, with certain emendations—in fact, it might well be used by any £400-a-year M.P. who is anxious to rush the vote for women through under that "to-win-the-war" pretext to which I referred a short time ago. The quotation referred to runs:—"If you are going to do any particular work, and do not know how to set about it, go and ask your wife. It is the safest course." Unfortunately, the splendid effect of this is somewhat marred by the final sentence: "But do exactly the opposite to what she tells you."

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The German threat to sink all hospital ships in the Mediterranean can hardly have surprised anyone. It is so thoroughly German. And I suppose we ought not to be surprised by the "reasons" given: the alleged misuse of the hospital ships by our Government. But how even the highest-paid and most be-decorated of German official liars can have talked such sheer rubbish *does* nevertheless surprise me. And if you have ever talked with anyone who held a responsible position on any of our hospital ships you will know how strictly we had observed all the rules and regulations. The German pretence that we have failed to do so *may* conceivably deceive a few neutrals; but I doubt it. And it is the most nauseating cant I have come across for a long time.

***

Egypt is evidently bent upon progress along artistic lines at least. I have already referred to certain bold excursions into the realm of Drama and of Opera which have been witnessed on the banks of the Nile. Now I see that a Syrian gentleman, Maître Negib Nahas, a lawyer of Cairo, and an amateur in Arabic music, has "succeeded, after long and minute experiments, in introducing certain additions to the piano," which have rendered it "adaptable to the notes of Arabic music which do not come out very clearly on the ordinary piano." A sample piano was made before the war broke out; but the clash of arms checked further progress, and it was only recently that Maître Nahas was able to introduce his invention to the Oriental Club of Cairo.

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Unfortunately, the account of the entertainment to which I am indebted for my information does not say whether the new piano was hailed as a triumph or not. Nor does my own knowledge of music enable me to estimate the chances of effecting any marked improvement along the lines indicated. It has been well said, however, that music was made in Heaven, and that Man cannot add to it; and I am at present somewhat sceptical about "improvements" to a piano when they take the form of additions. Yet, I admit, the new piano may have a great future before it. It may be used for supplying the "slow music" to the Arabic and much-emended version of "Hamlet" that was lately produced in the Sudan; and, again, it might even tackle the new music (Arabic) of the Arabic version of "Carmen."

CORSAIR.

THE FUTURE OF MESOPOTAMIA AND SYRIA.

At the meeting of the Central Asian Society last Wednesday Mr. Demetrius C. Boulger gave an account of the various endeavours made to have a railway constructed across Syria and Mesopotamia from the Levant to the Persian Gulf. The lecturer said that eighty years ago General Chesney returned from his first expedition to Mesopotamia, and the main conclusions he had then come to were as sound to-day as when first uttered. Chesney had reported in favour of the valley of the Euphrates as against that of the Tigris, he had selected Iskanderun as the port for the Levant and Koweit as that for the Persian Gulf, and no later explorer had shown these conclusions to be unwise. Chesney met with no success with the British Government of his day, and subsequent endeavours all alike failed for one reason or another. In 1878, when the Anglo-Turkish convention was signed, it was thought that the last barrier had been removed; but the endeavour then made failed, and so did that of Mr. Edward Cazalet in 1883. On this last occasion the failure was due to the death of the concessionaire almost immediately after obtaining his firman from the Porte. After that date British influence in Constantinople declined, while that of Germany increased. In 1906 the Germans got control of the little foothold that British investors had in the Messina, Tarsus, and Edina Railway, and the whole idea of the Syria-Mesopotamia Railway as a British enterprise was abandoned. Of the future the lecturer said that a railway from the Levant to the Persian Gulf—not from the Bosphorus—was to be our lever and master-key of the position in the Near and Middle East. But it was not a matter of a railway alone. The task was to restore their lost prosperity to those famous lands which had so long remained derelict, and not only our own interests, but the needs of the world demanded this. The region of the Euphrates and Tigris was the greatest granary of the world known to the ancients, and there was no reason why, with the aid of the engineer and the chemist, it should not be so again. Good government was the cure for the evils from which Western Asia had so long suffered.

In the course of a discussion that followed, Sir Edwin Pears said that Cazalet's scheme had not gone through because of the tremendous baksheesh demanded by an intermediary. In the case of the Messina Railway, the Germans had acquired their rights by purchasing the whole of the block of shares (55 per cent.) owned by the French and part of the 45 per cent. owned by the British. It was a fair commercial transaction. The coldness with which the idea of the Syria-Mesopotamia railway had been received by the British Government was because most of the country it would serve was desert, and the railway could not be expected ever to pay in face of steamship competition.

Other speakers followed.

SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE PHILOLOGIE.

The annual conference of the Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux Arts is taking place this week at the society's headquarters, 39, Upper Bedford Place, W.C. The conference was inaugurated by a reception of members and friends on Tuesday evening last, when short addresses were given by the President-elect, Sir John A. Cockburn, K.C.M.G., by the retiring President, Mr. Jaakoff Prelooker, Phil.B., and by the General Secretary, Dr. H. M. Léon. Among those connected with the East who were present were Dr. S. H. Abdul-Majid, Dr. P. S. G. Dubash, Syed Ehsan El Bakry, and Messrs. Kwaja Ismail, M. W. Hassanally, and M. D. Sulieman, who acted as the stewards. Others were Mr. and Mrs. Pickthall, Miss Claridge, Sheikh and Mrs. S. H. Ahmad, Syed Erfan Ali, and Messrs. Mufti Muhammad Sadif, K. S. Sauhta, R. M. Dhawan, and Kristaporan Ahmad. Mr. and Mrs. Duse Mahomed performed a scene from "Othello," and a musical programme was contributed by Mr. M. Ali Khan, Mr. Max Cherninski and Madame Cherninski. There was on view an interesting collection of early lithographs and other works of art.

Among the lectures announced to be given in the course of the conference to occupy the following days was one on Wednesday by Dr. L. Belléli on the "Contribution of Byzantine Scholars to the Renaissance," while on Thursday Dr. H. M. Léon was to read a paper on "Some Curious Palestinian Fishes," and Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall was to lecture on "Some Syrian Legends."

It is reported from Switzerland (says a Rome telegram) that revolts have broken out in Poland, Serbia, and Montenegro.

Empire Day was observed almost as a general holiday in Malta. Flags waved from every flagstaff, and Boy Scouts saluted the Union Jack in the Palace Square in the presence of a large and enthusiastic gathering, which included the Governor.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DIPLOMACY IN THE NEAR EAST.*

Mr. Marriott entitles his book "An Historical Study in European Diplomacy," and begins with the arrival of the Turk in Europe. The Turk did not create the Eastern Question, for Bulgar and Greek hated each other before Mohammed II.; and on the origin of that other, but still essential, side of the problem, the secular and religious rivalry between Greek and Roman, which is certainly not less strong to-day than in the time of Belisarius, the author has also nothing to say. When, or if, the Turk is cleared out of Europe "bag and baggage," we shall be confronted with a different Eastern Question, but an Eastern Question will still exist, unless, as Mr. Marriott points out, the Christians can be induced to tolerate each other. He does not say whether, in his opinion, the present war has given any indication that they can be persuaded to do so.

The author suggests—not, perhaps, with any great amount of conviction—that a Balkan Confederation may some day issue from a general recognition of the Balkan peoples that as they have got to live in the same country, they may as well live at peace. The Balkan League he regards as perhaps the most extraordinary political miracle that ever happened—Sir Edward Grey appears to have thought, or at least hoped, that it would repeat itself—but even the genius of M. Venizelos would scarcely have achieved that brief but marvellous success had his then allies not been whetted by the certainty of fighting and the hope of profit.

The prospect of even the loosest form of political association—Mr. Marriott wisely puts it no higher than that—has not, perhaps, advanced very greatly since 1914, except in so far as it has been recognised outside the Balkans as the necessary solution.

The alternatives seemed at one time limited to a hegemony under domestic rule, or outside control. The former may be dismissed almost at once as an impossible solution. Bulgaria is at the moment the most powerful Balkan State. But if the problem could be isolated from outside intervention, which in practice it never can, it at once becomes clear that Bulgaria could not permanently maintain control over the whole of the Balkans; nor could Serbia or Roumania, still less Greece. Even with the powerful backing of Germany, Bulgaria does not put forward so large a claim; Germany's latest peace manœuvres, apochryphal or not, provide indeed for a Greater Bulgaria, but not for a Bulgaria in command of the Balkans. And what Germany does not design Bulgaria cannot get. Each of the other States also desire expansion. But none has ever formulated a programme that envisages the whole. Each bases itself on nationalism or irredentism, and it is the very essence of that title that it rejects the larger programme of conquest and domination over alien races.

There remains the possibility of outside control, which would involve a readjustment of boundaries—not necessarily in the sole interest of the Balkans—and some measure of internal autonomy, a series of vassal kingdoms, partially financed by the Great Power in control, and consequently under the commercial as well as political rule in the last resort of an outside sovereign. (Something of the kind has recently occurred in Turkey, where Germany, in return for a loan, has obtained an agreement for tariff preference for a series of years. Since Germany has also lent money to Bulgaria, we may assume that it has been done on the same security.) There are, or were, two claimants to this sovereign control of the Balkans—Germany and Russia. If the Entente failed to win the war, or were even compelled to adopt the "peace by negotiation" or the "peace without victory," Germany would be left in possession. The control would in that case have to be shared with Austria, since Germany could scarcely repudiate her ally's claim to Salonika; but this would be relatively a small matter, since not only would Austria herself be largely dependent on Germany, but a window on the Ægean would be nothing in comparison with the possession of the Berlin-Byzantium-Baghdad route, which would make Germany the ruling power not only in the Balkans but in Asia Minor as well. Mr. Marriott does well to bring out this point effectively. It has not been until lately adequately realised in England, and to judge by the indignation of Cabinet Ministers at the celebrated *Daily Mail* map, which only illustrated the fact, it was not realised even in Downing Street eighteen months ago.

The other claimant is, or was, Russia. But the Russian revolution appears to have made a profound alteration, at any rate for the time being, on the Russian outlook in that respect. For the moment the ambition to possess Constantinople and to protect the Balkans seems to have vanished in the domestic strife and the newly-expressed doctrine of non-intervention in foreign affairs. But genuine national ambitions and ideals have a way of surviving revolutions. Napoleon's policy was largely that of the old *régime* on a larger scale, and unless Russia sinks into anarchy, which we cannot for a moment contemplate, Constantinople will still remain a magnet of her policy. If, as we expect, a second edition of this careful study of the whole Eastern Question is called for in a few months' time, we hope the author will add a chapter on the Russian revolution and its inevitable reaction on Balkan politics.

There is only one point of criticism to add. Mr. Marriott, as is natural, treats the war exclusively from its Eastern standpoint, and minimises the German desire to beat France to her knees. Now, the German apologist to the British Ambassador in Berlin himself repudiated any such desire, but he proceeded to add that he could not give any such guarantee with regard to the French colonies. The conclusion seems clear that while Germany's ambition was mainly Oriental, that did not exhaust her aims. She desired not merely the Near and Middle East, in accordance with the Kaiser's policy, but an expansion of her overseas empire as well. In the original programme Hamburg was to be profited as well as Berlin, but subsequent events have somewhat obscured that intention.

A. W. T.

* "The Eastern Question." By J. A. R. Marriott, M.A. (Clarendon Press. 12s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Constable and Co. announce among their forthcoming books "The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans," by Dr. Seton-Watson. The price of the volume is fixed at half a guinea.

The Ahmadia Movement (41, Great Russell Street, W.C.) has published recently "Islam as Interpreted by a Muslim," a lecture on Islam by Quazi Abdullah, and "A Word to Every English Man and Woman."

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have just published (at 1s. net) "Roumania and Great Britain," by A. Herscovici Hurst. Sir Thomas Dunlop contributes a preface, and this little book contains a great deal of valuable information. The profits from its sale will, we understand, be devoted to the National Roumanian Relief Fund.

The author of "Soldier Men," which will shortly be published by Mr. John Lane, is Major Grove, who served in the Gallipoli and Senussi campaigns, and is now in Egypt.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

In Mesopotamia. By Martin Swayne. Illustrated (in colour) by the author. (Hodder and Stoughton. 5s. net.)

Russia in Revolution: Being the Experiences of an Englishman in Petrograd During the Upheaval. Illustrated. By Stinton Jones. (Herbert Jenkins. 5s. net.)

Under date of May 23, Reuter's Corfu correspondent reports:—M. Terestchenko, Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent the following telegram to M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister:—"On assuming control of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the reconstituted Russian Provisional Government, I beg to assure your Excellency of the warm feelings of sympathy which Russian democracy, now mistress of its destinies, unalterably feels for the cause of your noble country, whose spirit of self-sacrifice and heroism will always remain worthy of admiration. Confident in the ultimate triumph of justice and liberty, emancipated Russia will continue to pursue this war, not with the object of conquest or greed, but in order to ensure for all nations the right freely to dispose of their own fate and to assure for them a peace guaranteed against every fresh aggression."

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. June.	1917. May.		1335. Shaaban	5677. Sivan
1	19	Friday	10	11
2	20	Saturday.....	11	12
3	21	Sunday	12	13
4	22	Monday	13	14
5	23	Tuesday	14	15
6	24	Wednesday	15	16
7	25	Thursday	16	17

Sunday is the birthday of H.M. the King.

The Sultan of Egypt has arrived at Alexandria from Cairo. He was met at the station by an Anglo-Egyptian guard of honour and the notable personages of all the foreign colonies.

The French Government has conferred the gold medal "des epidémies" on the Queen of Roumania, Reuter's correspondent telegraphs from Jassy. Her Majesty has always taken the greatest interest in all philanthropic works, but since Roumania's entry into the war she has devoted herself entirely to the hospitals and has given proof of the most whole-hearted self-sacrifice by the way in which she has daily visited the hospitals for contagious diseases, notably the establishments for cases of eruptive typhus.

Crown Prince Carol of Roumania has received the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour from the French Government.

The Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan and Mrs. Stack have left Khartoum for Erkowit, where they will pass the summer months. His Excellency is accompanied by his entire personal staff, including Mr. Howell (Assistant Private Secretary), Shaheen Bey George (Arabic Secretary), Mr. Lang, Mr. Martin, and Ahmed Effendi el Sayid, of his Excellency's private office.

The Serbian Minister and Madame Yovanovitch visited Glasgow on Monday and inspected the Serbian Hospital, where a number of refugees are being trained and educated. Subsequently the visitors were entertained at luncheon by the Lord Provost and Lady Dunlop. M. Yovanovitch thanked Glasgow and Scotland for their great help to the Serbs, and referred to the magnificent work carried out in Serbia by Scottish nurses and doctors.

The Roumanian and the Serbian Ministers were among the guests at luncheon at the Carlton Hotel last Friday of the Portuguese Minister, in honour of the visit of Major Norton de Matos, the Portuguese Minister for War.

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell has disposed of 18, Portman Square, and taken 34, Wimpole Street for the season.

General Sir John Maxwell, accompanied by Prince Alexander of Battenberg as A.D.C., last week opened a bazaar at Leicester for raising £25,000 towards a local fund for disabled sailors and soldiers.

Contrary to earlier reports, Petrograd messages now state that M. Isvolsky, who is leaving Paris, is not being appointed to the Russian Embassy in London.

General Georgescu, the Chief of the Roumanian Military Commission, has left London for the North of England.

Lady Neave, Lady Lowther, Lady O'Conor, and Mrs. Frank Barker, the ladies of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund Committee, will be At Home at the Alpine Club, Mill Street, Conduit Street, next Wednesday afternoon between four o'clock and half-past six to meet British residents from Turkey now in England. Former British residents in Turkey who may not have received an invitation should communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, S.W.

Lieutenant-Colonel James Halifax Western, R.E., C.M.G., of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, who was the engineer responsible to the Egyptian Government for the reconstruction of the Delta barrage, left estate valued at £15,065.

Many readers in Egypt and the Sudan will be interested in the following announcements. They are taken from the *London Gazette*, are dated from the War Office, May 19, and fall under the heading General Staff :—

Brig.-Gen.—Bt. Maj. (temp. Lt.-Col.) G. F. Clayton, C.M.G., ret. pay, Res. of Off., and to be temp. Brig.-Gen. whilst so empld. January 16, 1917.

G.S.O., 1st Grade (Unpaid).—Maj. G. S. Symes, D.S.O., h-p. list, and to be temp. Lt.-Col. whilst so empld. December 28, 1916. (Substituted for the notification regarding this Officer, under "Special Appointments," in the *Gazette* of December 27, 1916.)

Dr. d'Erf Wheeler, R.A.M.C., formerly of the English Hospital, Jerusalem, has been promoted to the rank of Captain after eight months' service, and is under orders for a front, where his long experience of the East will be very useful. Dr. Wheeler was for some months in charge of one of the military hospitals at Canterbury, and is at present attached to a Field Ambulance in Nottinghamshire, pending his embarkation orders. His eldest son, Captain P. d'E. Wheeler, Dorsetshire Regiment, after service in France and Mesopotamia, is now attached to the Royal Flying Corps. Second-Lieutenant Gerald d'E. Wheeler, the youngest son, having completed his course at the Cadet College, Quetta, is now in France, in a regiment of Indian Cavalry.

Mr. Stephen Paget is collecting material for a biography of Sir Victor Horsley, who died in Mesopotamia last year. In a letter to *The Times*, Mr. Paget writes (from 21, Ladbroke Square, W.11) :—"I ask for help in this venture from his friends and colleagues, and from the many patients, in hospital practice or in private practice, who have reason to be thankful for his skill and his kindness. I want all that they can tell me of him, and any letters of his which they will let me use. Without their help nothing that I can write of him will be of much service to anybody. Great care will be taken to return all letters."

Miss Emily J. Robinson, hon. secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, points out that the flag day announced to be held in June on behalf of this stricken people will not be the first popular appeal to be made for them. Since October last about twenty flag days have been held for the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund at Manchester, Liverpool, and other influential towns of the United Kingdom, and hundreds of ladies and gentlemen have given their services at each place to make these efforts a success.

We would remind our readers that Miss Robinson will read a paper on "Armenia and the Armenians" next Tuesday afternoon. The lecture is to be given at the Imperial Institute, under the auspices of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society, and the Rt. Hon. G. W. E. Russell, LL.D., will preside.

The day has an additional interest from the fact of the large number of Armenians who live and flourish under the British Flag, mainly in India, writes the *Daily Express*. The Apcars of Calcutta are a famous family of millionaires who have frequently been represented on the Legislative Council. The late Sir Charles Paul, another Armenian, was for years Advocate-General of Bengal, and Sir Paul Chater is a well-known Hongkong financier. The Armenians in India originally migrated there from Persia, where there is still a large Armenian population. There is a considerable and wealthy Armenian colony in London.

A correspondent sends to *The Times* the following extract from a letter received from his son, who is a prisoner of war at Fürstenberg :—"We have six Roumanian officers here now. I don't know whether there is a Roumanian Prisoner of War Help Committee in England, but these officers get nothing in the way of parcels. I think they have no communication with their homes either. If there is any kind-hearted person who would like to send them parcels, I am sure they would be most gratefully received."

Next Saturday afternoon, at 4.30, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall will lecture on "Moslem Interests in Palestine." The lecture is to be given under the auspices of the Central Islamic Society, and Mr. M. H. Ispahani will preside.

Dr. Trumbitch, President of the Jugo-Slav Committee, has arrived in London.

Colonel M. Dorisavlevitch, president of the Serbian Red Cross, has arrived in London from Corfu

Mrs. A. van Millingen has left Overbrook, Witley, for Eastbourne, where she expects to be joined next month by her husband, from Alexandria.

Mr. Ralph van Millingen, London Scottish, has been gazetted 2nd Lieutenant and is leaving again shortly for the Front.

Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, lately Consul-General in Syria, was among those present at the funeral of Commander Lord Abinger, R.N.V.R., on Saturday last.

The Rev. J. J. Drummond, Scottish chaplain during the past winter months at St. Andrew's, Cairo, was recently presented with a beautifully engraved Egyptian box by the members of Kirk Session and Committee of Church Management of St. Andrew's on the occasion of his return to his parish (Jedburgh) in Scotland. The presentation was made by Mr. Williamson, "The Grove," Maadi.

It has been decided in principle (says the *Egyptian Gazette*) to appoint Dr. Alexander Granville, Director-General of the Alexandria Municipality, as President of the Quarantine Board in succession to the late Sir Armand Ruffer. The successor of Dr.

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Granville at the Municipality has not yet been nominated. Two officials of Cairo are said to have already declined to accept the post, which is generally considered the most difficult official position in Egypt.

Dr. Granville has received from the Italian Government the silver medal of the Italian Red Cross

Lord Radstock, who is well known for his philanthropy in connection with the work of the Y.M.C.A., has been paying a visit to Assuan and Upper Egypt lately. Owing to his time being fully occupied with the Army in Egypt, he was unable to pay a visit to Upper Egypt until last month. The Coptic community in all towns received him with open arms. Their churches were thrown open to him to preach, and large congregations attended. In several churches he preached at morning and evening services.

At the last meeting of the Central Asian Society it was announced that Sir Henry Trotter had been elected by the council to be chairman for the ensuing year. Sir Henry took the chair accordingly, the occasion being the lecture by Mr. Boulger, reported elsewhere. Sir Henry recalled that he had taken part in the mission to Yakoob Beg of Kashgar in 1873 and 1874, and that one of the first books of Mr. Boulger was "The Life of Yakoob Beg of Kashgar," published in 1878.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Stanley Worsley, D.S.O., A.S.C., who was drowned on May 4, while returning to duty, was the eldest son of the late Major-General Richard Worsley, Indian Army, and of Mrs. R. Worsley, of 7, St. George's Court, Gloucester Road. Born at Harrington Hall, Spilsby, Lincolnshire, in 1879, he was educated at Wellington College and Sandhurst, and obtained a commission in the A.S.C. He served in the South African War from 1900 to 1902, and received both the Queen's and the King's Medals, with five clasps. He was Adjutant to the East Lancashire Territorial Division for four years. In 1913 he was attached to the Egyptian Army, and on April 25, 1915, went with the Expeditionary Force to Gallipoli, remaining there until September 13. He was mentioned three times in dispatches, and was awarded the D.S.O. In 1915 he was sent with Colonel Kelly's expedition to Darfur, and while there was twice mentioned in dispatches, was given brevet rank, and also received a letter from the Sirdar thanking him for his excellent services.

The death is announced of Captain and Quartermaster George Payne, late of the 1st Scots Guards. He entered the Scots Fusilier Guards in 1875 and served in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, receiving the medal and Khedive's bronze star. He also served in South Africa in 1899-1902, and was mentioned in Lord Roberts's despatches, and received the Queen's medal with four clasps and the King's medal with two clasps.

Lieutenant William Maurice Armstrong, M.C., Hussars—news of whose death on May 23, from a wound received the same day, has been received unofficially—was the only son of Captain and Mrs. Marcus Beresford Armstrong, of Moyaliffe, Ireland, and Clodagh, Folkestone, and was a cousin of General Sir Stanley Maude. Educated at Eton and Sandhurst, he was gazetted in 1910, and saw Service with his regiment in India and South Africa. When war broke out he was in England on leave, and left for the front with the Expeditionary Force in August, 1914, and had served on the Staff all through the war. In June, 1915, he went to Gallipoli, and served with the famous 29th Division, being present at the evacuation of the peninsula, and after a short period in Egypt he returned to France early in 1916. At the time of his death he was serving as a brigade-major. Lieutenant Armstrong was four times mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the Military Cross early in 1916.

On Thursday of last week the Rev. George Wisely, D.D., who was for many years officiating Presbyterian Chaplain to the Forces in Malta, died at Orpington, Kent, in his ninety-second year. He took his degree of M.A. at Marischal College in 1846, and was licensed by the Free Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1850. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Italy in 1854 as minister of the Scotch Free Church at Malta, and he and Mrs. Wisely were constant in promoting the welfare of soldiers and sailors. During the Crimean War their devotion to the wounded received the recognition of the military authorities. In 1855 they started a Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, the first outside the United Kingdom. Quite recently it was very much through Dr. Wisely's instrumentality that the British and Foreign Sailors' Society were enabled to erect the King Edward VII. Merchant Sailors' Rest in Malta, which has proved of such benefit to the crews of torpedoed merchant vessels in the Mediterranean.

The *Egyptian Gazette* announces the sudden death, at Helmia, Cairo, of Mrs. Brewster, wife of Brewster Bey, former English secretary to the ex-Khedive.

The Acting Sirdar, in an Army Order, regrets to announce to the Army the death of El Bimbashi A. Wyllie, Eastern Arab Corps (late 11th Sudanese), which occurred near Dilling on April 18, 1917.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

BENTLEY.—On May 25, at 38, Cheniston Gardens, W., Marjory (*née* Hankinson), the wife of W. B. Bentley, Maadi, Cairo—a son.

COBB.—On May 20, at Hurstlyn, Frinton-on-Sea, the wife of F. H. Cobb, of Port Sudan, Red Sea Province—a son.

HASTINGS.—On May 21 at Gezira, Cairo, the wife of Temporary Major William Hastings, of a son.

DEATH.

WISELY.—On May 24, at Orpington, Kent, the Rev. George Wisely, D.D., of Malta, in his ninety-second year. The funeral service took place at the Cathedral of St. Machar, Old Aberdeen, on Tuesday, the 29th inst., at twelve noon.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 1917.

INTERNATIONAL HOMŒOPATHY

This is an age of experiments. Time was when a British Prime Minister, having had occasion to make simultaneously a high diplomatic and a high literary appointment, was asked why he had not reversed his nominations, on the ground that the diplomatist might have shown himself to be a poet and the man of letters might have displayed high diplomatic attainments, whereas neither had the least chance of distinguishing himself in the actual appointment assigned to him. Great Britain's destinies are to-day in the hands of a bolder Government; not only is advantage taken of probabilities, but even remote possibilities are also considered. So long, however, as the experiments conform with some recognised principle of the scientific or metaphysical world the country lives in no fear of a revival of the unfortunate era of "legitimate gambles." It is the basis of the homœopathic treatment in medicine that "like cures like," and the British Government, wishing to leave no stone unturned for the benefit of the Grand Alliance, is enabling Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and three of his fellow-Socialists to accept an invitation to visit Petrograd. Russia is suffering from an excess of Socialism, which bears to the Revolution the same relationship that leaves do to the rhubarb plant. These are an essential part of the plant, more conspicuous, perhaps, than the rest of it; but if allowed of themselves to usurp the functions of rhubarb, which is to be eaten, they are apt to have poisonous results. No greater mistake could be made than to attribute to Russia as a whole all the well-meant but unpractical doctrines which Russian Socialism has blazoned on its standard. They are familiar to people in Great Britain from the tenets of their own Socialists, among whom Mr. Ramsay Macdonald is one of the most conspicuous. He has consistently opposed the war, has held his country responsible for it, has declared that "never did we arm our people and ask them to give us their lives for less good cause than this," and is, it is understood, particularly anxious to hasten on a peace "which will not humiliate Germany." In Great Britain no one pays much attention to Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and his political associates; in Russia, however, the brilliant success of the Revolution has made the extreme Socialists a very important body. Their views, in their present undigested state, are an embarrassment to the Russian Provisional Government, and consequently to the Alliance as well. It can, therefore, be only on the homœopathic principle that the British Government should empower anyone with Mr. Macdonald's record to exchange even for a short time his Socialist wilderness in this country for the rank undergrowth which obscures the outlook in Russia.

If the object of Mr. Rudyard Kipling's visit to Italy had not been so demonstrably clear, there might have been room for the suspicion that the same principle was being applied elsewhere. For the moment Italy is associated in the minds of her Allies with the splendid achievements that she has to her credit on the Carso front. When opportunity occurs for consideration of the future, it cannot be overlooked that the excessive aspirations of the Italian Nationalists on the eastern shore of the Adriatic are apt to be another embarrassment to the Grand Alliance. It would be in keeping with the policy that looks for good from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's visit to Russia to enlist the services of a great and popular Imperialist in order to check the Imperialistic tendencies of our Italian Allies. The policy, indeed, is capable of the widest extension. If Mr. Lloyd George, in spite of his weightier preoccupations, still maintains his interest in the Dartmoor shepherd, he has to hand a suitable envoy to Talaat Pasha and his colleague Enver; King Ferdinand of Bulgaria might be equally influenced by an ex-convict; and to King Constantine could be allotted the Vicar of Bray or an ex-First Lord of the Admiralty. Apart, however, from the personality of the missioners, when the Government feels obliged to make its selection outside its own ranks, the indication that the future relations of the Alliance are not being overlooked in the urgency of bringing the war to a successful conclusion is most welcome. The fainter Germany's hopes of ultimate victory become, the more ardently will she seek to benefit by what she may consider signs of disruption among her enemies. She may even now be deriving much comfort from the symptoms she will claim to have detected. It would be idle to ignore the fact that, after the Allies had formally embodied their war aims in a Note to President Wilson, the Russian Socialists rendered a dis-service to their own country and to the Alliance as a whole in issuing without any official consultation a statement of what purported to be Russia's new war aims. Reflection has shown that, although the Socialists' wording seemed to embody a finer sentiment, it entailed as a practical policy no departure from the intentions previously enunciated by the Allies. It has, however, taken many speeches, and, it cannot be doubted, a wide exchange of views between the different Governments to establish the point.

Homœopathic treatment within the domestic circle of the Alliance may be perfectly sound; but it is well to recognize that some illnesses can only be cured by the prompt and unfaltering use of the surgeon's knife. In the problem of the Near East both Allies and enemies are so closely concerned that the milder form of treatment stands no chance of yielding successful results. The longer a definite solution is postponed the greater the danger that peace may find the problem not only unsolved, but rendered more acute by effluxion of time and the exigencies of war. In regard to the Italian claims on Dalmatia, for instance, there can be little doubt that the Imperialistic appetite has grown from the mere contemplation of the prospective feast. Even the so-called Socialists of Bulgaria now advance demands which are indistinguishable from the extreme views of Bulgarian militarism. Their spokesmen can be left to play Germany's game in Stockholm; but the Allied Governments should lose no time in arriving at an understanding among themselves in regard to the settlement of the Near East after the war. So long as there remains a loophole for friction they may be confident that they are contributing to the prolongation of the struggle. From the nature of the case the settlement must be unpalatable to those concerned, because their interests clash, and at best a compromise must entail an abatement of claims all round. There is a better chance of the disappointments being borne with equanimity, if the various peoples are familiarized with them while the stress of war or the glamour of the Alliance is upon them. In the absence of a final solution, extravagant hopes are raised and passions are fanned. A definite understanding among the Allies in regard to the delimitation of the territories claimed by both the Italians and the Southern Slavs would facilitate the co-operation of the two peoples, and would pave the way, perhaps, for Bulgaria's acceptance of the inevitable. Without such an understanding the latter will find it difficult to believe that her future position in the Balkan scheme is fixed in accordance with a constant principle, and is not to be determined by successful bargaining.

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THE BAHARIA OASES.

(From a Correspondent.)

II.—CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTS.*

The springs of the oases are the private property of various owners, who sell them and dispose of them in the same way as the inhabitants of the Nile Valley dispose of their wells and canal water supply. It is therefore evident that possession of the agricultural lands implies possession of the springs that water them, without which they fall into immediate ruin. The standard measure used by the Baharia people in their deeds of water sale is 1 tarf, which is the amount of water supplied by the spring during twelve hours—*i.e.*, from morning till evening, or *vice-versâ*. Springs of feeble yield have pits dug at their source, to serve as reservoirs, which when filled are emptied into the canals.

The orchards are left to grow in wild luxuriance, and their deep shade and wealth of green present to the visitor a picture all the more pleasing by reason of the striking contrast it offers to the arid waste around. Each orchard is fenced off with date branches. The paths leading down from the dwelling-houses through these orchards are between a metre and a metre and a-half wide, and are bounded on either side by an interminable row of these fences; minor paths cross the principal ones leading from the village, and through many of these pass the canals connected with their respective springs. To reduce the disintegrating action of the rushing water, especially at points of sharp declivity, the people place bundles of branches across the waterways, and the soft murmur of the running water acquires a charm which is intensified by the thought of the surrounding burning desert. Canals of different springs intersect each other; but any intermingling of the waters is prevented by means of a primitive pipe contrivance placed above or under the canal at the intersection.

In these orchards are grown the following kinds of fruit trees:—Olive, apricot, fig, pomegranate, apple, peach, carob, mulberry, orange, bitter orange, citron, lemon and sweet lemon, also the vine and the glue tree. Strange as it may seem, the luxuriance of vegetation in these oases surpasses that of the valley of the Nile, the trees growing to a size that may not be seen there; and this in spite of the fact that the oases people lack arboricultural knowledge and leave different kinds of trees to grow in close proximity. Carob trees of gigantic size are to be seen, with the vine climbing right up to their topmost branches. In the summer time the sight of huge bunches of grapes dangling through the carob branches, coupled with the music of the murmuring water, the cooing of the doves and the twittering of the smaller birds, suggests a veritable Eden.

Date trees form the predominant feature of these gardens. Indeed, dates are the chief source of revenue of the oases, and the vast date groves occupy by far the largest part of the cultivated areas. Almost all the varieties known in the valley of the Nile are grown here, and the Baharia people, through long experience and specialized work, have become experts in the cultivation of the date tree.

In almost all the orchards the liquorice plant grows wild, and the roots are picked up and sent for sale to Egypt. The price covers hardly more than the wages of the pickers, the landowners being interested in the matter only in so far as it affords them a means for the free weeding of their orchards.

The lower lands, lying at the opposite end of the springs, are sown with rice, which constitutes the chief item of the inhabitants' provisions. The rice fields receive the surplus water of the orchards, and, for a certain time, are constantly flooded with it. The lands that cannot receive a free supply of water are sown with wheat and berseem. There are other cultivable lands which, however, cannot be irrigated by the spring waters, owing to their lying on a higher level. These are cultivated by the poor, who dig wells, from which they draw their water supply by means of the primitive *Shaduf*. Vegetables, chiefly cucumbers, watermelons, and occasionally fruit trees, are cultivated in these outlying plots.

Apricots are gathered in May and June, and the ripe fruit is spread out on the flat roofs, and left there exposed night and day. When sufficiently dry the fruit is put in baskets and sold to the Arabs, who dispose of it in the nearest markets in the valley of the Nile. Then follows the rice harvest. The rice is put in troughs and trampled down by cattle, and the grain thus decorticated is stored away in baskets. The rice straw is used partly as food for the cattle and partly as fuel.

As soon as the rice harvest ends, that of the dates begins; and as the different varieties ripen at different times the gathering and preparation continue till the end of November. The dates are spread out on the flat roofs, and, like the apricots, are left exposed to the alternate action of moisture at night and of heat by day, for fifteen days, the fruit being occasionally turned, so that all parts receive the full effect of this exposure. A selection is then made of the good dates, which are packed and pressed prior to sale. The dates that are sold dry in the market here are treated in the same fashion, except that the time of exposure is longer. For this kind rain is especially dreaded, as a shower is enough to ruin the fruit. The date harvest is followed by the olive harvest. The olives are gathered, when fully ripe, by the shaking of the trees, and, like the apricots and dates, are spread out on the roof, exposed to the alternate action of damp and heat until they soften somewhat, when they are taken to the presses, which are of a rather primitive type. The oil extracted is sold to the Arabs for their own consumption, and not for trade, as well as to some fellaheen of the Nile Valley, as a cheap substitute for butter.

During the interval between the principal harvests the people roam about in the neighbouring hillocks and waste lands to gather wood and twigs for their winter provision of fuel. In course of time each family has acquired a sort of right, established by long usage, to a special plot of such waste land for its yearly provision of fuel.

Those kinds of fruits, which are not susceptible of practical transport to the valley of the Nile, such as bitter oranges, lemons, and citrons, are consumed by the inhabitants, and are considered of too little value to be paid for. Indeed, some of these fruits and the surplus oranges are left to dry upon the tree, then drop and go to waste, and the only use that is then made of the tree is its wood for roofing purposes.

Such are the principal agricultural products of the Baharia oases. The land is cultivated by tenant farmers of the poor class, who own no land of their own, and who are called servants, not fellaheen, as they not only work in the fields but also contribute to the outside work of the landowner's house, such as the bringing in of wood fuel, during the slack season. In the majority of cases these are fed in the landowner's house, and the fact that the latter is addressed by them as "uncle" is reminiscent of patriarchal times. They share in the produce of the land worked by them; thus a man who furnishes a whole year's work is entitled to a part of the yield of each date tree, and the whole of the yield, if it is poor and does not exceed a certain recognised quantity; also the fifth part of the oil, apricot and rice crops. Under these conditions the lot of these servant-farmers may be thought to be a happy one, and such it might have been were it not for their excessive indulgence in tea drinking, which seems to have an influence almost as bad as the drug habit. In the majority of cases these servant-farmers sell their share of the crop in advance. Of course, it is only the landowners who can safely make these advances, as they alone possess the necessary guarantees; and they exploit the farmers' weakness in a most heartless manner, reducing them practically to slaves.

* *Part I. of this article appeared in* The Near East *of May 25.*

TO OUR READERS.

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JEWISH CAPTIVES IN BABYLONIA

NEWLY FOUND RECORDS.

(From a Correspondent.)

It has sometimes been remarked as a curious fact that, whilst the Assyrian Royal annals describe the conquests of Palestine, no definite records of, nor even distant allusions to, the captive Hebrews have yet been recovered among the thousands of cuneiform records that have been found, and deciphered, in the form of Babylonian and Assyrian tablets and of stone inscriptions.

Whilst this idea of the case is to a certain extent correct, it overlooks the fact that a very considerable quantity of incidental evidence of the presence of Jewish inhabitants in Mesopotamia subsequent to the date of the exile has recently been brought to light. For instance, the hitherto unknown sites of several places in Mesopotamia mentioned in the Old Testament have been revealed by cuneiform records. Such as the Tel Abib, near the Chebar, of Ezekiel, which turns out to be the Assyrian "Tel Abub," or "mound of the flood," also the Tellassar, or Thallessar, of Kings, which is evidently a place called "Tel-Asshuri in the tablets. Most of the villages and towns were situated upon a Tel, or hill, because of the periodical floods. Further Biblical sites found are Halah, the Halahi, or Halaha, of these contracts, and Gezan, which is connected with the Assyrian "Gozanu," near to Nisibis.

The most direct newly-found evidence of the planting of Hebrew captives in colonies along the Euphrates and Tigris has been derived from the Jewish and Aramaic names transliterated by the scribes into their Babylonian cuneiform counterparts and occurring in some hundreds of commercial, legal and business tablets, chiefly recorded upon a series of such documents discovered upon the site of the ancient city of Nippur, or Niffer, by American explorers some years ago, and now first translated. Then, also, there is often the indisputable evidence of the presence of Jews in connection with these transactions provided by the Hebrew, or Aramaic, inscribed dockets, or signatures, of such persons themselves frequently appended to the literary legal formalities of the cuneiform contract. Thirdly, there are often persons who, though bearing Babylonian names, are proved by the texts to have been children of Jewish parents, or parents of offspring to whom they have given Hebrew names, or to have had Hebrew relatives, showing that although they personally had Babylonian titles, in reality they were Jews. Directly confirmatory of this is the occurrence of numerous Babylonian names among the exiles returning to Palestine enumerated by Ezra and Nehemiah.

The number of the Jewish names derived from these three categories is so great, and their identity, in many cases, with Biblical names is so absolute that there cannot be any doubt that we have in these persons descendants of the Assyrian captives of some century anterior to their era.

The majority of the clay documents concerning the Jews in Mesopotamia are preserved in the University of Pennsylvania, and have been published by Professors Clay and Hilprecht under the title of "Business Documents of Murashu Sons of Nippur"; for most of them are connected with the concerns of a great mercantile firm of that name. These, naturally, are not the only commercial cuneiform tablets bearing Hebrew and Aramaic names and signatures when Jewish or Syrian parties to their arrangements were concerned, or present, as witnesses to the final signature to the deed, because there are many thousands of this class of tablets in European and American museums. But the Nippur tablets are a consecutive series of memoranda, and, being archives from a part of the country where large numbers of Jews were settled, display an unusually large proportion of Hebrew names in the transaction they record.

Nippur, the town wherein the Murashu Brothers flourished, was the Calneh of the Bible, and was situated upon the great artificial waterway of Babylon called "The Euphrates of Nippur," a canal now dried up and known as the Shatt el-Nil. Another familiar cuneiform name for it was the Nar Kabari, or "grand canal," and near to it Ezekiel saw some of his visions; for it is the Chebar of his first chapter.

It is noticeable that, although some 4,000 contract tablets from the time of Nebuchadnezzar to that of Darius I. (circa 560 to 485 B.C.) have been deciphered, the Hebrew names occurring in them are but few. Yet the Jews had been carried away captive by Assyrian monarchs, such as Sargon and Sennacherib, long before Nebuchadnezzar's reign. The reasons for the disclosure of the Jewish element in matters mercantile in Assyria and Babylonia only transpiring in later times are doubtless twofold. In the first place, the exiles had been transported practically as paupers, despoiled of their possessions, and so forced almost into servitude to their wealthier neighbours. Thus it was some generations before they could acquire property and capital to form the subject of these business documents. Moreover, as a conquered race of Monotheists, so long as they were dwelling among people universally worshipping the most populous Pantheon ever invented, they probably were not permitted to enjoy equality of possession or of mercantile status with their captors. At the advent of Cyrus and the Persian dynasty all this was altered; and by the time of his successors, Darius and Artaxerxes, Jewish names figure frequently upon the tablets. Immediately it was afforded fair opportunity, the acquisitiveness and business aptitude of the race asserted itself.

This state of affairs is quite in accord with the accounts of the exiles indirectly furnished by Ezra, who speaks of them as having horses and camels, servants and singers; and the fact of Nehemiah holding the high position of cupbearer to Artaxerxes shows that the new Persian worshippers of the one God looked upon the Jews with favour. Again, one of the Jews, a tablet tells us, was custodian of the aviary of Darius.

One result of these discoveries is to show that a considerable number of Jews remained resident in the land of their exile instead of returning to Palestine, doubtless because of their mercantile position or property in Babylonia, and perhaps because of family connections with the people of the country.

The entire number of genuinely Jewish names in the Murashu tablets is thirty-eight, representing about seventy people. Of Jews with Babylonian or other foreign names there are about twenty-six persons more.

It is curious in reading these old memoranda to come across familiar names such as Benaiah, Haggai, Tobiah, Jonathan, Matthaniah, and Menahem. But many of the names are new ones, created during the exile; and some of them embody the hope of one day returning to their native land. All entitle their God as Jehovah, and some names such as "God has built" probably refer to the re-erection of the temple.

Herr Shiffer has translated about fifty contract tablets belonging to Professor Peiser, many of which have names that are compounds of Au, the title Professor Sayce considers to be the cuneiform counterpart of Yahveh, so they were probably Hebrews. The owners of these records dwelt in two towns, Kar-Au and Kannu (probably the City of Ezekiel, xxvii. 23) that were upon the Harran-Tel-Barsip road, i.e., Edessa to Nisibis. It was to this region that Shalmaneser IV. took the captured people of Samaria; and these tablet-owners, who revered the deity Au, may have been their descendants.

The ruins of Nippur thus, though abandoned for much more than 1,000 years, yet preserve records confirmatory of the history of the Jews as set forth in the Old Testament and Josephus, and although the evidence is not of a directly historical character, it is none the less valuable and conclusive.

GERMANY AND HOSPITAL SHIPS.

Under date of May 26, Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent reports as follows:—A Berlin semi-official telegram, referring to the German Government's memorandum, dated January 29, 1917, concerning the alleged misuse of British hospital ships in the English Channel and southern portion of the North Sea, and the British denial of the allegation, quotes several cases which are regarded by the Germans as proving the incorrectness of the British denial. The telegram, in conclusion, says:—"As this practice (the misuse of hospital ships) is contrary to regulations and is prejudicial to important military interests of Germany and her allies, the German Government will in future prevent all traffic by hospital ships in the entire barred zone and in the Mediterranean, including the route left open for Greece, and will regard enemy hospital ships appearing there as vessels of war, and attack them immediately."

Germany, the semi-official statement proceeds, will allow the transport of sick and wounded from Salonika on Greek railways to Kalamata Harbour, and from there by hospital ships to Gibraltar on the following conditions:—

(1) That such hospital ships on the route left open for Greek shipping travel at a speed previously indicated to the German Government.

(2) That the name, with the time of departure and arrival, of the vessel be notified to the German Government six weeks in advance.

(3) That a representative of a neutral Government, representing German interests in the particular enemy country concerned, makes a declaration previous to the departure of the vessel that it is a hospital ship and only carries sick and wounded and nurses, and no cargo other than material for the use and treatment of sick and wounded.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

"A Real Devil."

Sir Thomas Holdich begins an article upon "The Future Frontiers of Turkey," which he contributes to the *Fortnightly Review* (May) with a reference to the opinion of "a distinguished traveller . . . that the Turk was the only real gentleman left in the Continent of Europe." After touching on the Turk's qualities as a fighting man, he continues:—

And many who have met him away from the battlefield within the limits of his own administrative province will admit that in the higher grades of his social life he can be a dignified, hospitable, and kindly individual, well educated yet without self-assertion, and in all outward respects wearing the social insignia which we connect with the word "gentleman." And yet, in writing this of the Turk, one is unhappily constrained to admit that it is but giving a real devil his due, for beneath these superficial attractions there undoubtedly lies the devil of lust and cruelty, the traditional Oriental disregard of all the conventional requirements of humanity, a systematic cold-blooded sacrifice to the god of murder and destruction which has finally outclassed him from the ranks of civilised communities and decreed that, with "bag and baggage," he must leave Europe for good. It is, perhaps, as hopeless to expect that the Englishman can understand the psychology of the Turk as that the German can understand the Englishman. We cannot comprehend the mental attitude of the man who will weep for the loss of a friend and at the same time will tie up his wife in a sack and drop her into the Bosphorus if she is naughty, or regard with approbation the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of human beings with all the accompaniment of horrible cruelty, because he looks on them as an inferior race or hopeless infidels.

A little later Sir Thomas declares:—

It is, perhaps, not remarkable that the Turkish officer of the administrative staff whom you may meet in the cities of Syria or Mesopotamia will speak of Central Asia as the true home of his race, maintaining that the Turki language of the Steppe Turkman is the classical language of his people, and that the vulgar tongue of Constantinople is no more than a corrupt cosmopolitan dialect. He has every reason to be proud of his mediæval progenitors so long as he deals with their love of culture and research, their knowledge of astronomy and gifts of literary expression and attention to the gentle art of poetry, although, at heart, he may be prouder still of their fierce uncompromising and sweeping conquests which spared nothing of the horrors of war in their devastating course. The same characteristics which distinguish the Turk of to-day are to be found in the history of his race from the beginning. Even that remarkable record of a Turkish gentleman, the diary of the Emperor Baber, allows strange glimpses here and there of barbaric passion and determination, although its author stands for all time as the most princely figure in Indian history.

Bag and Baggage.

Sir Thomas Holdich is convinced that the Turk must go out of Europe; but, he asks, what is to become of Turkey? Where, so to say, is the real Ottoman Turk to find a resting place? How many real Ottoman Turks are there to be provided for? The question is answered thus:—

The pre-war population of the Turkish Empire might, perhaps, be reckoned as about 20,000,000. It is improbable that any exact estimate exists, but 20,000,000 cannot be very far wrong. Of this 20,000,000 at least 8,000,000 (or nearly half) are Arabs, including Kurds; at least 2,000,000 (some authorities say 2,500,000) are Greeks; another 2,000,000 are Levantines, and there were about 2,000,000 Armenians before the phase of diabolical massacre set in. Some of the 6,000,000 Ottoman Turks who make up the rest of the population are scattered far and wide in military centres and Asiatic administrative posts, but only so far as is necessary to secure the permanence of Turkish domination; the majority are to be found in the Anatolian province of Asia Minor, with about half a million in Constantinople. Armenians, Greeks, Jews, Levantines, and Europeans together outnumber the Turks in their own capital, where there is no one group with the power to guarantee a permanent Ottoman Government. Under such conditions it is clear that to shift Turkey definitely out of Europe is not such a drastic proceeding as might have been anticipated. It practically amounts to the removal of the governing powers (whatever those powers may be at the end of the war) from Constantinople to some position in Asia where they would be less capable of those Oriental devilments which have rendered them impossible in Europe. There would not necessarily be any great emigration of the Turkish population. With his belief in Kismet, the educated Turk of the town would accept the new position as the decree of Allah and probably stand by his European heritage. As for the uneducated Turk, the exigencies of the war must have so diminished his numbers that he would rapidly be submerged in the very mixed population around him and speedily become an unconsidered factor in the human element of what is now European Turkey. There would be no great disruption and very little "complaining in the streets," and the "sick man" would die an almost natural death.

After considering the case in all its bearings, Sir Thomas concludes that "the Ottoman must return to the land of his earliest occupation after he left the steppes of Central Asia—*i.e.*, to Anatolia." This, says the writer, is "a fine country"; but on the next page he remarks that "it is not to be expected that Turks who have secured an interest in the countries of their adoption will necessarily leave those interests to settle in an unattractive land like Anatolia." Which view the Turks will take of the question remains to be seen.

The Break-up of Turkey.

In an article entitled "Turkey To-morrow," which he contributes to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, Baron E. Mayor des Planches, a former Italian Ambassador to Turkey, indulges in speculation regarding the subject named, while recognising the danger of attempting to prophesy. All the Allied Powers, he observes, "ought to concur in civilizing Turkey," and he proceeds:—

It seems that, before the war, the Ottoman Government had already arranged to make certain concessions to the Allied Powers. The Italian sphere of influence was generally considered to include the vilayets of Aidin, Konia, and Adana. That of France may have included Syria. The Italian people believe to-day that Italy must have her share, some sphere of action, in Asia Minor. Will Constantinople become a Russian city? It depends on what will be the Russia of to-morrow. It may be that Constantinople will become a free city, under international administration. The Bosphorus and the Dardanelles may also be freed, and new shores of the Black Sea Russianised. Looking further afield, Great Britain might acquire Mesopotamia, Greece the islands which are still Turkish, while Arabia would become independent, since it has been in constant, if unsuccessful, rebellion against the Ottoman yoke.

In these reflections—or suggestions?—there is very little that is new; though the "Italian sphere of influence" seems to be of the expanding order. As to the Turks, his Excellency writes:—

In the division of Turkey, generous treatment for the Turks would be to leave to them Anatolia, with Brussa, a much venerated and very religious Mahommedan centre, as their capital. Konia was once the capital of Turkey, then Brussa, then Adrianople, before the fall of Constantinople, the last stronghold of the Byzantines. Anatolia would supply a refuge for Mahommedans, who might, perhaps, be allowed to retain the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus, of the Sea of Marmora, and possibly of the Black Sea. There are not more than twelve or fifteen million true Turks, although many races not ethnically Turkish pass as such.

After all, one is reduced to the profound reflection that "those who live longest will see most."

"The Future of the Jews."

In a leading article, entitled as above, *The Times* on Tuesday dealt with a subject round which an interesting correspondence had centred for some days previously. "The war," said the writer, "has given prominence to many questions that seemed formerly to lie outside the range of practical politics. None of them is more interesting than that of the bearing of Zionism—that is to say, of the re-settlement of a Jewish nationality in Palestine—upon the future of the Jewish people." And most readers will probably agree with the statement. After discussing certain points that were argued by various correspondents, the article concludes:—

Authoritative declarations such as these dispose of the contention that Zionism is not representative of Jewish aspirations. We believe it, in fact, to embody the feelings of the great bulk of Jewry everywhere. The interest of the world outside Jewry is that these aspirations, in so far as they may be susceptible of realisation, should be fairly faced on their merits. It is too often imagined that the Jewish question can be solved by the mere removal of all artificial restrictions upon Jewish activities. Even a superficial acquaintance with the conditions of life in the congested Jewish communities of Galicia and Russia suggests the inadequacy of that solution. The truth is that the Jewish question cannot be exhaustively defined either in terms of religion or of race. It has important social, economic, financial and political sides. The importance of the Zionist movement—apart from its territorial aspect—is that it has fired with a new ideal millions of poverty-stricken Jews cooped up in the ghettos of the Old World and the New. It has tended to make Jews proud of their race and to claim recognition as Jews, in virtue of the eminent services rendered by Jewry to the religious development and civilisation of mankind. Only an imaginary nervousness suggests that the realisation of territorial Zionism, in some form, would cause Christendom to round on the Jews and say, "Now you have a land of your own, go to it!" The Jews who feel themselves to be British, French, or American would, doubtless, tend to identify themselves more than ever with the lands of their political allegiance and to become more and more a solely religious community. The rapid changes of nationality that have been so noticeable among Jews in the past would become increasingly discredited. The international solidarity of Jews would undoubtedly persist—though, with a lessening of the danger of religious persecution, the leading Jews of all countries might feel freer to make a public stand against tendencies which sometimes bring the Jewish name into disrepute.

Austria and the Allies.

In a leading article, "The Aims of the Allies," the *Manchester Guardian* last Friday suggested that the recent change in Russia makes it necessary for us to overhaul our declarations. It proceeded to argue that the published

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terms of the Allies press much more hardly on Austria than on Germany, "who is the head and front of all the world's trouble."

The terms speak of the "liberation" of this and that people of the Austrian Empire. Follow the map of Austria-Hungary round as you name the peoples one by one, and you will find that all the outer rind of the Empire is stripped away, and it is a very thick rind, so that when it is gone the core of Magyars and Germans that remain is not more than half of the original territory and population. "Liberation" in such a sense and on such a scale cannot be brought within the limits defining restitution. It is, however, possible to construe the term in a more lenient sense as meaning that the Allies would in most instances be contented with a plan which should secure political freedom for the peoples in question within the Austrian Empire.

The *Manchester Guardian* thinks that, if this be the intention of the Allies, it is high time that they made it plain, and urges that Austria is at this moment setting her house in order:—

She is getting rid of her Jingoes and autocrats and groping after a new system of racial freedom and equality. This is the moment for the Allies to say that on such terms she can have peace. There would no doubt remain the difficulty of the Italian claims. But Austria has never made a real difficulty of the Trentino, and it would probably be found, if the Allies were to make the explanations suggested, that the entire controversy with Austria might be reducible to the single point of the future of Trieste. If this point could be adjusted, Austria would either become an energetic advocate of peace in the Councils of the Central Empires or would even break off from them, a breach which would once and for all defeat the main German scheme of "Middle Europe."

At Gaza.

A correspondent in Palestine sends to the *Manchester Guardian* a description of "The First Attack on Gaza," which makes interesting reading. Here are some extracts from the opening paragraphs:—

From the high ground over the beach at Deir-el-Belah we can see the tall white minaret of the mosque of Gaza, and with a good glass a few of the white houses among their groves of olive and fig and orange, and high dusty hedges of prickly pear and tamarisk. A few tall palm trees break the sky-line. A little nearer is the grey mass of Ali-el-Muntar, rising abruptly from the plain, crowned with a few trees. Here, and in front of the hill, and to our left of it are the strongest of the Turkish positions. . . .

Eastwards the trenches link up with another powerful labyrinth a little south of a line running from Gaza to the coast. As I look towards Gaza the sea is on my left, breaking softly on a sandy beach beneath steep marly cliffs. On the top of the cliffs there is rough flower-spangled grass. It reminds one curiously of the Yorkshire coast, only for the azure and purple of the Mediterranean and the blaze of the Syrian sun. The beach is very busy. A small cargo-boat is lying on the five-fathom line, and a string of surf-boats passes to and fro, taking off stores and ammunition to the huge dump on the beach. Outside are mine-sweepers on the watch. The sea is margined with the pink bodies of soldiers revelling in their bathe and the black heads of swimmers. A convoy of camels is being driven in to bathe by yelling natives. Some of the camels seem to like it. Others resist with the immovable obstinacy of which only a camel is capable. Half a dozen natives drag on his headrope, half a dozen belabour him behind without effect. He remains unmoved, only protesting in his guttural, threatening camel language. At last he sees a camel that he knows go in, and quietly follows him.

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Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Greek shipowners have gained little through the adherence of King Constantine to the German cause. In a recent memorandum addressed by them to the Hellenic Government it was shown that they have lost 102 vessels of an aggregate tonnage of 400,000 by the action of the submarines. I look with interest for the official reply to the Note. Greek shipowners have made a lot of money out of the war, one way and the other, and the taxation of their profits has been a godsend to the harassed Minister of Finance; but the loss of so large a fleet can scarcely be compensated for. The owners point out that only 149 vessels (of a tonnage of 500,000) remain to the Greek mercantile marine, and of these, six of 15,000 tons are under repair. Insurance is all very well, but money is only one of the factors in shipbuilding: labour and materials are equally important. Neither is available in much quantity at present, and when the war is over and trade demands more vessels than can be provided, the Greeks will realise the disservice which the friends of their King have rendered.

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The trade between the Near East and Spanish ports is not large, but it is of interest to learn that in 1916, despite the general dislocation, relations were fairly well sustained. Thus, of the 340 foreign vessels that entered the port of Malaga during the year ten were of Greek nationality, one Roumanian, and one Moroccan. Eleven Greek vessels entered the port of Almeria. It was inevitable that the war should benefit the Spanish olive oil industry, owing to the fact that Turkey and Greece exports were suspended and that Italy only had a poor crop. The increase in the exports amounted to more than £155,000.

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Another interesting fact in connection with the Near East is that as soon as Roumania came into the war—August 28, 1916—the price of Austrian hops dropped. Before the war Austria was a large exporter of malt, but since 1914 there has been a constantly decreasing supply of barley and malt for brewing purposes, and Roumania had been counted on to supply them, thus helping to maintain a fair production of beer, on which the hop market entirely depends, of course; and when the beer business slumped it took hops with it.

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Manufacturers of cigarettes in Aden had a good year in 1916, when, although business with India suffered owing to the new duty imposed in March of 50 per cent. on all imported cigarettes, increased demand led to renewed prosperity. Next to India, Aden's best market before the war was East Africa, but trade fell off until last year, when a recovery began, and it has continued. An interesting fact is that there is a tendency to import machinery. Hitherto, the Aden smokes have been hand-made, but last year a second-hand machine, capable of turning out 10,000 cigarettes a day, was imported from Egypt by the leading manufacturer, and the result is said to have impressed those in the trade. The machine is British-made, it may be recorded for once!

British makers of cigarette machinery will do well to watch developments in this market—their American rivals are doing so already, it may be observed; and the following facts may interest them:—The nine principal factories which make up the better-grade article produce nearly 3,000,000 cigarettes a month; there are dozens of smaller establishments which make up the scraps and refuse purchased from the others, and these turn out about 10,000,000 a year. Machinery, to be successful in Aden, must be able to withstand gritty dust and sand, which are carried into everything by the strong winds which blow. Metal parts will be susceptible to rust, and electrical facilities are not available.

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Bulgarian farmers have recently been urged to utilise their fields for wheat and other cereals, and for what the Minister of Agriculture describes as industrial plants—cotton, tobacco, etc. So difficult is the food situation that nearly all the waste land in the vicinity of Sofia is being devoted to the cultivation of vegetables, and students will watch the crops without pay. Cultivation work was impossible in January and February owing to the heavy snowfall, and seed was scarce and dear. It is reported, however, that tobacco, onions, lentils, and poppy, sown at Xanthi, are doing well, and that wheat prospects are good.

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It is a matter for regret that the cable companies were unable to meet the Government of India in regard to amending the rates charged for messages between India and Egypt. The companies, I understand, intimated that they are unable at present to make any reduction in the tariff because, owing to the abnormal conditions in which telegraphic traffic is carried on, it is impossible to arrive at a suitable basis of calculation on which a satisfactory alteration could be secured. As I have pointed out in these Notes previously, the trade between India and Egypt is expanding with pleasing regularity; reduced telegraphic charges would be an additional trade facility of the greatest importance, and I hope the British Chamber in Egypt will combine with their brethren in India in an attempt to show the cable companies that cheaper rates would mean increased traffic and profits. After the war, perhaps!

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My readers will recall that some time ago I noted that the Government of India had sent two Trade Commissioners to Mesopotamia to conduct an investigation into the conditions which prevail there and to report on trade openings in the Persian Gulf. I now learn that the Commissioners have completed their inquiries and have returned to India. Their report may be expected shortly.

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The official return of shipping movements and losses by submarines and mines, compiled up to last Sunday afternoon, shows an improvement. Thirty-eight vessels of all sorts were attacked, of which twenty-one were sunk and seventeen escaped, the figures for the previous week being thirty-nine—thirty and nine, respectively. Unfortunately, the great majority of our losses continues to be in ships of more than 1,600 tons. The number of arrivals and sailings from United Kingdom ports was also larger, so that, taken all round, the improvement which was first noted in the week ended on May 13 has been more than maintained.

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The famous P. and O. is to add another string to its bow; the company has concluded a provisional agreement with the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand for a fusion of interests. Particulars (for which *The Times* is quoted) of this important transaction are printed elsewhere in THE NEAR EAST to-day, and all that remains to me is to wish the great combination, of which the companies I have mentioned are members, all the success which capable management and up-to-date methods cannot fail to secure.

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The complaint is made that "the opponents of the British Trade Bank are working tooth and nail behind the scenes to persuade merchants and others that its constitution and the support given it by the Government are detrimental to their interests." If this is true, it is to be regretted. Nevertheless, I cannot help thinking that the directors and management of the corporation which has organised the bank have themselves unwittingly assisted "the opponents" of the scheme in their campaign. After making due allowance for the necessity for secrecy in some respects, there has been, and still is, a great deal of unnecessary mystery regarding the scope of the bank's operations, and if merchants and others whose interests are open to prejudice allow themselves, in the absence of fuller information, to listen to "the opponents" of the scheme they are not exactly to be blamed. Lord Faringdon has made certain explanations, and his good faith may be relied on implicitly; but it is a pity that more frankness has not been employed. Meanwhile not much is to be gained now by a refusal to wait for the debate in the House of Commons, when, it may be presumed, light will be thrown on the dark corners.

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To Baghdad in thirty-six hours, to Constantinople or Moscow in twenty-four! That is the forecast made by Mr. G. Holt-Thomas, who lectured in London on "Commercial Aeronautics." He made no claim that commercial aeronautics were going to beat out of existence railways and other forms of transport, but rather that they would act as an adjunct to present methods. It was the business point of view which Mr. Holt-Thomas emphasised particularly, and speed, speed, speed, and again speed is the all-in-all to successful commerce; but cost is also a factor, and since the twenty-four hour journey from Constantinople to Moscow would mean something like £25, I doubt if the Aerial Navigation Company, or whatever else it may be called, would obtain sufficient passengers to secure a dividend for its shareholders. We may come to it, of course; but I doubt if the development is now practicable; and, above all, we must avoid the risk of becoming unpractical.

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I was much interested on Empire Day (May 24) in the fine window display at the Charing Cross office of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The resources of the Empire were attractively illustrated in pictorial form, making an impressive demonstration of our little Empire. It was a happy thought, and those who are interested—and who is not?—should apply to the office for a booklet in which the designs have been reproduced.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Sudan and its Economic Advance.

No. 8.—The Province of Khartoum.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

There are people who have never heard of the Sudan, strange as it may appear; but assuredly there can be none who have failed to learn something of Khartoum, for have not the names of two of the greatest of Englishmen been intimately associated therewith, both great soldiers and statesmen—Gordon and Kitchener—whose lives were given to their country?

Khartoum is a name given alike to a province, a district, and a town, the first being the smallest province as the last is the largest town of the several political divisions of the Sudan. The meaning of the word, which—like so many native names—is spelled variously "Khartoum," "Kartoum," and "Kartum," means "elephant's trunk." A rather far-fetched explanation of its adoption is the fancied resemblance of that small point of land jutting out between the two Niles to the proboscis of the largest of quadrupeds. The superficial area of the province does not exceed 5,740 square miles, and politically it is divided into four *mamurias*—Khartoum City, Khartoum North, Omdurman, and Geili.

Topographically the country is absolutely flat and very sandy, the one compensation being the incomparable Nile—

". . . forever new and old.
Among the living and the dead,
Whose mighty, mystic stream has rolled."

Amended Boundaries.

Some three years ago the boundaries of the province underwent considerable alteration. From the Stabluka northwards territory was handed over to the Berber Province, thus rounding off the Shendi district. The Gebel Auli district, on both sides of the White Nile, was taken over from the White Nile Province, a highly important change, which has since proved of great advantage to both the Government and the people. The Gimoia tribe is now united under the Omdurman district, and a marked improvement in the native situation has since become noticeable. Khartoum City is the seat of the central Government as well as the headquarters of the Provincial Administration; Khartoum North—formerly known as Halfaya—is the seat of the industrial element (mostly official) and a principal trade centre; Omdurman is a teeming native city of busy merchants and dealers; while the village of Geili, situated some eight and twenty miles north of Khartoum, is just the habitat of the Gemaab tribe, a branch of the Jaalin, and contained at one time the residence of the notorious slave-dealer, Zubeir Pasha.

Formerly, as now, Khartoum City was the seat of a dual administration. In 1847, following on the visit to the Sudan of the Viceroy Ismail Pasha, each provincial governor of the Sudan was instructed to communicate directly with the Egyptian Minister of the Interior at Cairo. Then, also as now, a Grand Kadi combined the joint duties of high priest and religious judge holding court at Khartoum, the tribunal being composed of himself, a mufti, and a considerable staff of ulemas and scribes.

Population.

The population of the city in the early fifties was said to have been under 61,000, while to-day it amounts to barely 48,000, Khartoum claiming 28,924 and Khartoum North 19,495. Sir Samuel Baker, who visited the town in 1862 and again in 1870, described it as "a miserable, filthy and unhealthy spot," and no doubt it was all that. In 1885 the whole place was destroyed by the Dervishes, and it remained an unpicturesque ruin until the late Lord Kitchener, with his victorious troops in 1898, came and practically rebuilt it. The city of to-day is the monument that he himself projected, for his plans were recognised as the most suitable, and since have proved to have been admirably devised and as admirably carried out.

Modern Khartoum.

It is interesting to recall that the task of rebuilding was entrusted by the then Sirdar to one of his youngest but most capable officers—Captain Gorringe, who in these latter days has become the distinguished Sir George Gorringe, the gallant officer who was in charge of the Kut relief army in the Mesopotamia Campaign of last year. Modern Khartoum is a well-planned town of broad avenues, wide streets, many handsome buildings—and, as yet, *no* drainage. The general plan of the town is that of a series of main avenues running parallel to the Nile, intersecting others running at right angles and forming rectangles approximately 500 yards square. These rectangles are subdivided by three streets running each way parallel to the main avenues, and by the diagonal streets connecting the intersections of the main avenues. The limits of the original plan have long been reached, and the future development of the town will be almost wholly upon a similar footing. By these arrangements a girdle avenue will eventually surround the city and the continuation of the diagonal streets will provide convenient radial communication with the central area.

As the headquarters of the Administration, Khartoum City naturally has become the centre of a great trade—both land and water borne. Even in the early days, the commerce of Khartoum was considered of some importance, for, with the exception of Kordofan—which drew the greater part of its supplies direct from Cairo, via Dongola—Khartoum served as the principal depôt of the Sudan for the whole of the European and Indian merchandise which entered the country via Suakin, Berber, and the Nile. The imports, for the most part, were composed of Manchester goods, hardly any cotton from Egypt being then found in the Sudan; while the exports consisted principally of ivory from the White Nile, gum-arabic, ostrich feathers, beeswax from Abyssinia, and hides. The trade to-day is such as may be found in any large and well-regulated foreign city wherein a certain European settlement is located, and a large number of natives who have learned to enjoy, and even to expect, a proportion of luxuries for which they are quite capable of paying cash, the rates of labour being generous and the amount of its demand in normal times almost unlimited. Just now, however, it is a drug in the market, since enterprises such as building, the loading and unloading of ships, etc., etc., are at the lowest ebb in consequence of the European War. Nevertheless, there is little or no actual poverty in Khartoum, the arrangements made, and well maintained, by the authorities preventing anything of the kind from occurring.

The Administration.

The local administration of the Province is represented by Mr. R. E. More, the Governor, who has given fifteen valuable years of his life to the State; one Senior Inspector (Mr. J. D. Craig), one Second Inspector (Mr. C. G. Dupuis), and one Third Inspector (Mr. E. Slater). In normal times, two additional Second Inspectors are employed; but the posts are at present unfilled.

After the war it is probable that, as men look around them for fresh opportunities of investment, some may be found in the province of Khartoum. It is understood that the policy of the Administration is to encourage and support private enterprise of a legitimate nature, and at the same time to relieve themselves of some of the municipal and other enterprises which, rather mistakenly, they have from time to time taken on their own shoulders. To succeed in attracting not alone foreign capital, but capitalists, who by their co-operation in the development of the Sudan would lend distinction to that country, the Government may feel called upon not only to offer inviting terms, but also to safeguard investors against any kind of injurious or unfair competition originating with themselves.

Future of the Province.

As the administered portions of the country expand and the population increases in material welfare, there will be many opportunities, not in Khartoum only, but throughout the provinces, for the enlistment of private enterprise, such as additional transportation in the form of tramways, light railways, electric lighting and power plants, financial trusts, insurance offices, irrigation canals and waterworks, shipping, and land investment. It is neither possible nor desirable that a Government should itself enter upon any undertakings of this character; its functions are to administer the country rather than to exploit it. It has been generally laid down that the primary duty of a government, as of a governing body, is to "govern," and not to trade, a conception altogether put aside by our Administration to-day, which we see transferred into a co-operative association carrying on every conceivable enterprise and trade that the country follows. But, then, we are "at war," and all preconceived methods are by common consent revoked or indefinitely suspended. This is not necessarily the case, however, in the Sudan, nor need it be so construed in the future. Governments, like local bodies, are the more efficient *ceteris paribus*, the more they confine themselves to their legitimate functions and do not overburden themselves.

I have referred to land investment as a sound kind of enterprise, but naturally I have in mind nothing of that sort of business that flourished in Khartoum during the evil days of 1906-7, when land reached an altogether fictitious value and was the direct cause of bringing about wholesale financial ruin and economic disaster. In 1901, before there had been any settlement of the land question, good building ground in Khartoum could have been purchased at prices ranging from 1d. to 2d. per square yard; then, five years afterwards, came the land "boom," when prices rose steadily until the figure reached £E2 and £E3 per square yard. Some of the plots upon which banks and other buildings are erected cost as much as £E6 per metre. The fiercest competition had long existed among the leading merchants for the choicest plots suitable for shops, while many of the transactions were mere gambles of the most reckless character.

No Land Speculation.

Following the experiences of 1906-7, the Government adopted for Khartoum a plan that had long been under consideration, and by which all future speculation in land in or around Khartoum was finally arrested; while in 1914 the Administration proceeded with a scheme which had been tentatively introduced the previous year, and under which plots of land were sold to junior officials, the Government advancing the necessary funds to enable them to build their own houses, both purchase price and loan being repayable by easy instalments. The plan proved eminently successful, and, indeed, it might have been materially and advantageously extended had more money been at the disposal of the authorities for the purpose. A sound financial institution, having for its object the erection of easily-lettable buildings, of a business and residential character, would, in all likelihood, be found a highly profitable enterprise, and, as most of us know, *in pretio pretium nunc est*.

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EGYPTIAN REVENUE.

CAIRO, May 6.

The State accounts for the month of February published to-day show continued good progress in the matter of revenue. The amount collected up to the end of February was £E17,811,972 as against £E15,815,106 a year ago, while expenditure came to £E15,441,682 against £E13,693,841. During the eleven months there has therefore been an increase of £E1,996,866 in revenue, and of £E1,747,841 in expenditure, with a resultant surplus of £E2,370,290, or £E249,025 more than at the same date in 1916. It is to be noted that this surplus is slightly less than it was at the end of January, the reason being that during February the expenditure was correspondingly higher than the rereceipts.

The chief revenue increases during the eleven months are Customs, £E870,404; Tobacco, £E177,397; Legal Fees, £E100,234; Railway Receipts, £E754,325; Domains, £E59,902; Sale of Land, £E28,668. The main decreases have been Port Dues, £E30,957; and Telegraph Receipts, £E26,879. It is interesting to note that the total revenue collections are £E1,181,972 above the estimate for the whole year, and that whilst most of the heads have already exceeded expectations, only Port Dues and Investment of Funds will in the end show results less than the original estimates.

POSTAL CHANGES.

As firms sending important documents in duplicate to places abroad find much difficulty in arranging so to post the duplicates that they shall not be conveyed on the same ship with the originals, the Postmaster-General gives notice that on and after June 1 he will be prepared to accept the duplicates at the same time as the originals and to retain the duplicates for despatch by a ship other than that conveying the originals, under the conditions described below.

The following countries and places are included in this arrangement:—Ceylon, Egypt, India, South Africa, Aden, British East Africa, British Somaliland, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sudan, Tonga, and Zanzibar.

Any person desiring to take advantage of the arrangement must proceed as follows:—He must put the original and the duplicate into covers addressed in the ordinary way, and affix to each cover stamps sufficient for the postage and for the usual registration fee of 2d. (or the insurance fee if he desires to insure the letter). In addition he must mark the duplicate "duplicate," and affix to it stamps to the value of 6d. as a special fee.

Both letters must then be put in an outer envelope addressed as follows:—"Urgent—Duplicate Letters. The Superintendent on Duty, Registered Letter Section, King Edward Building, G.P.O., London, E.C.1.

Postage stamps sufficient for the inland postage and for the registration fee of 2d. must be put on this envelope, which must then be posted in the ordinary way as a registered letter at any Post Office.

TORPEDOED SHIPS.

The Secretary of the Admiralty on Wednesday issued the following weekly returns of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks: Week ended Sunday, May 27, 1917, three p.m. Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft): Arrivals, 2,719; Sailings, 2,768. Merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine: 1,600 tons (gross) or over, 18; Under 1,600 tons (gross) 1. Merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines, 16; Fishing vessels sunk, 2.

The Admiralty appends the following note: This return invariably includes all mercantile tonnage known to have been sunk by mine or submarine, whether employed on Government service or otherwise.

The cotton seed market at Alexandria was described as firm on May 29. June was then quoted 137.5 p.

We have received from the Egyptian Government the usual return of traffic through the Suez Canal in 1916.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Continued "Struggle" Against Adverse Conditions.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

This has been the principal holiday week of the year in the Manchester district and apart from Tuesday last business has been practically at a standstill throughout the week. No particular development in the general situation can be recorded. Most producers are still struggling against adverse conditions.

The outlook is very uncertain and although there seems to be little likelihood of a slump in values just at present it is realised that to purchase freely at current rates means taking some risk.

Favourable advices have again been received relating to the progress of the Egyptian cotton crop. The undercurrent of demand in cloth for Egypt remains healthy. Some of the offers in sized materials are rather poor, but there has again been plenty of activity in fancies and miscellaneous styles. Many producers of Egyptian yarns find it most difficult to obtain relief, and to buy cotton to-day and sell 60's twist means a definite loss.

The turnover in standard goods for India and China continues unimportant, but a fair business has been done in light fabrics and fancy descriptions. Operations for South America have been rather irregular. There continues much variation in the engagements of manufacturers.

American yarns for home consumption have moved off quietly. Spinners of the lower numbers are in a stronger position than for some time back, the recent buying being of larger dimensions. Relief is still badly wanted by sellers of medium counts, especially wefts.

A little more activity has been reported in shipping yarns.

EGYPTIAN COTTON STATISTICS.

The British Consul at Cairo (Mr. A. D. Alban) reports, under date April 27, that the total output of ginned cotton in Egypt during the season from September 1, 1915, to August 31, 1916, was estimated at 6,020,403 cantars, as compared with an actual output of 4,774,770 cantars in the previous season, while in the calendar year 1916, 5,416,936 cantars of ginned cotton were exported from Egypt, as compared with 6,899,132 cantars in the previous year.

The following table shows the quantity of ginned cotton produced in Egypt during the past six seasons, and the amounts exported during the last six calendar years:—

—	Output in Season from 1st Sept. to 31st Aug.	Exports in Calendar Year.
	Cantars.	Cantars.
1911	7,383,740	6,638,210
1912	7,497,859	8,306,948
1913	7,663,801	6,972,686
1914	6,450,573	5,909,788
1915	4,774,770	6,899,132
1916 estimated	6,020,403	5,416,936

TRADE MARKS IN CYPRUS.

In the official *Cyprus Gazette* of March 23, the Registrar of Trade Marks gives notice that from and after April 1, 1917, he will require (1) every authorisation to an agent to act for a firm to state in full the names of all the partners in the firm; and (2) every application for registration to state in full the names of all the partners in any firm mentioned in the application. If the application is in a firm's name, it should be made in the name of A and B (as the case may be), trading in co-partnership as D. and Co. (as the case may be).

Mr. Simon Weintraub, of Braila, now residing in London, has given notice that he has changed his name to Wintrop.

The importation into the United Kingdom has been prohibited of wild animals, gum copal, gum kauri, and manufactures of rubber, except under license by the Board of Trade.

SHIPPING FUSION.

P. and O. and the Union Co. of New Zealand.

It was reported yesterday that the P. and O. Company and the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand have concluded a provisional agreement for a fusion of interests.

The New Zealand Company owns a fleet of seventy-six steamers, many of them of very high class, of 243,278 tons gross. It maintains the regular mail, passenger, and cargo steamship services between the ports of the North and South Islands of New Zealand, between New Zealand, Tasmania, and Australia, and between Australia and New Zealand and the South Sea Islands and Vancouver and San Francisco. The various services are probably capable of still greater development in the future, and should give opportunities for the marked enterprise now being shown by the P. and O. Company.

Financial Arrangements.

The arrangement (writes *The Times*), provides that the P. and O. Company shall issue 10s. of its Deferred stock to each shareholder of the Union Company, and, in addition, pay 30s. in cash for each Union Company's Ordinary share. At the current market prices of P. and O. stock, this offer represents more than 60s. for each Union Company's share, while the dividend return per share will be considerably improved. A few days ago the Union shares were quoted at 45s. and yesterday (May 30) closed at 52s. Circulars are being issued at once to the shareholders of the Union Company for a reply before June 12 next, setting out the terms of the arrangement.

The authorised capital of the Union Company is £3,000,000, of which £2,000,000 is issued in £1,000,000 Ordinary and £1,000,000 Preference shares of £1 each fully paid. There is issued an outstanding 4½ per cent. Debenture stock to the amount of £128,873. About half the shares are held in this country, of which, in addition to holdings in London, substantial amounts are held in the North of England and Scotland. An interim dividend of 4 per cent. on the Ordinary shares was declared a few days ago, as compared with 3 per cent. last year.

Fleet of 1,726,475 Tons.

A little more than a year ago an amalgamation was arranged between the P. and O. Company and the New Zealand Shipping and Federal Steam Navigation Companies, 31 fine passenger and cargo vessels, representing 244,334 tons, being added to the P. and O. fleet by that transaction. At one time the New Zealand Shipping and Union companies worked in close conjunction, but latterly there has been close connection between the Federal and Union Companies, so that it is not difficult to trace how the present proposed amalgamation has come about. The chairman of the P. and O. Com is Lord Inchcape, and the chairman of the Union Company Sir James Mills. The head office of the latter company is in Dunedin, New Zealand, but there is also a London board.

By the present scheme the combined fleets of the P. and O., British India, New Zealand, Federal, and Union Companies will consist of 306 steamers, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,726,475 tons gross. Under the arrangement of last year the P. and O. Company secured a firm footing in the New Zealand trade, which should now be greatly strengthend There will be general agreement in shipping circles that no company is better fitted to absorb the Union Company and develop its passenger and cargo facilities than the P. and O.

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GREEK MAGNESITE.

Romantic Trade Development Caused by the War.

Australia threatens to come in the market as a rival to Greece in the supply of magnesite. It was announced recently that an Australian exporter desired to get in communication with importers of the crude ore, and that he was prepared to furnish quantities of from 100 tons to 1,000 tons for single shipments. He guaranteed that the ore would contain 97 per cent. of magnesium carbonate. Greece has little cause for fear. Before the war broke out Austria was, perhaps, the leading merchant in the magnesite business; that fact is not to be attributed to superiority in quality, but to the low price at which she was able to place her wares on the world's markets. Austrian mines are state-owned, they have been worked for years up to a high pitch of development, labour is cheap and transport facilities are in a condition of fine organisation.

When peace was broken and Austrian ports were practically sealed, the demand transferred itself to the Greek mineral, and a great export trade soon developed. The United States took a large proportion of the Greek supplies, the figures for three years being: 1914, 18,433 tons; valued at £21,636; 1915, 43,217 tons; valued at £58,738; 1916, 69,837 tons; valued at £232,220.

It will be seen that, notwithstanding the apparent ability of the supply to accommodate itself to the demand, the price hardened from a little more than 10s. a ton in the first year of the boom to 66s. 6d. last year.

Reasoned Optimism.

The Greeks have been looking forward to retaining the valuable trade brought to them by the war. Since magnesite began to develop so magnificently the mining companies have improved their plants, extended their ropeways, provided their labour with house accommodation, constructed wharves and improved transport facilities.

Their optimism has been built on reasonable grounds even apart from the important fact that the Austrian mineral is inferior to the Greek, and that in Asia Minor there was a potential rival. The latter contingency, however, is remote because the mineral has not been developed, there are no organised companies to work it, and there are no immediate means of bridging the gulf between the beds and the ship. Asia Minor will not count for years to come. There are other producing countries of course—the Transvaal, India, California, and now, Australia—but it is doubtful if either of these can injure the Greek trade.

We gather from recent reports on the subject that the Greek mining companies are able almost to dictate terms to their customers at present. That happy condition may not always prevail because, after the war has ended, the Austrian producers may be reckoned on to make the most strenuous attempts to regain the trade they have lost; they will sell cheaply, and although the Greek article is superior the resumed activity of the old producers is bound to reduce prices. At the same time the Greeks will retain the bulk of their new trade.

A Permanent Demand.

Superior magnesite will always be in demand for the manufacture of colours, chemicals and mosaic tiles. This was the case even before the war broke out. One of the mining companies had entered into a contract with a firm in Switzerland to supply 6,000 tons of ore a year and eight per cent. of the company's output of calcined magnesite for paint-making. It was calculated also that Germany had been importing something like 50,000 tons a year for the same purpose.

Naturally enough the immense potentialities of the mineral have attracted the attention of investors from outside. Magnesite of commercial value is found in the island of Eubœa and in Yerakini, Macedonia. In the former alone there are seven companies at work. These include British, Dutch, Greek, and American, the principal concern being the Anglo-Greek Magnesite Company Limited, whose head offices are in London.

The question of the exhaustion of the beds has been raised, and more than one expert has declared that another ten years will see the end of certain of them. This need not be read as the gospel, however. In many parts of Eubœa, for example, there is a good deal of unexploited mineral. Concessions granted by the Greek Government have not been worked, either because of the distance of their sites from the sea, the scarcity of trained miners, or because developed and richer concessions are more profitably worked. But there is no lack of the mineral.

A LIVE-STOCK "CENSUS."

Where 66,000,000 Head of Cattle, Goats, and Sheep May be Found.

Reference has frequently been made in THE NEAR EAST to the hide and skin trade that centres in Aden; but, hitherto, it has not been possible to arrive at a satisfactory estimate of the number of cattle, goats, and sheep in what our enterprising American friends have labelled for trade purposes the Aden commercial district. A "census" has now been made, however, and it is possible to say that the "population" is as follows:

District.	Goats.	Sheep.	Cattle.
Abyssinia	8,000,000	—	10,000,000
Aden Hinterland and Arabian Red Sea Provinces	8,000,000	7,000,000	2,000,000
British Somaliland ..	6,000,000	9,000,000	1,000,000
Eritrea	3,000,000	1,000,000	5,000,000
French and Italian Somalilands	3,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
	28,000,000	18,000,000	20,000,000

Aden's normal exports are 6,000,000 goat and sheep-skins, and 500,000 hides, besides, roughly, a million of skins of non-domestic animals, mainly gazelles.

The figures given in the above table are approximate, of course. The owners of the flocks and herds are principally Arabs, Somalis, and Abyssinians who wander perpetually with their animals from one pasture to another, and in many cases they are rarely able to fix accurately the number of beasts they possess. The "census" is based on very conservative lines, and is probably an under-statement rather than the reverse.

Experts in the Aden market regard the animals owned in British Somaliland as being of the greatest importance to their market. The territory is little more than one hundred miles distant, it contains the greatest number of sheep—principally of the peculiar Somali type with fat tails and black heads—and is more in touch with the Aden dealers. As is well known, the Somali sheep are commercially important. They are generally fat, and their skins—known in the market as "black-heads"—are superior; their hair is short, and their only drawback is that the wool is scanty.

Aden receives the bulk of its hides from Abyssinia.

MALTA PRIZE COURT.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade has received copies of the official transcripts of the proceedings and of the judgments given in the Prize Court of Malta in respect of the s.s. Cleopatra; of part cargoes ex the steamers Maleas, Themistocles, and Ernest Simon; and of goods ex the sailing caique Taxiarchi. The copies may be consulted by British firms at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C. 2.

The steamer Nicolaos has been sunk after collision with a steamer. She had previously been in collision with a sailing vessel. The crew were saved.

The Austrian Petroleum Company of Galicia, in its report for 1916, states that the production of the fields has not yet become normal, and that there is no prospect of there doing so this year.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Lime Concrete in Aden.

Construction work in Aden, both public and private, has been very much curtailed on account of the abnormally high prices for all sorts of building materials, U.S. Consul Addison E. Southerd reported to Washington recently. An interesting though not entirely new practice has developed in the execution of small but necessary pieces of work which would ordinarily involve the use of cement. In place of cement concrete, a mixture called lime concrete is being used. It is composed of equal parts of lime, sand, and pumice. The pumice is ground fine, and is obtained in unlimited quantities from the volcanic deposits that form the peninsula of Aden. Lime concrete takes much longer to set than cement, but the results have so far been quite satisfactory. This material also is comparatively inexpensive. The chief engineer of the Aden Port Trust is now using it in a small and experimental way for construction which is covered by and consequently exposed to the action of sea water.

Ford Motor Tractors.

After the announcement had been made that Messrs. Henry Ford and Son have been permitted to build works in Cork to make low-priced farm tractors at the rate of 50,000 a year, nothing was heard of the matter until recently, when it was said that Mr. Ford had offered the free use of his tractor designs and of the services of his experts to the British Government. At the same time, the Ministry of Munitions invited British engineering firms to tender for the manufacture of many thousands of motor tractors, and the presumption is that the Ford tractor is about to be made in great numbers in this country. The Government requested the Royal Agricultural Society to carry out tests on typical British farm land, and these took place in Cheshire at the end of last month. Two Ford tractors, rated at 25 h.p., were seen at work ploughing, first cross-ploughing a fallow of strong, dirty land, and subsequently in a field of lighter land.

The First Trial.

In the first trial a two-breast Oliver plough was used, ploughing on an average five inches deep, with sixteen inches width of furrow, and subsequently with a three-furrow Cockshutt plough, at the same depth, with breast pitched ten inches; and in the second trial the three-furrow plough was used, ploughing an average of six inches deep. In both these cases the motor did its work with ease, and on a measured acre the time occupied was an hour and a half, with a consumption of two and one-third gallons of paraffin per acre. The ploughs were not quite suitable to the land, and the tractors consequently worked at some disadvantage. The total weight of the tractor, fully loaded with fuel and water, is 23¼ cwts. It is light for its power, and consequently light on the land, is easily handled, turns in a small circle, and leaves a very narrow headland. The motor is quickly started up from cold on a small supply of petrol. After the trials the examining committee proceeded to Messrs. Ford's works at Trafford Park, Manchester, where one of the motors was dismantled and examined in details. They have found, according to their report, the design of ample strength and the work of first-rate quality, and with some slight alterations about the wheels on certain points, they recommended that steps be taken to construct immediately as many of these tractors as possible.

New Hosiery Machine.

A new hosiery machine has recently been put on the market, and interested factories are giving it a very careful test. It is really a sewing machine intended to replace the present method of seaming; while the prevailing system is to take the two edges

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to be seamed and place them side by side on the points of the machine, the new system provides for the two edges to run into feed-wheels, where the needles penetrate to form the seam. There is the advantage of greatly increased production, and the machine is suitable for many varied classes of work in the hosiery trade. The individual stitches are not attached separately and do not receive individual treament on point. A guide is added which uncurls edges of pirling material and the resulting seam is flat and very elastic in stitch. The machine can be run as fast as the operative can handle the goods up to a maximum of 3,000 stitches a minute. There is a very large number of hosiery factories in the Near East, in which the new machine would be a great work improvement, as regards quantity and quality of production.

Convertible Horse Hoe or Seed Drill.

A useful agricultural machine has recently been patented: it should appeal particularly to small holders in the East. The machine is a convertible implement which can be changed from a horse hoe to a seed drill, and can be used for either purpose at will. It is specially adaptable for use on farms or holdings where the amount of labour does not warrant the purchase of a separate implement for each class of work. When used as a horse hoe, a frame or bar for carrying the hoes is provided with coupling arms, and the fore ends of these arms, which are preferably forked, are connected to the vertical coupling bars by means of coupling pins. The coupling bars are provided with a series of holes disposed at different heights, so that the ends of the coupling arms can be raised or lowered to adjust the frame or bar in the desired position. When used as a seed drill, the coupling arms or the frame or bar which carries the hoes are uncoupled from the coupling bars; all the parts are bodily removed, and a seed drilling attachment is substituted in their place. The seed barrel in the seed box is geared to one of the road wheels so that it is rotated at the proper speed.

Parcels are now accepted by the Post Office "for transmission to Salonika" and the islands of Amorgo, Andros, Cephalonia, Cerigo, Chios (Scio), Crete, Fourni, Hydra, Lemnos, Milos, Mitylene, Mykoni, Naxosnio (Ios), Paros, Samos, Santorin, Serpho, Skopelos, Syra, Thasos, Thermia (Kythnos), Tino, Zante, and Zea.

COMPANY REPORTS.

New Egyptian Co.

The report for 1916 shows a profit of £15,021. Deducting £5,413 for the service of the debentures, there remains a balance of £9,608. Adding £7,023 brought forward from last year, the balance at the credit of the account amounts to £16,630, which the directors recommend should be carried forward. The net income derived from the estate shows an increase of over £8,000 as compared with the previous year, notwithstanding the increased cost of coal, oil, and other material, and the reduction of the rental area consequent on the sales of land. The average price obtained by sales of land during the last seven years has been £94 15s. 9d. per feddan. The capital expenditure during the year was £366, as compared with £1,498 in 1915. During the year the company's indebtedness has been reduced by £18,000.

Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.

The report for 1916 states that during the period under review insulated space in the company's refrigerated steamers was, as in the previous year, under requisition by the Board of Trade, thereby preventing the company from reaping the benefit of the increased rates of freight prevailing in many directions, while the passenger traffic on all the company's routes continued to be very small. The expenses of working the steamers have been further increased, and there has again been serious delay at some of the ports, causing extra expenditure. Considering the circumstances, the court of directors feel that the results may be regarded as satisfactory. The rates of premium for war risks insurance have since the closing of the accounts materially advanced, thus adding to an already heavy item of expenditure. A large proportion of the company's fleet continues under charter to the Admiralty, and practically the whole of the remainder of the tonnage has recently been requisitioned by the Shipping Controller. The court of directors have acquired an interest in the Moss Steamship Co., Limited, Robert McAndrew and Co., Limited, and the Coast Line of steamers. A list of the fleet at this date shows a tonnage 297,681 tons. The fleets of the other companies closely affiliated with the R.M.S.P. Company represent 1,226,873 tons, which together make up a total of 1,524,554 tons, exclusive of steamers building. After making provision for depreciation and all taxation and transferring £200,000 to the reserve fund and £25,000 to the superannuation fund, the court recommended a dividend of 5 per cent., less income-tax, on the ordinary stock, making 7 per cent. for the year, leaving £52,502 to be carried forward.

Behera.

The report of the Société Anonyme du Béhéra for the past year shows the net profits to be £E38,300, as compared with £E22,600 for the previous year. The directors have adopted the policy of not paying the preference coupons until the bank overdraft has been eliminated, so that while the position has been strengthened nothing is this year paid off the arrears.

Upper Egypt Hotels.

The twelfth annual general meeting of the Upper Egypt Hotels Company was to have been held at Cairo on May 16. The directors' report on the working and finances of the company for the fiscal year, which ended on March 31 last shows a large falling off in the earnings of the company. This is explained by the fact that while in the financial year 1915-1916 the company was entrusted with the lodging and maintenance of a very large number of convalescent soldiers at the hotels at Luxor, the company's properties were not used during the period under review. The only hotel which has been open for the reception of guests is the "Luxor."

To meet the debenture interest due on May 1, 1917, the directors, after very careful consideration, decided to call up the £E 1 per share on the twenty-two thousand short paid issue. This resulted in the collection of £E13,935, up to April 23, 1917.

The profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1917, shows the net trading loss on hotels, £E1,529.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meetings.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the New Egyptian Company, Ltd., will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on June 5, at 12.30 p.m.

The eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Egypt and Levant Steamship Co., Ltd., was held at the temporary head offices of the company, Chios, on Wednesday, May 30. The following business was on the agenda:—1. To receive and consider the adoption of the directors' report and accounts for the year ending January 31, 1917. 2. To elect auditors. 3. To declare a dividend. 4. General business.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah 21 tons against 24 tons. Hurgada, 1,924 tons against 2,000 tons.

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BATTLE OF THE WEIGHTS.

Messrs. Scott, Armstrong and Co., 57, Moorgate Street, London, E.C.2., write to THE NEAR EAST on the subject, "British Standards Weights and Measures versus Metric or Decimal System." They point out that there is a large body of responsible opinion which is strongly opposed to change in the existing British coinage and weights and measures. They admit that difficulties have arisen in working the two systems in combination, but claim that they have been greatly exaggerated, and are for the most part of a purely arithmetical character. Our correspondents continue :—

"Those who are in favour of such a change argue that the only possible course to adopt is to abolish by legislation the existing British standards weights and measures, and to substitute the metric or decimal system, which, as should be well known, has its own inherent defects and limitations, even when compared with our own. The difficulties involved in such a course are admitted to be great, even by those who advocate the change. The cost to the nation would be enormous, and, while involving all businesses, would benefit mainly the largest and those engaged in foreign trade. The time necessary to bring into operation so far-reaching a revolution would be considerable. On the conclusion of peace, trade, and especially foreign trade, will call for the highest energies of this country, and the nation which is most ready to resume foreign commerce will stand to gain proportionately. To select such a time as this for inaugurating so far-reaching a change, with its inevitable scrapping of our existing system of book-keeping, weights and measures, would be an act of doubtful wisdom, even if the ultimate necessity could be proved up to the hilt, and there were no alternative course to adopt.

"Fortunately for the interests of this country, this is not the case, and it is possible at the same time to maintain our existing system, while bringing its use into harmony with the requirements of foreign trade, and at last enabling commercial men in this country to compete on equal terms with their Continental concurrents. The adoption of such an alternative has been rendered possible by a simple and ingenious method, which enables anyone, in buying, selling, or cataloguing, to calculate British prices in any foreign currency, weight, or measure, or *vice versâ*, by the simple multiplication of the price by one factor. The principle applies to every calculation, no refernce to or knowledge of the difference in weights, measures, and currency being required. Moreover, it is equally applicable to every country in the world, so that foreigners can adopt it with equal facility. The necessary tables are being revised and checked for publication, and will be ready shortly."

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
May 22 } May 23 }	330,000	340,000
May 24	210,000	240,000
May 25 } May 26 } May 27 }	550,000	470,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended May 18.	1917. Week ended May 17.
Cattle markets	439	528
General markets	357	398
Cattle markets closed	58	103
Receipts (£)	796	926
Total from commencement of year (£)	24,185	29,057

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

Throgmorton Street,
London, E.C.

Business has been interfered with this week by the Whitsuntide holidays, but during the few days that our market has been open there has been a continuation of fairly general activity amongst Egyptian shares, and only the scarcity of sellers has prevented the transaction of a large business. Egypt is still buying, and local interest here is also growing.

In Government stocks, Unifieds, after some very temporary offering at 83, firmed up again to 83¼. Prefs. 3½ per cent. have continued to be wanted without business taking place in the absence of sellers. National Banks have been a strong market, and are ½ higher at 14⅛, but very little business has been done because hardly any shares are offering. Agriculturals have remained a firm spot, and look an improving market, and Agricultural Prefs. are also again slightly higher at 7 5-16. Agricultural Deferred shares have now recovered the dividend of £40 recently deducted, and are again in demand at something near £400. Land Banks are again higher at 5¾, but here again there are no sellers.

In Land shares, Aboukirs have been done at 16s. 3d., and, for the moment, this transaction has absorbed the cheap shares which were offering. A feature has been the continuous rise in Behéras, which have risen another point this week to 10; but transactions have been few and very difficult to effect, because holders here have been very favourably impressed with the marked improvement in this company's position, as shown in the annual report for 1916.

A fairly large business has been done in Delta Lands and New Egyptians round the improved prices of 10s. and 11s. respectively. As regards New Egyptians the annual report for 1916 just issued is a very satisfactory document, and the shares appear to be one of the most attractive purchases in the whole market.

Some few hundred Union Foncière shares floating about were taken round 25s., and now buyers are bidding 26s. 6d., whilst sellers are asking much higher prices. United Egyptian Lands are also rather firmer round 10½d.

Salts and Sodas have changed hands at 23s., and Khedivial Mails, on further buying from Egypt, have risen 1s. to 32s. 6d.

In Greek bonds there has been practically nothing doing beyond a few minor transactions. Rentes, however, are a rather weaker market, whilst Currant Bonds have been done at 90.

Oil Shares.

This market has been generally dull. Anglo-Egyptian "B" fell 6d. to 13s. 9d.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included the following:—Egyptian Unified, 91.80 (against 92); Turkish Unified, 64 (unchanged); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 692 (against 693); Ottoman Bank, 435 (against 431); Suez Canal shares, 4,350 (against 4,340).

THE MONEY MARKET.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Thursday.

No disturbance was caused in the short loan market yesterday by the final call of the War Loan, a fact for which we must thank the arrangement by which the joint stock banks are permitted to retain the money for a fortnight before handing it over to the Bank of England. The range of business yesterday was 4 to 4¾ per cent., most transactions going through at from 4¼ to 4½ per cent. Weekly loans 4¼ to 4½ per cent.

Exchange on Alexandria last night was from 98 to 98⅝.

DIVIDENDS, PAYMENTS, Etc.

The Bank of England announces that 414 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust Certificates, amounting to £41,400, have been drawn for redemption on July 1, 1917.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia announce an interim dividend for the half-year to March 20 of 3s. a share, free of tax. Payable June 18.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price May 25.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83	83⅛
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	71	71⅛
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	54	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	54	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	54	54
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52	52
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62	62
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	71xd	71xd
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75½	75½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p.	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79½
Do. 3½% Fg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69⅛	69⅛
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅛	12⅛xd
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	5⅞	5⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	13⅝	14⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅜	5⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅞	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	⅛	⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅜	2½
Béhéra Co.	8½	9	10
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	9/7½	10/-
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	6/-	6/-
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	20/-	20/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	10/9	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	½	⅝
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1½	1⅞
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/9	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅞	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅞	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	23/-	23/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	31/6	32/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON MAY 12.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	14
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅞
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Priviligiée	Frs.	68
	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	77
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85½
Privilégiée		73⅜
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5⅝
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	3⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅞
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		32
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		8¾
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5¾
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	160
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	340
" Div.	Frs.	280
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	260
Egyptian Salt and Soda		22/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	640
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	336
" 1903 "	Frs.	267
" 1911 "	Frs.	266
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅝

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended April 30, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E
April 21-April 30	4,426	5,775
April 1-April 30	13,736	17,055

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(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

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(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 318.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The news from Russia has been more definite, but hardly more favourable, during the week. Along the front it has again been reported that fraternising with the enemy has ceased, or is about to cease, but there are no signs of movement, and Professor Masaryk, who has been for some weeks past in Petrograd, telegraphs to *The Times* that, as regards the Russian Army, "it is my opinion that the Allies will do best, if they prepare for the worst, or at least for a minimum, which would be that the Russians would merely hold their positions and detain a portion of the enemy armies on their front." It would appear from this that all hope of a Russian offensive must be abandoned in the immediate future, and, indeed, the reports and remonstrances and resignations of Russian generals during the past few weeks have led to the same conclusion. That the fighting spirit still survives, however, at least in some quarters, is shown by the plea of the Cossacks that a part of the front shall be definitely handed over to them, and there have been other signs that the work of reorganisation continues side by side with disorganisation, but at a slower pace.

The actual offensive operations on the Eastern front have been confined to the south-east section and the Black Sea. A successful naval raid has been carried out near the Anatolian coast, in which munition dumps, barracks, and factories were destroyed, and 147 enemy sailing vessels, laden with supplies, were sunk. It would appear from this that the Turks presumed too far on the inactivity of the Russian Fleet, and that the internal difficulties under which that squadron has laboured have been overcome. At the same time, it is announced that the Roumanian Army has been reorganised, and is now ready for action. Seeing these troops now, writes a correspondent, it would be almost impossible to guess that they were the same men as those one saw last autumn. The drill and discipline were perfect, a spirit of confidence once more prevails, and it is said that the Army is now adequately munitioned. Clearly, no time has been wasted during the winter. A section of the Army has made a thrust forward in the Putna Valley, and it is evident from remarks in the German Press that the enemy are under no illusions as to the possibility of withdrawing troops from the Moldavian front. It may be noted that M. Albert Thomas, the French Minister, has been at Jassy, on a visit of inspection, and has expressed his appreciation of Roumanian military efficiency in high terms of praise.

The key to the position on the Russian front is, of course, to be sought in the internal condition of Russia. The Republic has by no means settled down after its convulsion, and a certain feeling of disappointment is apparent in many quarters at the time taken to set its house in order. M. Kerensky, in a notable phrase, has announced that "after touring the whole of Russia and the front, I can affirm that what has hitherto been regarded as the dying agony of our Army was nothing else than the laborious travail of the new Russian State." Unfortunately, it was announced almost contemporaneously that an agitation has been set on foot against this Minister, presumably on account of his determined desire for an active prosecution of the war, and a remarkable article has appeared in the organ of the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, again affirming that no offensive will take place until all the Allies have accepted the formula of "No annexations and no indemnities."

It is plainly impossible for a belligerent to prosecute a war effectively while it possesses two Governments with divergent aims, and it may be suspected that in the long run the historic Russian attitude towards the Balkans and the Caucasus will oust this high-sounding phrase, since the old national aspiration was founded on past history and present economic necessity. When the "no annexations and no indemnities" theory of peace is critically examined indeed, it crumbles to pieces, from whatever side it is discussed. The enemy Governments will have none of the *status quo*, whatever their Socialists may pretend; our own attitude has been exposed by Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Asquith (and even Mr. Philip Snowden does not deny that Belgium must have reparation); the French Government, through M. Ribot's energetic declaration this week, has repudiated it; and the United States, which may, perhaps, be considered the most disinterested of the Powers, insists on restoration and reparation in Belgium and France. In these circumstances the Russian theory can hardly be seriously maintained as a permanent aim. Possibly Mr. Henderson's presence in Petrograd will help to clear up this difficulty.

A statement has been made by the Petrograd correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* as to the actual aims of the Russian Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Dele-

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gates. Their desire is, of course, to reconstruct international socialism in order to bring about an immediate peace, it being hoped that the proceedings at Stockholm will carry sufficient moral weight with the various belligerent Governments to compel them to come to terms. After that, we presume, the millennium is to be immediately proclaimed. The idea is ingenuous, but the Petrograd Socialists do not seem to have realized that the programme is in flat contradiction to the promised offensive after the Entente have agreed with the Russian demand for no annexation. Nor do they appear to have realized the difficulty of getting the German Majority Socialists to carry out the part assigned to them in the programme. Probably the conference at Stockholm, which is being written down in advance as a failure in the German Press, will let in some light on that matter.

Meanwhile the Russian Minister of Commerce has resigned, on the ground that no Minister can avert an economic catastrophe, and has stated openly that the whole industrial life of Russia is collapsing. The diagnosis may be dismissed as an exaggerated pessimism, but there are, for the moment at least, disquieting symptoms. Unskilled workmen are demanding wages of five hundred pounds a year for four or five, or at most eight hours' work, and skilled workmen a thousand a year. In such circumstances the owners of factories are naturally faced with the alternative, either of shutting down work or of handing over their business to the workmen to run themselves; in either event production will not be helped. There are accounts, too, of anarchist processions in the streets, and of citizens taking the law into their own hands. Conditions like these can hardly persist for long, if order is to be evolved out of chaos.

An ingenious Bulgar overture has been made to Russia. M. Rizoff, the Bulgarian Minister in Berlin, has written to Maxim Gorky advocating a separate peace, announcing that Germany is willing to evacuate Russian territory—it is not stated whether the offer includes Poland—and desiring an immediate armistice pending the convening, as soon as possible, of the Russian Constituent Assembly. The point of historical interest in this document is that it mentions that in the middle of February, a month before the revolution, a similar letter was written by the same Minister to the Russian representatives in Christiania and Stockholm, and again, immediately after the revolution, to the same effect. The reply to the former epistle is not given, but in the latter case a reference was made to M. Miliukoff's declaration that there could be no question of Russia concluding a separate peace. Immediately after M. Miliukoff's resignation, however, the pertinacious diplomatist apparently thought that the omens were more favourable, and made a third attempt. The only comment necessary is that given by Maxim Gorky himself, who characterises the proposal as "abominable, insolent, and stupid." It would be unwise to argue from this little intrigue that Bulgaria is suffering from war-weariness; the place of origin suggests that it is another attempt on the part of the German Government to divide the Allies. It may be noticed that the letter makes no mention of any evacuation of Serbia, nor does it hint at a restoration of Roumanian territory. Possibly M. Rizoff, with clumsy tact, thought those subjects best avoided.

The Austrian Reichsrath has met, after an interregnum of three years. Apart from the young Emperor's plea for an agreement with the "great friendly nation" of Russia, which may be taken for what it is worth, the proceedings were chiefly remarkable for the immediate claims put forward by the Southern Slavs. M. Stanek announced that he and his colleagues desire "the union of all the branches of the Czecho-Slav peoples into a democratic State; and the leader of the Southern Slavs, M. Konosetch, insisted on the union of Croat, Slovene, and Serb territories, with an autonomous free State of democratic type, constitutionally free from all foreign domination, but under the Hapsburg dynasty. It may be suspected that the last qualification was put in as an afterthought, to gild the pill for Austro-German taste. The gilding was not, however, successful. The German newspapers and their Vienna correspondents have made wry mouths at the unpleasant dose, which was not the less nauseous because it was anticipated. Three years of war have done nothing to crush the nationalist sentiment of the Southern Slavs, and they are not more reconciled to the Bismarckian theory, that Austria is a house built of bad Slav bricks and good German mortar, than in 1914. The mortar, indeed, appears increasingly friable.

The minority Socialists of Germany have put forward a Balkan programme. They demand for Serbia a free approach to the sea (presumably in the Adriatic) and a guarantee from Austria for a friendly commercial policy in the future. Who is to guarantee the guarantor is not stated. There is no direct reference to the Southern Slav question, but, as it is stated that the division of the Dual Monarchy is unnecessary—although extensive reform is required—it may be taken that the most advanced section of German opinion cannot stomach a Southern Slav State. Poland is to become independent—its limits are undefined; and there is, of course, to be peace without annexation or indemnities. But the minority wing appear to have found that phrase crumble in their hands, since they add that the cost of economic reconstruction, in the case at least of Belgium and Serbia, is to be defrayed by all the belligerents in proportion to their economic strength. In other words, the bitten is to help the biter; and, since German newspapers are already discussing the repudiation of the national debt as a possibility of the post-war period, it does not require an inspired prophet to perceive that the cost of economic reconstruction would fall on to the Entente. The minority wing should try again before Mr. Ramsay Macdonald happens to pass through Stockholm, or he will come back with Dead Sea fruit.

Of recent weeks, when it has been possible to locate the losses to shipping caused by mines or submarines, the Mediterranean appears to have claimed the majority of the victims. If this be the case, it is evident that the situation would have been much worse had Salonika remained in Greek hands, at the disposal of the Germans and Bulgarians. The marked diminution in the shipping losses during May strengthens the British Prime Minister's suggestion that the reason is to be found in part in the unexpectedly early improvement which has taken place in dealing with the submarine menace. It is natural that this improvement should apply first to British home waters; but in course of time it should be possible to extend the methods now found to be successful to the Mediterranean. When a similar improvement can be shown there as well, we may hope that the great Army of the Orient, whose activities have been so circumscribed in the past, will be in a position to render a better account of itself.

The appointment of a Government Commission in Egypt to examine a scheme for the provision within thirty years of efficient schools for the use of the whole of the juvenile population of both sexes is rightly characterized as an important step in the educational history of the country. It is a natural outcome of the new status enjoyed by Egypt. At this stage we would express the hope that the Commission will divest itself of preconceived notions regarding elementary education that may be based exclusively on the experience of Western lands. No doubt the young Egyptian must learn to read and to write; but his future, as his past, is linked up with the soil, and care should be taken that the learning which is to be instilled into him does not weaken, but rather strengthens his attachment to agriculture. In other words, an agricultural or technical tinge ought to be given to the education that the youth of Egypt is to receive.

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M. Venizelos, who has emphatically declared that he is not a republican, in an interview with Signor Chiesa, which is published in the *Morning Post*, remarked on the same occasion, "I do not understand why Italy's foreign policy should be so distrustful towards us. The proclamation of a protectorate over Albania by Italy during the week will hardly diminish the distrust on either side. Italy formally guarantees the unity and 'independence' of Albania under her protection, invites the Albanians to take the oath of loyalty to her, and promises the usual benefits of civilisation—free institutions, gendarmerie, tribunals, and schools, which may or may not be valued across the Adriatic."

It would appear that the protectorate includes Northern Epirus—according to Signor Chiesa the Italian occupation now extends well into that region, besides including not only Valona and the immediate hinterland, but the country as far as the Kalamas and Vojusa Rivers. The Italian statesman does not believe in the need or the advantage of a permanent occupation of the whole of this territory, but he insists that Valona, Janina, Old Arta, etc., must remain Italian for strategic and sanitary reasons, among the latter being mentioned the necessity for draining the pestilential marshes which affect the health of Valona. He holds, however, that Corfu, which is now occupied by French colonial troops from Senegal and Madagascar, must eventually be handed over to Greece—any other course, in his opinion, leading to irredentism, the seed of future wars, or to an international occupation of the island, which he utterly condemns. These statements perhaps do not carry us very far on the road to an Italo-Greek accommodation, which seems as remote as ever. In the meantime, as a mere matter of practical politics, it must be recognised that while Greece remains divided under two Governments and Italy is united under one, the advantage of the game is all with Italy—and the worst enemies of the statesmen of Rome have never accused them of stupidity.

King Constantine continues to play for time and the harvest. If he can hold out till the crops are in, and is allowed by Allied diplomacy to gather the fruits of the earth in due season as a result of their easy-going ways, he may hold out through the winter, and in a year many things may happen. It has been rumoured again that he is thinking of abdicating, but creaking monarchs hang long on their hinges, if they are not too roughly used, and nobody can contend that King Constantine has been roughly handled. It would probably be wise to disregard such rumours until the event proves them well founded. The King will not go until he can stay no longer.

Military news has been lacking from Mesopotamia, but a medical bulletin which has been issued this week is highly satisfactory. The number of sick has dropped in May by 60 per cent. in comparison with a year ago—a very gratifying result of the improved medical service, which will, we hope, be as successful during the hot weather ahead. A year ago, as is now admitted, the conditions of service on the Tigris were scandalous; the medical equipment and the staff were utterly inadequate, and in the end the position became so evident that it could only be half-heartedly defended even by those who were responsible. It may be expected that some additional light will be thrown on this neglect, which has cost many valuable lives, when the report of the Mesopotamia Royal Commission is issued. We do not gather that even now the conditions are any better than they should be, but with the best facilities in the world, medical science is necessarily somewhat handicapped in such a country. All that one asks is that it should not be needlessly handicapped by the parsimony or neglect of the authorities, and that somewhat obvious consideration seems at last to have obtained rather belated recognition.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 14.

The King's Accession Day.

The anniversary of the accession of King George was celebrated quietly in Cairo. Telegrams of congratulation were addressed by the Sultan and the Prime Minister to his Majesty, who sent a gracious reply in each case. All Government offices were shut on this occasion, in accordance with the order in force since the declaration of a Protectorate over Egypt that the King's accession and birthdays should in future be kept as public holidays.

H.H. the Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan has left Cairo for his estates at Gabares, where he will spend about ten days. His Highness will then return to Abdin Palace for a few days; afterwards, accompanied by the Ministers, he will proceed to Alexandria for the summer. Owing to the lighting restrictions, the Sultan will not be able to take up his residence, as usual, at Ras-el-Tin Palace. He will only use it for official receptions, etc., during the day. H.H. the Sultana, who has happily made a complete recovery from her attack of measles, has also gone to Gabares. Before his departure the Sultan called on the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate at the Residency. According to present arrangements, Government will move officially to Alexandria on the 25th inst., and the Residency will follow a few days later.

The Greek Colony.

The British authorities have at last authorised the creation of special courts, to be administered under the auspices of the Provisional Government representatives. The authority has taken the form of a notice, signed by General Sir Archibald Murray, published this week in the official journal, to the effect that commissions had been issued to M. Antoine Sachtouris, Diplomatic Agent in Egypt of the Salonika Provisional Government, and other legal and consular officials to form courts and otherwise administer justice in respect of Greek subjects who have adhered to that Government and accepted the protection of the G.O.C. the British Forces in Egypt. As all Venizelist adherents must prove, when they come before the new Courts, that they previously depended from the Royalist Consulates, and, as it was feared that the latter might create difficulties by refusing or delaying the issue of the requisite documents, the British authorities have intervened and it has been arranged that the Royalist Consulates will hand them over their archives. This arrangement has afforded much satisfaction to the colony, and it is expected that matters will henceforward proceed quite smoothly.

The Capitulations Commission.

The Capitulations Commission is hard at work, and continues to hold its bi-weekly meetings. It has written to the Native Bar to ask for its observations on various points of the Civil Law, and has circularised the various Government departments to inquire as to the effect which the Capitulations have on the execution of the duties falling to those departments and on the enforcement of the administrative regulations at present in force. As one might be led to expect from the nature of its constitution, the Commission is going very thoroughly into all matters upon which the Capitulations or their abolition may have an effect. The annual report of the Judicial Adviser will shortly appear. I understand that it will contain several chapters of topical interest.

The University Question.

At a meeting held this week the Administrative Council of the Egyptian University decided that admittance to the ordinary courses should henceforward be free, that the fees for special courses should be reduced by half, that evening lectures on general useful subjects should be given, that regular courses of economics and science should be instituted, and that the study of Semitic literature and languages should be re-established. It is perfectly obvious to everyone that these decisions are a final effort on the part of the Administrative Council to attract students to the Egyptian Univer-

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sity before the recently proposed State University comes into being and deprives the older institution of its *raison d'être*. It is, however, a foregone conclusion that the latest facilities will prove no more successful in increasing the number of would-be graduates than were those offered in the past, for the simple reason that the Egyptian University is neither constituted nor run as a proper university, and consequently holds out no more —if indeed as much—attraction to students than a series of night classes on special subjects might afford them. Certainly this last desperate effort to swell the numbers on its books, even if successful in its immediate object, will not save the Egyptian University from the doom which the creation of the State University holds in store for it, and the sooner the Administrative Council recognises that it has failed in its mission and submits to the inevitable, instead of wasting time and money on a forlorn hope, the better it will be for all concerned.

The Late Sir Armand Ruffer.

There have been several public tributes to the memory of Sir Armand Ruffer. A memorial service was held at St. Mark's Church, Alexandria, where the attendance was unprecedentedly large, and included Mahmoud Fakhry Bey, First Chamberlain, representing H.H. the Sultan; Mr. D. A. Cameron, C.M.G., British Consul-General, representing the High Commissioner; the members of the Quarantine Board and of the Municipal Council, representatives of the naval and military authorities, and practically every prominent European and Egyptian resident. At meetings of the Quarantine Board and Municipal Council eloquent speeches to the memory of, in the first instance, their president and, in the second, their vice-president were delivered by various members. It was decided to give the name of the eminent doctor to one of the principal streets and to a park in the city, and both bodies, after deciding to convey to the family an expression of their lively sympathy, suspended their deliberations as a sign of respect for their late colleague.

Our Convalescents.

A monster fête was given to the convalescent soldiers in Cairo by the Y.M.C.A. in the Esbekia Gardens on Saturday last. Over 3,000 men were entertained at tea, which was served by lady residents, and thoroughly enjoyed the sporting competitions and side-shows which had been provided for them. In addition to these latter, the Lena Ashwell Concert Party and the Fra Bentos gave several entertainments, whilst the band of the Welsh Fusiliers contributed the musical part of the programme. The fête ended with a most picturesque torchlight tattoo. The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate visited the gardens during the afternoon, and remained a long time watching the scene. Before he left Sir Reginald Wingate addressed the men, congratulating all concerned on the success of the fête and calling for three cheers for Mr. Jessop, the secretary of the Y.M.C.A., to whose organisation that success was entirely due.

THE SUN OF CIVILISATION.

At a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie, last week, Mr. M. A. Ghani read a highly original, if somewhat fanciful, paper on the rise and fall of civilisations. By his theory, there is a zone of civilisation lying between the Tropic of Cancer and about the latitude of London, and it is within this zone that all the great civilisations of the world have arisen. Pekin and New York are on or near the equator of this zone, which is at 38½° north latitude. There is an ecliptic along which travels the sun of civilisation. This ecliptic crosses the equator of civilisation at Mecca, which thus becomes the Greenwich of the zone of civilisation. The centres of civilisation arise along this ecliptic, consequently east of Mecca they have arisen to the south of the equator of civilisation, and west of Mecca they have arisen to the north of it. The sun of civilisation moves westward along its ecliptic, and as each nation comes under its rays so it arises and develops. At midnight the nation is enslaved and dominated by another nation; then comes daybreak, morning, noon, when the nation is at the height of its power, and dominates other nations; afternoon, evening, and again night. The fact that civilisation has not always moved regularly from east to west, Mr. Ghani explained by saying that when the sun of civilisation was directly over a nation, the sun might be covered by clouds of ignorance for a time, or it might be eclipsed. But those clouds would be dispelled and the eclipse would pass, and at such times we saw civilisation moving from the west to the east, instead of following its normal course from east to west.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY JOSEPH OFFORD.

The Ancient Egyptians.

The view that the people, or race, generally known as the "Ancient Egyptians,"—by which is meant the descendants of the conquerors who, on their entering Egypt, were known as "The Followers of Horus,"—were closely connected with the inhabitants of Elam, or Lower Babylonia, has frequently been advocated in recent years. The chief ground for this idea was that the early dynasty kings adopted for their signets cylinder seals precisely similar in shape and usage to those common then in Susa and Mesopotamia. Such cylinders were made for impressing the reliefs which they bore by rolling them upon soft clay, such as that of which Elamite and Babylonian tablets were made, a special substance not procurable in the Nile Valley. This led to this type of signet being gradually abandoned in Egypt and the scarab form taking its place. If, however, the Horus tribes were really possessors of a culture emanating from West Asiatic sources, there should be further evidence of this than the cylinder seals. The earliest art workmanship we have from the primitive Egyptians shortly subsequent to Menes is that depicted in reliefs upon the so-called Slate Palettes. One of these out of the six or seven yet known bore an ornamental design derived from the excessive prolongation of two animals' necks. This concept was directly similar to that upon an Asiatic cylinder.

The question has now been more decisively illustrated by the carvings upon an extremely early ivory knife or dagger handle purchased for the Louvre at Nag Hamadi, in Egypt, and published by M. Bénédite in the "Monuments et Memoires" of the French Academy. The similarity of its craftsmanship to that of the Slate Palette designs is self evident, especially in the forms of two dead warriors, and of the boats depicted, which agree with those shown upon Egyptian prehistoric pottery. But one scene, which may be termed heraldic, shown upon this Egypto-African relic, is of absolutely Elamite or Babylonian—that is to say, Asiatic—type. It displays a king, or hero, dressed in a long tunic, and so probably an inhabitant of a colder country than Babylonia, such as Elam or Persia. He stands between two rampant lions, not of any African species, which seem to have dense hair and manes. He wears an Asiatic style of head-dress, and his long hair appears to rest upon his shoulders. Had this single one of the six or seven reliefs upon this ivory carving been found by itself, it would certainly have never been considered to be ancient Egyptian work, so undeniable are its Asiatic affinities; yet its other scenes are quite as undoubtedly Egyptian in character. This relic is, therefore, a convincing proof of the connection of the primitive Pharaonic invaders who succeeded the earliest Nile Valley inhabitants with the peoples upon the Persian Gulf.

Nadir Shah's Invasion of India.

In these terrible times, when the very flower of mankind in Europe and the Near East is being destroyed because of the lust of conquest of only a few individuals, the story of a great war of aggression, the particulars of which are not very completely known, is of great interest. Such a recital may be found in the translation by Yakoub Artin Pasha, of Cairo, of the journal of a certain Tambouri Aroutine, who accompanied the Persian, Nadir Shah, during his conquest of India.

Aroutine (or Haroutioun) is an Armenian title, and he was an Armenian Turkish subject who was a member of the suite of Mustapha Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador sent by the Sultan Mahmoud I. to Nadir Shah in A.D. 1735. Aroutine, upon the Ambassador's return to Constantinople, remained in personal service upon Nadir Shah as a musician and "professor" of some kind for five years, and during that time accompanied the royal invader of India throughout all his progress.

The manuscript of Aroutine's journal is now at Venice, and is written in the Turkish language, but in Armenian characters, and was copied from an older text in 1794 for the library of the St. Lazarus Convent at that city.

The story begins with the siege of Kandahar, and goes on to describe the march of the Persian Army through Afghanistan and the Punjab to Lahore and the invasion of Sind. The translation occupies more than sixty closely-printed pages of the *Bulletin* of the "Institut Egyptien" of Cairo. Aroutine, whilst describing Asiatic warfare, gives no incidents of horror similar to those resulting from German frightfulness to-day. But, being in the victor's retinue, he would probably not have mentioned much of the bloodshed and misery if he had witnessed any.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

We have had reports of many strange happenings in Russia during the past week, and the cranks and riders of hobbies in that great country seem to be getting out of hand. Of the political aspect of these things it would be unbecoming for a frivolous individual like myself to write. But there is another side to them, and one which seems to fall well within my province. The humour may be of a grim, a dangerous, kind, but it is there. For instance, the mention of Kronstadt, of which place Mr. Max Pemberton and other writers of fiction had accustomed us to think with a kind of awe, will in future call up smiles rather than shudders. Just now the smiles are likely to be of a rather twisted kind, no doubt. But when we read M. Lamanoff's phenomenally grave statement that since he "became President Kronstadt's policy towards the war remains unchanged," we must smile, must we not? Let us be thankful that we are in a position to do so.

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But Kronstadt is not alone in its determination to set things in order at home while holding itself ready to give the enemy "a warm reception." Did you read the Reuter's message describing the relations between the "commander" of the Black Sea Fleet and his sailors? In case you may have missed it, I reproduce it below; for it is a gem beyond price, and nothing more delicious could have been produced by the late lamented W. S. Gilbert himself:—

> PETROGRAD, May 31.—Following a Press report that a quarrel had broken out between Admiral Koltchak, Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, and the Sebastopol Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates, and that the Admiral had resigned, the president of the Delegates of the Black Sea Fleet, a sailor named Batkin, declares that there has been no question of a quarrel, but only of an unimportant difference of opinion, due to a misunderstanding. Batkin adds that the Admiral enjoys, as hitherto, the full confidence of the whole squadron, and that consequently he will remain at his post.—*Reuter.*

It is so very satisfactory to find that, after all, there has been no real *quarrel*—nothing but "an unimportant difference of opinion due to a misunderstanding." But infinitely more satisfactory is it to be assured by M. Batkin, A.B. (?), that the Admiral still enjoys the confidence of his jolly boys in blue, and that "consequently" he will remain at his post. That "consequently" is worthy of Pooh Bah himself.

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His Excellency the Serbian Minister has, I see, been telling a Dundee journalist that the Serbian boys now being educated in that town "are clamouring for the kilt." He went on to remark that this was a remarkable tribute to what Scotland has done for Serbia, because "Serbians are very individual, and seldom copy other people." This, no doubt, is perfectly true, but I should not be surprised if the liking for colour had something to do with the craving for kilts. Passing up Regent Street the other day, I saw in one of the shop windows a tartan that was about the most colourful thing I have set eyes on for a long time; and I could almost "fancy myself" in a kilt of such a pattern. That, however, is a digression. All I wish to indicate is that the colour sense may have as much to do with the desire for kilts as the feeling of gratitude. The Minister, by the way, pointed out that the Scots and the Serbs are much alike in many ways. "Serbia has been well described as the Scotland of the Balkans, and there is a remarkable temperamental affinity between the two peoples. Even in their national music there is a similarity. The violin, to the sound of which Scotsmen delight to dance, is beloved by every Serbian; while the bagpipe is one of their national instruments." But if this be so, what about the Serbians being the "Irish of the Balkans," as they have so often been called? If I might venture an opinion, I should say that their likeness to the Irish is much greater than to the Scots.

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As an illustration of the gentle art of how not to do it, a paragraph, headed "The Traitor King," published in the *Daily Express* of May 31 is of interest. The Royal Greek Legation in London, it appears, sent the *Express* a communication beginning: "A telegram from Salonika, which appeared in the *Daily Express* of May 8, raises the question of the hostile intentions of the King of Greece towards the Allied Powers." Personally, I should not have thought there could be any "question" to raise on the point at this time. However, the Royal Greek Legation proceeded to inform the *Express* that it was authorised to declare that King Constantine and his Government "have never had any hostile intentions towards the Entente." Now, in so doing, the Royal Greek Legation acted unwisely. For the Editor of the *Express* politely indicated that no such telegram had appeared in his paper; but added: "But we have repeatedly called attention to the treacherous attitude of King Tino towards the Allies, the notorious and numerous instances of which place beyond question his support of German aims." Which must strike the Royal Greek Legation as painfully plain speaking.

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A certain amount of amusement can easily be obtained by reading the impressions of Baghdad that have been written by so many of our soldiers, and published in so many of our papers. One of these brave fellows writes thus (in a letter to his parents, which is published in the *Yorkshire Observer*) of his first impressions of Baghdad:—

> "When at last the city 'swims into your ken' you catch your breath at the sight. Each side of the stream is lined with buildings of surpassing beauty. Minaret after minaret and dome after dome loomed into sight as we turned the bend, each one appearing more beautiful than the last. Graceful towers—all leaning slightly towards the sun, as is usual in the East—glorious in shimmering tilework of turquoise, yellow and brown, with here and there a low dome just distinguishable through the noonday haze, brought to mind fairy-book pictures of one's childhood. Large and beautiful residences, schools, colleges, and official buildings surrounded by gardens, lovely as only Oriental gardens can be, lined each bank."

I wonder whether the writer suffered disillusionment so bitter as that of another soldier, who, in a letter reproduced in the *Western Morning News*, declares:—

> "Yesterday I made an exhaustive perambulation of the town, and have come to the conclusion that if one wants to have happy impressions of Baghdad one should be content with a survey of the river front. The palatial residences along the Tigris are but a veneer hiding from sight a smelly cesspit of diseased, ill-clothed, and ill-housed humanity. Such a description would fit most Eastern places, but Baghdad had a glamour about its name which led one to expect better things. A Suddar bazaar in India would give points to Baghdad bazaars for cleanliness."

Alas! for the City of the Khalifs!

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Of course, both these writers are giving their very early impressions, and I suspect that, after a longer stay in Baghdad, both will revise their views considerably. The optimist will become somewhat less enthusiastic, the pessimist a good deal less ready to condemn. After a long acquaintance with the city, I should hesitate to endorse either of the views of it given above. Baghdad never struck me as possessing any buildings of surpassing beauty, though the mosque of Abd el Kader is fine, and some bits of the old walls, gates, and mosques are attractive, while several of the minarets are really graceful. But, on the other hand, the bazaars have a charm which not all their dirt and all their thousand and one evil odours can rob them of; and the people of the city are not quite so "ill clothed" or "ill housed" as our second soldier scribe appears to think. Their garments are adapted to the climate, and their houses are as much so as they can afford to make them. And not a few of the private residences in the lanes far from the river bank are distinctly pleasant buildings, as, I hope, the disenchanted soldier may soon discover.

CORSAIR.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Secretary to the General Post Office states that, according to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office, the transmission of parcels addressed to prisoners of war in Turkey (including civilians) is again suspended, and until further notice such parcels cannot be accepted at post-offices. The parcels on hand will be returned to the senders. Letters for prisoners of war in Turkey are still being forwarded.

The Jewish question in Roumania is not to be among those to be brought before the coming Constituent Assembly, although the Premier (M. Bratiano) declares that the Government are considering it, and Lord Robert Cecil made a similar statement in Parliament last week (says the *Jewish World*). We observe that the Roumanian Jews themselves announce that they do not desire to add to the national difficulties by bringing forward their grievances during the war; but M. Bratiano himself states that the time for this is "opportune." Frankly, we imagine that the modesty of our Roumanian coreligionists does little service to the country, for it would be a source of strength to Roumania (as well as to her companions in arms) if she brought herself into line with Russia and the Allies in general on the question of Jewish freedom.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A STANDARD WORK ON SERBIA.*

The people of Great Britain have paid dearly for their lack of interest in the Balkans and for their failure to appreciate the importance of the position which the Near East holds on the flank of one of the main arteries of the British Empire. By the time when events in that part of the world arrested public attention those who were able to impart knowledge of Balkan affairs had for the most part fallen under the spell of one or other of the rival nationalities, and their views were coloured accordingly. "In the Balkans," our author states in his preface, "history is a sort of pacific warfare in which every native scholar is a general." He might have added, continuing the metaphor, that nearly every foreigner is a military attaché, who sees the campaign solely through the eyes of the general to whom he has been attached. Captain Temperley has achieved a notable success in giving his readers a strictly impartial history. The book, he tells us, is the fruit of some years of travel and study in the Near East. He has been fortunate enough to approach his subject without prejudices; he envisages the Balkans as a whole, and his sympathies, springing from personal acquaintance with the land, are wide enough to embrace the entire Peninsula, without being tinged by the miasma of racial antipathies. Captain Temperley is not merely an interested traveller, he has established his position among our younger historians, and in this volume he gives a complete and scholarly record of the Serbian nation. It is an axiom to say that the modern history of the Balkans is unintelligible without reference to that past in which Serbian, Bulgarian, and Greek still move and live and have their inmost being. But we are glad to see that our author also gives prominence to the influence of geography on the evolution of these peoples, whose fortunes have, after all, only been as tangled and uneven as the physical features of the lands they occupy. In this connection he makes the interesting point that the unity of the Jugo-Slav race, which has recently gained so much prominence, was an impracticable dream until man, who "is at the mercy of geography," could tunnel mountains, dry up marshes, and render rivers navigable. Apart, however, from the broken surface of their country, the Serbians have occupied an unenviable position between upper and lower millstones. In this respect their position has been reproduced among other peoples, both mediæval and modern; but the Balkans have been particularly unfortunate in being the narrow passage through which so many warring streams have sought to force their way.

Serbian troubles, however, have not come entirely from without. The statement that the Slavs as a race are devoid of political ability our author considers to be putting the case "with too great strength"; but he does admit that the social institutions of the Slavs hindered political unity and military efficiency. The subject leads to an interesting discussion of Serbian mediæval society, and the influence of the Zadruga on the nation's development. It is to be feared that the tradition of political unwisdom has been perpetuated in Serbia unto a late day; for there can be few Serbians who, in the light of all that has happened, would not gladly have the opportunity of rewriting much of their history even of the last fifteen years. But the ordeal can hardly fail to bear its predestined fruit:—

Powerful neighbours made it clear to Serbia that if she did not obey them they would compass her destruction, and thus offered her the choice between dependence and extinction. There was no doubt about the choice or about the decision. If Serbian statesmen retained any illusions in 1906, they could not have preserved them after 1909. Yet with the consent of the nation they then made a choice which they knew to be irrevocable, and pursued a path which they saw to be full of peril. Serbia was bound by a chain to the heroic memories of Kara George and of Kossovo, and prized national independence above every material gain. Sooner than forget the past she preferred to endure the present and to risk the future, and by this final decision asserted her right to be a nation.

A history of Serbia is not complete without a discussion on the Macedonian question; and it is here that Captain Temperley contrives to hold the balance so fairly between the warring nationalities. His summing up of the problem is as follows:—

Bulgarian claims to Macedonia rest on some centuries of rule and on two empires; Serbian claims rest on one short-lived empire and upon two centuries of confusion, during which Serb princelets ruled Macedonia. Yet Serbian architecture has left deeper traces on fortress, convent, and church than Bulgarian ever did, thus proving that an influence may be more enduring than a domination. It is certain that the bulk of the Macedonian population is Slav; it is by no means certain that it is Bulgar. There is much, therefore, to be said for the view that the real population is neither Bulgarian nor Serbian, but halfway between the two. . . . There is a Macedonian language and a Macedonian race, which can understand the tongue and adapt itself to the customs of either Bulgarian or Serbian, but which is in itself independent of either. Given the necessary time, money, intimidation, inducement, and educational pressure, the Macedonian can probably be assimilated to one or other competing race. But if the history of past ages is really to have weight, Slavonic Macedonia should be autonomous and independent. On the other hand, if history is to be disregarded and expediency advanced as the principle, then the settlement depends not only on existing conditions in Macedonia, but upon the balance of power outside it.

The latter, it is to be hoped, will ultimately be eliminated by the circumstance of the Balkan States realising where their real interests lie and, having adjusted their differences, coming together for the purposes of a Balkan Federation, which will be strong enough to secure complete freedom from all outside interference.

Not the least valuable part of the book is the careful record of the course of events which preceded the present war. The gradual evolution in Austria-Hungary of the conviction that Serbia must be broken in order that an Austro-German path might be cleared to the Ægean and Asia Minor, and the sudden realization by Serbia of the danger confronting her are well brought out. Captain Temperley writes freshly, and is to be congratulated on a valuable contribution to the literature of the Near East.

* "History of Serbia." By Captain H. W. V. Temperly, M.A., F.R.H.S. (London: G. Bell and Sons, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.).

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Humphrey Milford is publishing a new edition of "Observations on the Mussalmans of India," a book which was originally published nearly ninety years ago. It was written by Mrs. Mir Hassan Ali, an Englishwoman married to an Indian Moslem; and the new edition is edited by W. Crooke.

Messrs Melrose will publish shortly "In Salonika with Our Army," by Second Lieutenant Harold Lake, Middlesex Regiment.

Messrs. Nelson have just issued a new and cheaper edition (9d.) of Mr. Marmaduke Pickthall's "The Children of the Nile."

Messrs. Chatto and Windus have now issued the new edition of Lord Lytton's "Serbski Pesme" to which reference was made in these notes a few weeks ago.

Sir James Frazer's "Pausanias and Other Greek Sketches" has now been added to the Eversley Series with the title "Studies in Greek Scenery, Legend, and History."

BOOK RECEIVED.

The Scene of War. By V. C. Scott O'Connor ("Odysseus"). (Blackwood and Sons. 5s. net.)

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

June 5.

The Position in Mesopotamia.

Sir A. Williamson asked whether the Leader of the House could give any information as to the military position in Mesopotamia.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: I have not received the notice of the question, but in any case there is no fresh information that I can give the House.

M. Venizelos and Thessaly.

Mr. Lynch asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the reports that Thessaly was a place where pro-German intrigues and pro-German plots and plans were actively fomented, he would advise that the area of authority of M. Venizelos might be extended.

Lord R. Cecil's written reply states: No, sir; I could not pledge myself to the particular solution of the Thessalian question recommended.

It is stated by the *Temps* that, as a sequel to a telegram of congratulation on the successes of the Italian Army addressed by the King of Montenegro to the King of Italy, the Montenegrin Ministry has resigned.

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, accompanied by M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, is expected shortly in Vienna on a visit to the Emperor Charles.

General Sarrail has decorated a dozen of the higher officers of the British Army, including two generals, with the Legion of Honour. He himself wore the star of the K.C.M.G.

The Dardanelles Commissioners met at the House of Lords on Tuesday, and further considered their report.

President Irigoyen has given a favourable reply to a Jewish delegation which waited upon him to request the intervention of the Argentine Government in order to bring about the cessation of massacres in Palestine.

Under date of June 6, Reuter's Teheran correspondent reports:—Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes and staff have arrived here, and he has been received in audience by the Shah. Sir Percy Sykes will enter into a contract with the Persian Government with regard to his taking up the duties of Instructor to the new gendarmerie force, in accordance with the Anglo-Persian agreement of April last.

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BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

The following are among the honours granted by the King on the occasion of the celebration of his Majesty's Birthday :—

BARON.

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR IVOR HERBERT, BART., M.P.

Sir Ivor Herbert was created a baronet in 1907. He has been Liberal member for Monmouth since 1906, and is Lord Lieutenant of the county. He served in the Egyptian campaign in 1882 and in the Nile Expedition of 1884-5. He was Military Attaché at St. Petersburg from 1886 to 1900. He commanded all the Colonial troops in England at the Queen's Jubilee in 1897. He was Assistant Adjutant-General of the South African Field Force, 1899-1900.

IRISH PRIVY COUNCILLOR.

MAJOR THE EARL OF ARRAN, K.P.

The Earl of Arran has served with the Egyptian Cavalry, and commanded the R.N.G. Squadron Household Cavalry in the South African War.

KNIGHTS.

FRANCIS H. BARKER.

Sir Francis H. Barker is a son of the late Alfred Barker, of Constantinople, and Elmfield, Esher. He was very actively interested in the development of the Parsons turbine, for both land and marine, in Europe, and is a director of Vickers, Limited, and chairman of the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce. He married Aimé de Vere Vere, eldest daughter of the late Arthur de Vere Vere.

GRIMWOOD MEARS.

Sir Grimwood Mears is Secretary of the Dardanelles Commission.

THOMAS ERSKINE HOLLAND, K.C., LL.D.

Sir Erskine Holland is an authority on International Law, and the author of "The European Concert in the Eastern Question" and many other works.

WILLIAM WATSON.

Sir William Watson is a well-known poet, author of "The Purple East," etc.

G.C.M.G.

SIR FRANCIS EDMUND HUGH ELLIOT, G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.

Sir Francis Elliot has been his Majesty's Minister Plenipotentiary at Athens since November, 1903. He entered the Diplomatic Service in 1874, and was at once appointed to Constantinople, where two years later he became Third Secretary. In 1878 he was transferred to Vienna, and his next move (1879) was to Rio de Janeiro. After serving at Stockholm and Lisbon he returned to the East, going to Cairo in 1884. Thence he was transferred to Paris, where he acted as Chargé de Affaires in 1888 and 1889. In 1890 he was promoted to Secretary of Legation at Athens, where he acted as Chargé d'Affaires on several occasions. And in 1895 he was sent to Sofia as Agent and Consul-General in Bulgaria.

K.C.M.G.

HERBERT GUY DERING, M.V.O.

Sir Herbert Dering, who is now H.M. Minister Plenipotentiary at Bangkok, served, when a Third Secretary, at Constantinople (1896), and was (in 1897) granted an allowance for knowledge of Turkish.

HERBERT EDWARD WHITE, C.M.G.

Sir Herbert White has been H.B.M. Agent in Morocco since 1914. He has a close acquaintanceship with that country, dating back to 1880, when he accompanied Sir J. Drummond Hay on his Mission to the Sultan of Morocco.

GEORGE RUSSEL CLERK, C.B., C.M.G.

Sir George Clerk, who is now serving in the Foreign Office, was formerly in the Diplomatic Service, and was attached to the Embassy at Constantinople up to the eve of the declaration of war.

HONORARY K.C.M.G.

MONSIEUR LE COMTE DE SERIONNE.

Agent Supérieur of the Suez Canal Company.

C.M.G.

NEVILLE TRAVERS BORTON PASHA.

Borton Pasha is Postmaster-General in Egypt, a post he has held since 1907; and he has done much to make the Egyptian postal service one of the best in the world. Born in 1870, he joined the Egyptian Army in 1897, and took part in the operations on the Nile the same year, receiving the medal and clasp; and subsequently took part in the operations that ended in the Battle of Omdurman (1898), and those south of Khartoum (1899). Entering the Sudan Civil Service in its earliest days, he held various important appointments—Inspector of Dongola Province, Director of Prisons and Police, Director of Customs. In 1905 he retired from the Egyptian Army and became Assistant Postmaster-General. He is a Pasha of Egypt, and holds the Osmanieh and the Mejidieh decorations.

LIEUT.-COLONEL GEORGE STEWART SYMES, D.S.O.

Colonel Symes was formerly Private Secretary to the Governor-General of the Sudan and Assistant Director of Intelligence, Sudan Government. He is the eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Symes, 71st Highland Light Infantry, and entered the Army in 1900. He has seen service in South Africa, 1902, where he secured the Queen's Medal with two clasps; in the Aden Hinterland, 1903-4, he won mention in despatches and the D.S.O.; and in the Blue Nile Expedition of 1908 he won the medal. He holds also the Osmanieh (4th Class) and the Order of the Nile (3rd Class).

LANCELOT OLIPHANT.

Mr. Oliphant, who is now in the Foreign Office, was Acting Third Secretary at Constantinople in 1905-06, and in Teheran in 1911.

JOHN OLIVER WARDROP.

Mr. Wardrop, who is now H.M. Consul at Bergen, has served as Acting Consul-General at Galatz and at Tunis, and in Bucharest from 1906 to 1910.

CAPTAIN G. A. LLOYD, M.P.

Captain George Ambrose Lloyd, M.P., who is in the Warwickshire Yeomanry, was about twelve years ago an Honorary Attaché to the British Embassy at Constantinople. Later he undertook a mission into Mesopotamia to investigate trade conditions and report upon various subjects to the Government. Last year it was understood that he had left for the Near East upon another mission of a somewhat similar character.

MAJOR D. L. R. LORIMER, I.A.

Major Lorimer is British Consul for Kerman and Baluchistan, and ex-officio Assistant to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf. He served as Vice-Consul, and later as Consul, at Ahwaz, and as Political Agent at Bahrein before going to Kerman.

MAJOR T. H. KEYES.

Major Keyes belongs to the Political Department, Indian Government, and was for some time Consul for Seistan and Kain.

CAPTAIN H. H. THORBURN.

Captain Thorburn, who belongs to the Indian Medical Service, is serving with the South Persia Rifles, Shiraz.

CURIOUS FISHES OF PALESTINE.

At a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie last Thursday, Dr. Henri Léon described some of the fishes of Palestine. He said that about fifty different species of freshwater fish were known to exist in the country. One of these was the silurus, spoken of by Josephus, who called it the coracinus, and described it as inhabiting the fountain of Capernaum, and as coming thither by a subterranean communication from the Nile. To-day, said Dr. Léon, the Arabs called the fish the barbour. It squeaked and shrieked with a hissing sound like an angry cat at bay. The cyprinodon was a fish that swarmed by myriads in the little thermal and saline springs fringing the shores of the Dead Sea. The temperature of some of these was 91 deg. F., and the water in which the fish lived was almost as dense and salt as that of the Dead Sea; which, in many cases, during gales, overflowed the lagoons. Yet the fish that throve and multiplied in the lagoons died in the sea. Another curious fish was the chromis simonis. The eggs of this species were carried by the male in his mouth for several days until they hatched. Another fish, called by the Arabs umyan-samak (the blind fish), was described as inhabiting a pond in the cavern in the cliffs of the Lake of Gennesarat. The cliffs, said Dr. Léon, are about 1,200 feet high, and the cavern, known as the Kal'at-Ibn-Ma'an, is an almost inaccessible labyrinth, connected by passages and protected by walls. The pond is fed by a secret spring, and empties itself into some undiscovered subterranean tunnel. Its water is of a tepid heat, and the fish, which are about ten or twelve inches long, present no appearance of possessing any visual organs. Concerning this fish there is told the following legend.—Three Christian maidens, Eusebia, Hissteria, and Ermelinda resolved to concentrate their virginity to religion. However, their parents resolved they must marry; so they fled to this cavern and remained hidden there. It was on their nuptial day, and they were followed by their sweethearts and others into the cavern. But these pursuers, on entering the cavern, were immediately struck blind. When they came out again their sight was restored to them, but there were some more venturesome than the rest who followed the maidens into the interior of the cavern. These were changed into the blind fish and for ever incarcerated in the cavern.

The lecture was illustrated by the exhibition of several specimens of Palestinian fishes, and by small marl and shells gathered by the Lake of Gennesarat.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. June.	1917. May.		1335. Shaaban	5677. Sivan
8	26	Friday	17	18
9	27	Saturday.....	18	19
10	28	Sunday	19	20
11	29	Monday	20	21
12	30	Tuesday	21	22
13	31	Wednesday	22	23
14	June 1	Thursday	23	24

Sunday is the birthday of little Prince Emmanuel of Montenegro, the third son of Prince Miko, who was born at Cettinje in 1912.

Monday is the birthday of Princess Olga of Greece, eldest of the three daughters of Prince Nicholas, who was born at Taloi in 1903.

Next Thursday is the birthday of the Queen of Greece.

The King of Greece and the rest of the family will reside at Tatoi from June 10, but will visit the Villa Castella, between New Phaleron and the Piræus, for the sea-bathing.

The *Gazette* of last Friday contained the announcement :—His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to appoint General Sir F. R. Wingate, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., to be a Colonel Commandant, Royal Artillery. Dated May 17, 1917."

General Georgescu, of the Roumanian Military Commission, returned to London on Friday evening from the North of England.

The Norwegian Minister on Wednesday visited M. Gennadius, Diplomatic Agent of the Greek Provisional Government.

The Egyptian Government has nominated Sir Henry McMahon as their representative on the board of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, in place of the Hon. Hugo Baring, who is serving in the British Army.

The Dean of Rochester, who, at the request of the Archbishop, has been to Egypt and Cyprus in connection with the National Mission, returned to Rochester last week.

Prince Soutzo, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, has been appointed to a military command on the Roumanian front.

The Pope has received the cordial thanks of the British prisoners interned at Castamouni, in Asia, for the gifts of clothing and musical instruments sent through Mgr. Dolci, Apostolic Delegate at Constantinople.

Colonel Borisavitch, Chief of the Serbian Red Cross, is leaving England after a short stay, which he has spent visiting Red Cross institutions here. He will go first to France, and afterwards to Serbia.

Dr. L. Lyoubishitch, Chargé d'Affaires of the Serbian Diplomatic Agency in Cairo, died suddenly a short time ago.

M. Deligeorgis, an Attaché to the Greek Legation in Paris, left London on Sunday for France.

Commander Papalexopoulos, Commander Yarmikosta, and Captain Zavos, Greek naval officers, have arrived in London.

M. Cafendaris, formerly Greek Minister of the Interior, has arrived in London.

M. Spyro Saltaferas, Secretary to the Royal Greek Legation, is leaving London this week for the Legation at The Hague, to which he has been transferred.

The engagement is announced between Beryl, the youngest daughter of the late Mr. George Armstrong, who was with Lord Kitchener in the exploration of Palestine, 1877-8, and Lieutenant G. Alan Morris, of the Intelligence Corps.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly at Port Said, between Major Henry Beaumont, Lancashire Fusiliers, youngest son of Mrs. Beaumont, Rhoscolyn, and the late Henry Beaumont, Grantham, and Dorice, youngest daughter of the late Alfred Hoole, of Hallam Gate, Sheffield, and of Mrs. Feilding, Port Said.

The marriage arranged between Captain Basil Hamilton Hebden Spence, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, attached Egyptian Army, eldest son of Mr. T. W. L. Spence, C.B., of Uyea, Uyeasound, Shetland, and Margaret Alice, only daughter of the late George Hunter Mackenzie, M.D., and Mrs. Mackenzie, 44, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, took place quietly at St. Saviour's Church, Paddington, on May 31.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent passes on the following telegram, which has been received there from the Agence Milli of Constantinople, *viâ* Berlin :—"The son of the British Minister, Bonar Law, and Captain Farb Shmorless Selly (*sic*) have not been made prisoners on the Sinai front, either wounded or otherwise."

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* publishes a message from Constantinople stating that Mr. Elkus, the American Ambassador to Turkey, would leave Constantinople on May 29, accompanied by Mrs. Elkus and twenty-six members of the Embassy staff. The party was to travel through Vienna and Switzerland to Berlin, where Mr. Elkus was to stay some time. We are unable at present to state what credence should be attached to this message. It will be remembered that the departure of Mr. Elkus from the Turkish capital was delayed by his being the victim of an attack of typhus.

A Reuter's message from Athens, dated May 31, reports :—The British Legation makes the following announcement :—"Lieutenants Burns and Campbell, members of the Port Control Office, were leaving the Aktaion Hotel at Phaleron in uniform, after dining with General ——. Suddenly a man, who had apparently been lying in wait, came up and stabbed them. Lieutenant Burns was dangerously and Lieutenant Campbell seriously wounded. The man was overpowered by other British officers and handed to the Greek police. Sir Francis Elliot to-day called on M. Zaimis in reference to the affair, and a written statement will be communicated to the Prime Minister as soon as the depositions of the wounded officers have been taken. The motive of the act is at present a complete mystery." An earlier Reuter message, after briefly reporting the incident, stated that although Lieutenant Burns was gravely wounded, his condition was not despaired of. The same message gave the assailant's name as Cavourakos and his calling as that of a tailor.

An Amsterdam telegram states that Jonkheer Dr. C. van Vredenburch, Dutch Minister at Bucharest, has been appointed Minister to Sweden, Denmark, and Norway.

A lieutenant, writing to his parents at Middlesbrough, states that W. R. Applegarth, the champion runner, is now a corporal in the Army Service Corps at Salonika. The champion has evidently lost none of his old form, as he took part in four sprint races in the British Army championship sports, and was an easy winner in each.

A recital of Serbian church music (with English words) is to be given in the Church of St. Augustine, Queen's Gate, S.W., on Saturday, June 9, at 5 p.m. His Excellency, the Serbian Minister, will be present, and a collection will be made for the Serbian Red Cross Funds. Cards of invitation may be obtained from the General Secretary of the Anglican and Eastern Association (27, Finsbury Square, E.C.2).

We are informed that the Orphanage of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, which is open at Alexandropol for Armenian refugee children, urgently needs support, and that more regular subscribers would be especially welcome. The establishment costs 1,000 roubles a month to maintain, and is the only orphanage in the Caucasus provided and maintained by a British fund. Contributions in aid should be forwarded to Miss Emily J. Robinson, 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W.4.

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THE SERBIAN ARMY

SEND YOUR DONATION FOR

THE SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."

There is a separate fund for the

RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION

at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

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On May 30, in Cairo, the wife of Mr. Ernst R. Matthaei, of the Khedivial Schools, gave birth to a daughter.

In connection with the Birthday Honours List, the Secretary of the War Office announces that a list of rewards for distinguished services in Mesopotamia will be published in the *London Gazette* about the end of June.

"The news that Ismail Janbolat has been appointed Turkish Minister at Stockholm has created much quiet amusement in certain circles in Egypt, where the true character of this budding diplomatist is only too well known," says the Cairo correspondent of *The Times*. "Of Caucasian origin, Janbolat was a member of the Turkish Parliamentary Delegation which visited England in 1909 and was acclaimed as the herald of the new 'Liberal régime in Turkey.' . . . On the outbreak of war, Janbolat was appointed Chief of the Secret Police in Turkey, and co-operated with the utmost vigour with Talaat Pasha and Bedri Bey in organising and carrying out the hideous Armenian massacres. Here he showed himself worthy of his clan name, Jan-Pulad, that is, 'steely soul.' With Bedri Bey he acquired considerable wealth as the result of those massacres. Both are reported to have had a hand in the murder of Colonel Churchill in 1914. Such is the man selected to represent Turkey in Sweden, where the real object of his mission is to intrigue with certain Russian elements to bring about not a separate peace between Russia and Turkey, but a suspension of hostilities on the Caucasian front, a scheme presenting obvious advantages from the Turkish point of view."

A solemn requiem for Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener of Khartoum and his Personal Military Secretary, Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald FitzGerald, was sung on Tuesday morning (the anniversary of the loss off the Orkneys of his Majesty's ship Hampshire) at the Church of St. Matthew, Great Peter Street, Westminster. Among those who attended were Viscountess Broome, Mr. and Mrs. J. Monins, Mrs. Thornton Kitchener, Captain the Hon. Evelyn FitzGerald, Sir George Arthur (formerly Private Secretary to Earl Kitchener) and Lady Arthur, Mr. Creedy (representing the Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War), Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, Lieutenant-General Sir John Cowans, Q.M.G., Adeline Duchess of Bedford, Admiral Lord Beresford, Colonel Lord Ardee (commanding the Irish Guards), Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart, Lady Edward Cecil, the Hon. Sir Sidney Greville, Major-General Sir Percy Girouard, Brigadier-General Hugh Sutton, Colonel Buckley, Major Lancelot Storr, Miss Chenevix-Trench, Dr. Scott, Mr. William Murray, Mrs. Adair, Miss Balfour, Mrs. Stewart Buckle, Mrs. Velasco, Miss Bond, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Kekewich, Canon Woodman, and Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. Lordly.

The invitations to an "At Home" issued by the Committee of Ladies of the British Refugees from Turkey Fund to all those English families who have, owing to the war, been obliged to leave their homes in Constantinople, Smyrna, and other cities in Turkey, and who are now temporarily resident in England, brought together about one hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen, although we observed that there were many absentees. The happy idea and kind thoughtfulness of Lady Neave, Lady Lowther, Lady O'Conor, and Lady Barker enabled many old friends to meet for a couple of hours' friendly and sympathetic conversation which would not have been possible otherwise; besides which, one noticed many familiar faces of former residents in the Near East, who, by their presence, testified to the pleasant recollections they must still cherish of their residence in that interesting and fascinating part of the world. All those present greatly enjoyed the gathering, and the ladies who organised it earned the heartiest thanks of the company, and are to be warmly congratulated upon the success of their plan.

OBITUARY.

Lord St. Audries died on Monday evening, at St. Audries, Bridgwater. He was, of course, best known as a politician, and one of the most popular Whips the Unionist Party ever had; but in his younger days he was a soldier, and he saw active service in the Egyptian campaign in 1882. For his services he was awarded the medal and clasp, the Bronze Star, and the Order of the Mejidieh (5th Class).

Major Guy Thwaites, D.S.O., of the Egyptian Army, was drowned on May 29 by the capsizing of a small steamer in a hurricane on the White Nile. He was the fifth son of the late Rev. H. G. Thwaites and of Mrs. Clara Thwaites, of 14, Cambridge Park, Durdham, Downs, Bristol. He was educated at Malvern College and St. Paul's School, London, and took his B.Sc. degree at St. John's College, Cambridge. He then took a commission in the A.S.C. in 1901, and served in the South African war. In June, 1914, he was seconded for duty in the Egyptian Army, and took part in the Darfur campaign of 1915, when he was mentioned in despatches and received the D.S.O. He was returning from the Nuer Expedition in the Southern Sudan to Khartoum when he met his death.

It is announced from Cairo that Prince de Airerino-Wiszniewski died in that city on May 12 at the age of fifty-five. He is succeeded by his only son, Prince Alexander. Owing to the war, his elder daughter, Princess Irene, now in London, was unable to travel.

It is announced that Major Arthur Austen Macgregor Layard, Royal Engineers, died on June 5 as the result of a motor accident while on military duty. He was eldest surviving son of the late General Frederick Peter Layard and eldest surviving nephew of the late Sir Henry Austen Layard, K.C.B. He was fifty-nine years of age, and entered the Service in 1877, retiring with the rank of major in July, 1895; he was re-employed for service in the present war. Major Layard was with the Sudan Expedition from Suakin in 1885, and took part in the actions of Hasheen and Tamai; he had the Egyptian medal with clasp and the bronze star.

It is announced that Brigadier-General Lewin Barlow Walton, Indian Army, has died on service. He was born in September, 1866, and had his commission in the Royal Irish Regiment in August, 1886; he transferred to the Cheshires in September of the same year, and in 1887 entered the Indian Army, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1912, and he had his brevet of colonel in June, 1916. Before the present war he had seen a good deal of service. In the second Miranzai Expedition (1891) he received the medal and clasp; he had the two medals for the Dongola Expedition (1896); and he was awarded the medal with clasp for the North-West Frontier operations in the Mohmand country (1897-8).

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

DEATHS.

AIRERINO-WISZNIEWSKI.—On May 12, in Cairo, Prince de Airerino-Wiszniewski, beloved father of Princess Irene Airerino-Wiszniewski, at the age of 55. Deeply mourned.

HAMSON.—On the 3rd inst., at 10, Linden Gardens, Annie, beloved mother of Hortense Hamson and Charles E. Hamson, H.M. Vice-Consul, of Constantinople, aged 80.

STEVENSON.—On May 28, at Nicosia, Cyprus, Robert Patrick Chalmers, the infant son of Malcolm and Mabel Stevenson, aged two months and eleven days.

WHERE TO STAY.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1917.

ITALY AND ALBANIA.

The proclamation at this stage of the independence of Albania under the protection of Italy is likely to be received with mixed feelings. That Italian aspirations ran in this direction was well known; and it was equally certain that the Allies would raise no objections whenever the Rome Government chose to take the step. Valid considerations, we must infer, have caused the present moment to be selected, and perhaps they are not far to seek. With the gradual extension of the Italian sphere of influence radiating from Valona the indeterminate relationship between the Italians and the Albanians became more and more anomalous. A definite attempt was made to introduce a settled form of government. The territory occupied by the Italian army had been divided into three districts, in two of which the administration was in Albanian hands under Italian supervision. A court of law had been established in Valona, and five other towns had local tribunals; schools had been opened at various centres. Then came the announcement that "a free and independent republic" had been inaugurated at Koritza under French auspices. When due allowance is made for local enthusiasm and journalistic hyperbole it is possible that the French meant to do little more than encourage the inhabitants of the town to look after their own municipal affairs. It may have been thought that an object lesson in the disinterestedness of the Allies would lead the Albanians to recognize where their real interests lay; but the immediate result seems to have been the elimination of Greek intrigue from the neighbourhood of Koritza without any military effort on the part of the French. From the Italian point of view, however, it might well be considered embarrassing to have one part of Albania under Italy's protection and another part under the ægis of France. Again the unsettled condition of northern Epirus into which the Italian occupation had gradually been extended, partly as the outcome of the friction between the Greek Royalist army and the Allies, may have prompted the Italian Government to regularize its position in Albania in order that it might be the better able to deal with any developments in Greece. Yet another explanation of the proclamation suggests itself in the success which the Italian régime is held to have achieved in Southern Albania. However much the Austrians have contrived to propitiate the Northern Albanians, they will not have offered them either independence or free institutions, and the knowledge that these had been granted in the south could hardly fail to give rise among the northerners to comparisons between Austria and Italy, much in favour of the latter.

The wording of the Italian proclamation, it is to be hoped, will allay all misgivings in the minds of those who worship at the shrine of anti-annexation. Selecting for the auspicious event the anniversary of the establishment of Italy's own constitutional liberties, the Italian Government proclaimed at Argyrocastro on June 3 "the unity and independence of all Albania under the ægis and protection of the kingdom of Italy." By this act, the message went on to declare to the Albanians, "you will have free institutions, troops, law courts and schools directed by Albanian citizens; you will be able to manage your properties and the product of your labour to your own advantage, and for the ever-increasing well-being of your country." It is unfortunate that at this time the Italian occupation should only cover about one-third of Albania. The remainder of the country is in enemy hands, and the inhabitants, whether under coercion or from an instinctive love of fighting it is difficult to say, are offering strong resistance to any advance of the Allied troops. But the intention of the Proclamation is clear. Under an Italian Protectorate the Albanians are to be given full opportunity to work out their political salvation. They will have all the material advantages that the Italian occupation will bring, in the opening up of the country by means of roads and railways, and in its pacification. The past history of Albania has shown that there was little prospect of the people achieving ordered government, if left entirely to themselves. Tribal divisions and religious differences are too marked to allow the policy of "Albania for the Albanians" to be applied in its entirety, until the country has passed through a better administrative school than either Turkey or Prince Wied's Government provided for it. Under the peaceful and settled conditions which, it is hoped, will be established throughout Europe as a result of this war, and encouraged by the good example of their neighbours, the Albanians with Italian help should be able to compose their former rivalries and realize the advantages that they stand to derive from a united nationality.

As the only alternative to a protectorate seemed to be the disintegration of Albania and its partition into more manageable portions, the consensus of public opinion in the Allied countries ought to favour the step taken by Italy. On the other hand, it will be felt in many quarters that the Italian Government has been greatly daring. The Albanians have never proved docile subjects, and although some allowance must be made for the shortcomings of the governments that hitherto have been imposed upon them, there is little in their record to justify the expectation that they will take kindly to any administration which does not represent their own choice or secure their immediate approval. Italy's experiment, therefore, will be watched with the closest interest. It confirms the opinion already formed from the recent course of events in the Balkans that Italy alone among the Allies is not going to lose anything from inability to make up her own mind. She has shown herself to be the one Power committed to a definite policy in regard to the Near East, and so far she appears to have counted upon her Allies falling in with her wishes rather than to have displayed any special readiness to adjust her own views to the vacillations of the Entente. The establishment of a protectorate over Albania is to be welcomed, if it marks a definite stage in a comprehensive settlement of the Balkan question. Italy's claims upon the country were originally based upon the necessity of countering Austro-Hungarian aggression; but if, as may be expected, the break-up of the Dual Monarchy follows the war, the menace from this direction will no longer exist. With Valona as her Gibraltar on the eastern side of the Straits of Otranto and the whole of the Albanian coast under her protection, Italy's position in the Adriatic will be unchallengeable. She can afford, therefore, to adopt a more generous attitude towards the disposal of the Dalmatian coast, a subject which tended for a long time to be a bone of contention between Italians and Jugoslavs. With Trieste, a free port, and the western half of Istria in Italian hands, it is unthinkable that the new Southern Slav State should be shut off from a long stretch of the Adriatic by the presence of a small number of Italians along the Dalmatian coast. In the interests of all concerned we may hope that the British and French Governments have seen to it that an agreement was reached between Italy and the Southern Slavs on this subject, before their consent was given to the proclamation of a protectorate over Albania.

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SERBIAN MEMORIES.

By ELBRIDGE COLBY.

I.—By Railway from Salonika to Nish.

Picture to yourself a train—not an ordinary sane and sensible sort of a train, but a train of the Balkans; a train without the ordinary intuition of a jackass; a train with one first-class carriage and—*mirabile dictu!*—a dining coach, which fed us as far as Skoplje and left us to starve for the next twelve hours. Into the one first-class coach try to put a few ordinary passengers, a Russian party of twelve, a Danish mission of twenty-one, and an American relief expedition of fifty-three; then what do you think the result will be? The Danes will overflow into the second-class compartments, and the Yankees will overflow still further into the third-class compartments. When, just short of Ghevgeli, it becomes necessary to change cars, there will be a general stampede, and the very corridors of the new carriages will be unbearably crowded, so that many have to take refuge from the congestion and the heat by riding on the very roofs. At each station the officials will approach and threaten not to leave till every one is off the roofs, and after every station is passed the crowds will clamber up again.

Such was the train in which we made the journey from Salonika to Nish.

The sights were as strange as the train. The land was very bare—not only bare and flat, but all dried and scorched by the hot summer sun. A bridge built on shaky piles led us over a river without water. Among the wheat fields some peasants were to be seen working, while others tramped the long, white roads into Salonika. And there were strange animals: a camel train plodded slowly along, some storks flew overhead, a turtle raised his head as we went by, and at Nilghan we saw water buffalo hitched to a cart, curious beasts. A few large houses far apart, with many disreputable huts, reminded us of old manorial days, and told of big landowners and enormous estates. Hay ricks, bamboo fields, incipient orchards, scattered tents in the open meadows for workers, well-baled hay at Kara-Oglou, freight cars adopted—rather than adapted—for military transportation. These were temporarily objects of interest.

Then we travelled through the narrow canyon defile of Demir-Kapou, and on up the valley of the Vardar towards Skoplje. Up the waterway of one river and down the waterway of the next we journeyed all afternoon and evening, winding between beautiful wooded hills, through the moonlight of summer time. It was a sight I shall never forget, that which I saw from the top of that railway carriage.

A rattling conversation on a train roof among the rocky turnings of the Balkan mountains passed the time pleasantly. The guards along the line of the rails who presented arms as we passed were our first acquaintances among the Serb soldiery, old men called to the colours. "Stravo brachu," we shouted at them in glee ("Hail, brother"). For we and all our fellow passengers had come a long, long distance to work in Serbia as brothers to these natives, to aid them in their severe struggles against disease and desolation. Their uniforms were quite different from the smart costumes of the Greeks we had seen in Salonika. A musket held over the shoulder by a piece of rope in place of a leather strap, nondescript clothes of all sorts, though usually a rough brown peasant suit, leather sandals, and above the greyish brown kepi which marked them as *militaires*. For, in Serbia, with the reserve forces used for this police duty, a kepi makes the soldier. Since the beginning of the war practically nothing in the way of uniforms had come into the country, save for a few British overcoats. "Nema," that word meaning "there is none," is characteristic. You meet it on every hand. And the number of things in that country of which there is absolutely none is positively appalling. A train like ours, crowded with relief expeditions, typified the need of the nation.

Thus we rolled on towards Nish.

II.—Nish in the Summer of 1915.

Crowded with hospitals, teeming with soldiers, beset by relief units, dirty, flat, dusty, hot, overcrowded, primitive—these are some of the epithets which come to the mind when we start to describe Nish. It is an imposingly monotonous town with great glaring open spaces, ill-paved streets, disreputable-looking houses, and—chiefly—the glare of a summer sun. Temporarily the capital of Serbia, it presents, for all that, a cosmopolitan appearance. Greek priests out of Macedonia on their way to Bulgaria, young troopers marching off to the front with a song on their lips and a flower in the muzzle of their rifles, dashing uniforms of Serbian officers, shuffling Turks with greasy turbans, and the foreign missions, English, French, Russian, Czech, Bohemian, Montenegrin, American—mission folk of many nationalities parade in the hot sunshine and gaze in amazement at the coffee-drinkers in the cafés, at the innumerable black flags which hang from the houses in sign of mourning, at the plodding ox-carts, and at the fresh peasant folk who have come in to market.

Several of the large open squares are crowded to overflowing one morning a week with the country people, and the grounds of the old church and monastery of St. Panthalay across the river present a colourful scene on each of the numerous Saints' *fête* days. In the improvised market places there are laid out on the stone cobbles eggs, apples, plums, prunes, huge heaps of the popular *paprika*, and chickens and geese tied together in pairs. There, in the dust and heat, the chief business of the town is transacted, to the cooling—or heating if you will—draughts of Shlivervitz and Komenovitsa from a hogshead in a near-by cart or a bottle in a neighbouring café. At times the roll of a drum is heard, an institution for official proclamations and public auctions.

On a Saint's day, take a walk along the popular promenade beside the river, hear a dozen languages spoken in a few minutes, glance at the old Turkish citadel across the water—older than Turkish perhaps, for Constantine was said to have been born there—pass over a shaky wooden bridge, whence you catch a glimpse of the muddy waters of the Nishava and of the surrounding high hills, traverse a winding road to the old monastic church, and see the Serbs in holiday attire. Quaint embroidered jackets, fancy shirts, plaid aprons or plain brown trousers, a necklace of gold coins which constitute the maiden's dowry, a white or yellow scarf over the head, a flower in the hair—such are the principal features of the "national costume," varying slightly in details for each district. Here, to the solemn beat of a drum and the monotonous shriek of a fiddle, the holiday makers dance an uninteresting and very fatiguing national dance—all in a long line with joined hands and beating feet.

Then, go to the railway shipping office or to some of the many, many Government warehouses and see cases and cases, hundreds of thousands of them, of clothes, cooking utensils, farming tools, blankets, overcoats, and all the other million and one odds and ends sent over for Serbian relief by various "Committees" and "Funds" in the cities of the outside world. Projects of free kitchens, baby hospitals, automobile transportation, Red Cross work, and relief expeditions of every sort and description are flying about from ear to ear. To listen to Dame Rumour one would think Serbia was

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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to be "relieved" so thoroughly as not to need even to breathe for herself for a thousand years. But go into a Serbian hospital, run by doctors educated in Paris or Berlin, and see how the Serbs seem never to learn anything, how they do not know how to keep either themselves, their wards, or their patients properly clean, how the word "care" does not seem to be in their vocabulary.

I did all these things. I saw the clean fine people from the country and the degenerate people of the town. I thought that Serbia ought really to be educated as well as scrubbed. For, if you must know, Nish, with all its interesting and varied panorama, is an epitome of Serbia. Skoplje and Belgrade are not. Belgrade is so close to Austria that "the little Paris," as they fondly call it, is more civilised in a Western way; and Skoplje has had only two years to be transformed from Turkish into Serbian, and so, to the eye of the traveller, to become worse. The glory of the fine Serbian countryside and the unendurable slackness of the Serbian towns are things which I cannot forget.

(To be continued.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

"JEWISH CAPTIVES IN BABYLONIA."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I have read with much interest your correspondent's article in this week's issue of THE NEAR EAST entitled "Jewish Captives in Babylonia—Newly-found Records."

It is true that we do not know at what periods men of Hebrew race lived as citizens of Babylonia. Abraham, who dwelt at Ur of the Chaldees, was the first who bore the name of Hebrew, but in all probability men of his kith and kin visited, from time to time (and may, indeed, have settled in), that old homeland which, even to the Palestinian, appealed as a land of romance and of wonders dating from the remotest ages of Semitic history.

As your correspondent points out, however, it is especially during the period of the Captivity that really Jewish names occur—those seemingly Jewish names with which we meet at an earlier date may have been borne by other western Semites, indistinguishable (to us) from those of genuine Jewish nationality.

It must not be supposed, however, that Assyriologists—and especially British Assyriologists—have been neglectful of the occurrence of Hebrew names in the wedge-written records, or have left this field of research (apart from the brilliant work of our renowned savant, Prof. Sayce) entirely open to German scholars. This is not the case, and it may even be claimed that we have been pioneers in this branch of the study.

According to Gen. iv. 26, men began to call upon the name of the Lord—that is, Yahwah (Jehovah)—in the time of Enosh, son of Seth, seven or eight generations before Noah. It is therefore not surprising that both Yaum (Jah) and Yawaum (Yahwah or Jehovah) should have been well known in the ancient Mesopotamian world.

From time to time these divine appellations are found, generally as components in the names of men, and much has been written about them. The most noteworthy thing, perhaps, is the revival of the long form of Yah or Jah, as *Yaawa* or *Yâwa* (apparently equivalent to Jehovah) during the time of the Captivity. Prof. Clay, of Yale, found a number of these names, undoubtedly Jewish, on tablets of the Persian period found at Niffer (identified with the Calneh of Gen. x. 10), but previous to that, in 1892 (see the *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archæology* for November of that year), I had come across several names of this class on tablets sent from Abu-habbah (Sippar) to the British Museum. Among these names were *Gamar-yâwa* or Gemariah, *Nathanu-yâwa* or Nethaniah, *Banâwa* or Beniah, and *Aqabi-yâwa* or *Akabiah*. This was supplemented, in 1894, by a paper published in the Journal of the Victoria Institute (completed in August, 1895) upon "The Religious Ideas of the Babylonians," in which the additional names *Abi'yâwa*, a woman, *Azzi-yâwa*, *Hul-yâwa*, *Malaki-yâwa* or Melechiah, father of a man named Nerigal-êtir, and *Yase'-yâwa*, father of a woman named Tâbat-Issar, were given. Another noteworthy name was *Subunu-yâwa* or Shebaniah.

The number of the Jewish captives who had succeeded in life so far as to get their names recorded on the tablets (mostly business documents) is naturally small. Nevertheless, it is probable that the Jews had attained considerable influence in the land of their captivity, and this, in fact, they claim, not only in the Book of Daniel, but also in that of Esther, where, by the way, we meet with the well-known name Mordechai (better *Mardechai*), the Marodachite (worshipper of Merodach), and we shall probably not err very much if we see therein an identification of the Babylonian Merodach with the Hebrew Jah, or, possibly, Jehovah—Yah and Yahwah.—I am, etc.,

THEOPHILUS G. PINCHES.

June 4, 1917.

GREEKS AND BULGARIANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Mr. H. M. Wallis is determined to win for the Bulgarians the love, the admiration, and the gratitude of the Allied Powers, and of England in particular. That the Bulgarians have betrayed the Allied Powers and treated shamefully their former Allies, Serbia and Greece; that they were negotiating with them and at the same time signing treaties with their enemies; that for two years now Bulgarians have been killing English, French, Russians, Italians, Serbians, and Greeks, has no influence with Mr. Wallis. Bulgaria must be supported in her greed for lands inhabited by Serbians and Greeks. She may even claim Constantinople, now that the Russians do not want it, because the Serbians failed to beat Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria, and because the Greeks, according to his estimate, are "*worthless*" (NEAR EAST, May 4, 1917). Who can dispute these arguments? A nation that has survived the vicissitudes and world changes of twenty-five centuries cannot but be a collection of worthless people, which must give way to the Bulgarian civilization. Why should not, not only Salonika, but Athens as well, become Bulgarian instead of being left to a worthless people?

I have just read Gardiner's "Outline of English History," B.C. 55 to A.D. 1902. On page 3 the author writes: "The first visitor who could write down an account of what he saw (in Britain) was a Greek." Mr. Wallis cannot have known it.—I am, etc.,

THEODORE A. BURLUMI.

June 4, 1917.

ARMENIAN ATROCITIES.

Last Tuesday, at a meeting of the Anglo-Russian Literary Society, held at the Imperial Institute, Miss Emily J. Robinson told the sad story of Armenia. She said the Armenians were a people of high character and great ability; to their race belonged some of the ablest generals in the Russian Army, as well as some of the leading lights in Russian literature. They were not an aggressive people, they had never attacked, but had always been the victims of others. After the Treaty of Berlin they had recognised that the best way to combat Turkish persecution was to stand up against their tyrants, and Russia and England might have helped Armenia more effectually had they assisted her in this effort. There had often been terrible massacre and suffering in Armenia, but never had the country gone through what it had suffered under the régime of the Young Turks.

In the course of a discussion that followed, Sir Edwin Pears said that the Young Turks were not to blame for recent massacres. They had done their best to act on high and noble principles, but they were hopelessly outnumbered in the Government. At the present moment the Turkish Government was two-thirds German, and the atrocities were of German organisation. The Young Turks had been struggling hard against it all.

Dr. Miller Maguire said that the Armenians were oases of prosperity in the desert of Turkish poverty and misrule. They fell victims on account of their wealth more than because of their religion or nationality.

Dr. Pollen said that the domination of one race over another was the root of the evil. We could never hope for a permanent peace throughout the world until we recognised that every man was entitled to live freely, following his own religion, and worshipping God in any way he chose without let or hindrance in the land in which he happened to have been born.

M. Albert Thomas, the French special envoy to Russia, has been visiting Jassy. He has been heartily welcomed by the whole Roumanian nation. He was most favourably impressed by one of the reorganised divisions which he saw at manœuvres, and spoke in the highest terms about the efficiency of these troops.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Albanians' Hope.

Miss M. E. Durham contributes to the *Saturday Review* (June 2) an article "Albania and the Albanians." She sketches the past history of the people in whom she is so interested with that sympathy that one always finds in her writings on the subject; and though she paints the past in dark colours—because she has to—she is hopeful of the future. She has just referred to the Prince von Wied's pitiful failure as the Mpret of Albania, and she continues:

But it is darkest before dawn. Albania hopes that the day for which she has struggled so long is coming at last. Sixty thousand refugees who have found shelter in America are awaiting the day when peace is proclaimed, and they may take up the work—with new-found knowledge—of reorganising their fatherland.

No one who knows the Albanian, his quick intelligence, his industry and energy, can doubt his ultimate success if given a fair chance. He is the artist of the Balkans, and his aptitude for trade is greater than that of any Balkan race, except, perhaps, the Greeks, while as a skilled craftsman he excels all other Balkan peoples. His silverwork, wood carving, and gold embroideries are to be found in the museums of Europe. But to do himself justice he must be able to call his soul his own. Each of the other Balkan peoples, on being given independence, has been given also the help and protection of some strong Power till able to stand alone. Let us hope that this time Albania will not be left to the mercies of an "International Control," which means that each nation concerned plays for its own hand, and the wretched protégé suffers. But may there be one strong protector to whose interest it will be to warn off all trespassers and see that Albania shall belong to the Albanians.

Her vital interests in the Adriatic point to Italy as best fitted to be that protector.

Autonomy under a European Prince as a protectorate would be gladly accepted by the Albanians, who, of all things, dread to see their country dismembered and themselves subjected to the rule of races whom they regard only as foes.

Miss Durham's hint seems to have been taken already! Many people in this country will echo her good wishes for the Albanians.

An Italian View.

On Tuesday the *Morning Post* published an article on the subject, by its Rome correspondent, who is very well informed regarding Greek affairs as well as Italian. He reports that Signor Chiesa, a Republican Deputy, "who recently defended Great Britain against the calumnies of the Germanophils in a debate in the Italian Chamber," has just returned from a journey across Northern Epirus and Albania to Salonika. "Knowing Signor Chiesa" (he goes on to say) "to be a careful observer from my experience with him during the Malissori insurrection in Albania in 1911, I have asked him to make a statement of what he saw during his recent tour of inspection."

The Italian occupation in Albania and Northern Epirus, he tells me, extends well into the Greek kingdom. Not only have the Italians occupied Valona and its hinterland, but they have passed a long way to the south of the boundary between Greece proper and Northern Epirus at Cape Stylos, and have extended in that direction as far as the River Kalamàs (opposite the south end of Corfu), which was intended by the 13th protocol of the Berlin Congress of 1878 and by the Berlin Conference of 1880 to have been the north-western frontier of Greece, but which, since the last Balkan wars, has been well within the enlarged north-western boundary. . . . To the north of Valona the Italian occupation goes as far as the River Vojusa, while inland the Italian outposts are at the Han of Kalibaki, on the road from Joannina to Premeti.

"I am opposed," said Signor Chiesa, "to the permanent occupation of these places, nor do I believe that the Italian Government intends to retain them. . . . But Valona, Kanina, Old Arta (north of Valona), the surrounding districts, and the islet of Saseno must remain Italian, not only for strategic, but for sanitary reasons, owing to the necessity of draining the pestilential marshes which affect the health of Valona. . . . M. Venizelos, with whom I spoke at Salonika, frankly recognised this occupation of Valona, Saseno, and the territory of Valona. The Italians have already constructed over 400 kilometres of roads and opened over 125 schools, where both Italian and Albanian are taught. . . ."

At Corfu Signor Chiesa found French Colonial troops from Senegal and Madagascar quartered in the former villa of the Kaiser, the famous "Achilleion," where is also a hospital for the French wounded. Corfu has an Italian post office; but Signor Chiesa does not think probable the permanent occupation of the island. "As Corfu," he said, "cannot be Italian, it ought to remain Greek. For, if this world-war has national justice as its object, no one ought to create for to-morrow Irredentisms, whether formal or substantial. Of course, we Italians could not consent to an international occupation of the island."

With regard to Albania proper, however, Signor Chiesa favours the retention of the Italian protectorate in such a manner that the representation of Albania abroad, and the direction of its foreign policy, should be in the hands of Italy, just as a guardian manages the affairs of a minor. This would, he thinks, avoid the competition of rival nations in that country. Similarly, France directs the foreign affairs of the Regency of Tunisia.

Miss Durham and Signor Chiesa thus advise the same solution of the Albanian difficulty.

Greece's Future?

The statement made by M. Venizelos regarding the impossibility of King Constantine keeping his throne led to some hopeful writing in our Press. As typical of the comments in the provincial journals, as well as the London Press, we quote this from the *Liverpool Daily Courier*:

Now, say various messages from the Near East, there are strong indications of coming big changes in Greece. Remembering that radical and salutary alterations have been threatened times almost without number, we find it impossible to expect very early what we could wish, except on the broad principle that the patience of the Allied peoples must sooner or later be so completely exhausted that drastic action will be forced on the Governments which, for reasons not yet even partially explained, have allowed the Greek monarch to befool them. At the same time, the omens are fairly favourable. The Venezelist soldiers fighting under Sarrail have proved their splendid worth in recent fighting, and this in no small measure has stimulated and stiffened the "national" feeling which is predominant in the greater part of Greece. The Russian revolution, too, despite the assurances that the changed conditions in Muscovy had rendered Constantine more amenable to the suggestions of the Allied Powers, has strengthened the movement in favour of a Greek republic.

The *Manchester Guardian*, too, welcomes the refusal of the National Government at Salonika to have Constantine for King:

We doubt whether there could be found a voice in this country which would not applaud them and would not demand that the Allies should withdraw their embargo, hand over the Greek fleet to M. Venizelos, and give him all other possible assistance by land and sea. The struggle of the Venizelist Greeks against the King is the cause of justice and freedom at its clearest, and these principles are such that honourable men cannot fight for them in France and treat them with a chill neutrality in Greece. The official attitude of the Allies towards the two parties in Greece has been a long disgrace which will only be wiped out when we aid the revolution to overthrow the King and all he stands for. If it will help to that end that we should occupy Thessaly, and so prevent him from appropriating the crops, by all means let us do it. But that is only a point of detail. What matters is that we should withdraw our tacit support from this petty tyrant, who hates the Allies, and aid M. Venizelos, our staunchest friend, to oust him?

"A Greek Republic?"

Under the above heading, the *Independent* (New York) of May 19 discusses certain questions which must possess a quite exceptional interest for King Constantine of Athens. Will Greece, our contemporary wonders, return to that state of republicanism the possibility of which she was the first to demonstrate twenty-five centuries ago? Or will Constantine be allowed to place on his son's head that crown that is getting too heavy for himself? These questions may be decided in the next few weeks:—

The deciding factor is apparently the United States. The exiled Greeks of the United States, France and Egypt, the inhabitants of the Ægean Isles and northern provinces, even a considerable proportion of the people of Greece proper, are republican by preference, and have appealed to us for support in their efforts to overthrow the King. This is said to be one of the questions on which Mr. Balfour is to sound Washington, and he ought not to be left in any doubt as to American opinion on this issue. It is the pride of our history that the American people have always favoured and often assisted republican movements in every part of the world.

The shortcomings—or some of them—of King Constantine are briefly recounted, and the *Independent* proceeds to ask, very naturally, why "this tyrannical monarch and enemy of the Entente has been allowed to retain his throne when the Entente forces occupy and control his kingdom?" It answers the question on the basis of the statement made by M. Venizelos in the interview published in the *New Europe* of March 29 ("The answer is very simple. It was because the Entente had been good enough to promise me their indispensable aid under the express stipulation that the movement should *not* be antidynastic"). The *Independent* continues:—

But why should the Entente Powers have intervened to protect a King who was their dangerous enemy from a just punishment by his own people? There is only one conceivable explanation—that is, they feared lest the movement headed by Venizelos, though he disclaimed that intention, would result in the overthrow of the monarchy in Greece, and so endanger monarchies throughout the world. The Powers in control of Greece were France, England, Russia, and Italy. Now we may be sure that France and England were not primarily interested in the maintenance of Greek royalty, for France is a republic, and the English Throne would not be imperilled by the fall of Constantine. But the rulers of Russia and Italy were deeply concerned, for there was a strong and growing republican movement in both these countries. So we may safely assume that it was the influ-

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ence of the Russian, and perhaps also the Italian, Court that shielded the King of the Hellenes.

The elimination of the Tsar and the establishment of a republic in Russia have brought about a sudden change in the situation, and the United States will now have something to say on the subject:—

At least, Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law, in reply to the question whether the United States was being consulted in regard to Greece, said to the Commons on April 19:—"Up to the present the United States have not taken any part in the discussion, but I have no doubt that as soon as arrangements are completed they will be consulted in every matter in which their interests are concerned."

It should be made plain to the delegation at Washington that our interests are concerned in every republican movement, and especially in one where men from America have taken so active a part. As the matter stands, the foreign Powers most concerned with Greece are three republics—France, Russia, and United States—and two monarchies—England and Italy—instead of three monarchies and one republic, as formerly. But the British Cabinet has for a year past been subjected to sharp criticism in Parliament for its protection of the Greek King, and it has been much embarrassed to defend itself without betraying, what probably was the truth, that this policy was not its own, but imposed upon it by the Czar. Now this difficulty is out of the way, King Constantine will have to depend solely upon his brother-in-law for protection.

The article concludes with the statement:—"But now matters have come to a crisis, for Greece is starving under a blockade from both parties. The British have seized the Greek ships, and the Germans are sinking them. Zaimis, the pro-Ally Premier, is again in power. King Constantine must take sides or abdicate."

"The Allies' War Aims."

In a leading article, entitled as above, the *Manchester Guardian* (May 31) asks, with admirable common sense: "To whom does the formula of 'No annexation and no conquest' apply here and now?" After supplying the obvious answer, the article continues:

In Asia and Africa, it is true, it is the Allies who threaten the existing political state, but in the name of liberty, not of conquest. There will never be peace in the world until the tyranny of the Turkish oligarchy over peoples who were once foremost in the world's civilisation is overthrown. What sort of a reception is the formula of "No annexation" likely to get from the Turks, who have won, kept, and ruined their Empire by the sword? They will not fall in love with the beauty of the phrase, nor, however vehemently we disown annexation in Asia, will they disown it. The elementary conditions of freedom in Asia have still to be founded, and no one can do it but Russia, England, and their Allies. An extremist Socialist paper in Russia asks about liberty in India and Egypt. When the advocate in the French play begins his speech for the defence with a purple passage about the creation of the world, the judge pulls him up with a request to skip the Creation and begin at the Deluge. Our Deluge is this war and the causes that led to it, and we shall find that the task of dealing with them is big enough without enlarging it.

At the end the article touches upon the very difficult question of the future of Turkey:

Any power that annexes any part of Turkey should administer not in its own interest but in the general interest and as a mandatory of a new and revivified Concert of the Powers. Its policy might well be subject to the censorship of some international Aeropagus. If some such arrangements as these would meet the criticisms of free Russia, there is no reason whatever why they should be kept at the back of our minds and many reasons why they should be discussed. But whatever arrangements were made they would not affect the immediate practical duty. For except we win (and we can only win by fighting and with the help of Russia) no arrangements, however ideal, have the remotest chance of realisation.

Gross Effrontery.

In an editorial the *Daily Graphic* last Friday called attention to Austrian effrontery as typified in some remarks made by the President of the Austrian Reichsrath:

From German publicists and Press we expect, bearing in mind the machines they are, the incessant repetition of the parrot-cry about the war having been "forced upon" the peace-loving Teutons. But for Dr. Gross, the President of the Austrian Reichsrath, to speak of the war as having been "forced upon" Austria touches a sublimer height of impudence than even Germans have reached. Does Dr. Gross imagine that the memory of civilisation has been submerged in the waters of Lethe? Does he think that oblivion has swallowed those diplomatic records which establish beyond any quibble how Austria suddenly sprung her brutal ultimatum upon Serbia, and insisted upon putting the matter to the sword even when Serbia had humbled herself as no nation had done before? Such an assertion as that made by Dr. Gross is an insult to the intelligence of the world. But it is matched in effrontery by his companion declaration that nothing is further from the purpose of the Dual Monarchy than "the suppression of other nations"! When the case of Ireland is charged to the account of Great Britain, how seldom is it recalled that Austria consists of all Irelands. That patch-work quilt of an Empire has ground down and persecuted all the small nationalities of which it consists, solely in the interests of the dominant German and Magyar minority.

"The Greek Church and Venizelism."

Under the above title Professor Ronald Burrows contributes to the *Church Times* a short but interesting article. The following extracts are from the first portion of the article:—

The Church in Greece has never stood aloof from popular national movements, and has thrown itself heart and soul into all the wars of independence, from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the final rising of Crete against the Turks. This, indeed, has been one of the chief reasons why it has retained such a strong hold on the affection of the race, a hold which is more universal, perhaps, than that possessed by any Church in Christendom. For the first time in modern Greek history the race is divided into two bitterly hostile camps, and it is interesting to observe how the Church has met the new situation.

An English Churchman would probably imagine that, in view of such sharp cleavage of opinion, the Church would have withdrawn itself from active politics and fallen back on the spiritual character of its mission. The Greek Church, however, true to the tradition of generations, has not done anything of the kind. It has taken sides vehemently. Indeed, anyone who is familiar with a Greek community, whether in the kingdom of Greece, or in Greece unredeemed, or in the Greek colonies in Western Europe and America, will realise that the services of the Church are too integral a part of the life of the race for any such detachment of view. . . . It is unthinkable for a Greek to solve the problem by heresy or schism. The clergy themselves, therefore, must take sides and fight out the battle on the same lines as the laity.

This point of view being once granted, it is significant that the latest news from Greece shows that the Venizelist movement, in spite of the fact that it has gone full length and demanded the dethronement of King Constantine, is receiving extraordinarily strong support from the Greek Church.

Articles to Note

"Turkey: a Past and a Future," in the *Round Table* (June).

"Besieged in Kut—and After," by C. B.; and "Snake and Mongoose Fights," by "Bihari," in *Blackwood's Magazine* (June).

"The Jewish Claim to Palestine," by Joseph Cowen; "The World War and the Small States," by Johan Castberg; and "The Destiny of the Turkish Straits," by N. Buxton, M.P., in the *Contemporary Review* (June).

"Italy, Austria, and Europe," by Enrico Corradini; "The German Menace to Antiquities," by A. E. P. Weigall; and "The New Departure in Balkan Diplomacy," by N. Buxton, M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century* (June).

ALBANIA'S INDEPENDENCE.

The following is the proclamation made public at Argyrocastro by General Ferrero, who commands the Italian army of occupation in Albania. Reuter's agent in Rome, who forwards the Proclamation, adds:—"The Proclamation was read before a great gathering of Albanians, and aroused sincere enthusiasm. Loud cheers were raised for the Motherland, and expressions of gratitude to Italy and to King Victor Emmanuel were heard on all sides. The Proclamation was also published in other localities now under Italian administration, and aviators dropped copies of the document in the country beyond the Vojusa. The new order of things has been received everywhere in Albania with the greatest enthusiasm."

To all the people of Albania.

To-day, June 3, 1917, the happy anniversary of the establishment of Italian constitutional liberties, we, Lieutenant-General Giacinto Ferrero, commanding the Italian corps of occupation in Albania by order of the Government of King Victor Emmanuel III., solemnly proclaim the unity and independence of all Albania under the ægis and protection of the Kingdom of Italy.

By this act, Albanians, you will have free institutions, troops, law courts, and schools, directed by Albanian citizens; you will be able to manage your properties and the product of your labour to your own advantage, and for the ever-increasing well-being of your country.

Albanians, whatever you may be, whether already free in your country, or fugitives through the world, or still subjected to foreign domination (generous in promises, but in reality practising violence and pillage), you, who belong to an ancient and noble race, who are bound by centuries-old memories and traditions to the civilisation of Rome and Venice, you who are aware of the community of interests of Italians and Albanians on the seas which separate and at the same time unite us, you, who are men of goodwill and have faith in the destinies of your beloved country, stand beneath the shadow of the flags of Italy and Albania and swear eternal fealty to that which has been proclaimed to-day in the name of the Italian Government for an independent Albania enjoying the friendship and protection of Italy.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Foreign Samples Section of the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade are to be congratulated on the excellent index of Foreign Trade catalogues and firms which they have issued recently. Unfortunately, the index does not give a special key to the nationality of the firms, beyond the actual names, and as some of these have a distinctly British sound in the mouth, I should be glad to pillory some of them by way of warning for future reference; but lest there be neutral friends in the collection I will refrain from doing so, because it would be unjust to confuse them with Germans and Austrians. They might be respectable. I would suggest to the editors of the list, however, that if a second edition is issued, the nationality of each firm be mentioned, provided it can be ascertained. The index, I may add, is of particular interest to the Near East.

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I have frequently drawn attention to the earnest efforts made by American consular officers to push the sales of American manufactures, and to the comprehensive commerce reports which are issued by the Washington Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Recently it was reported that American firms, owing to the co-operation of the United States Consulate-General in Copenhagen, were able to secure orders for motor-cars of the value of £60,000, to establish profitable agencies in Denmark for the sale of cars, and to secure orders for £19,000 worth of motor-trucks, £280 worth of fine book cloth, £50,000 worth of submarine cable, £51,000 worth of raw materials for the use of a cable company, and £2,000 worth of laundry machinery. The Commerce Reports keep American manufacturers continually informed of trade openings and market conditions, and as the reports are issued practically daily their great value can easily be estimated.

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So far as I know, the only British equivalent to these reports at present is the *Board of Trade Journal*, which is edited at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, and I am glad to testify that recently there has been a considerable improvement in this weekly publication. It is not large enough in its scope, however. It does not cover anything like the same ground as the American reports, and, therefore, is not nearly so useful. It will not be possible, perhaps, to make any change during the war, but it is time that preparations for an extensive trade campaign were undertaken. When peace is declared there will be all the markets in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean countries clamouring for commodities of all sorts, and, whatever may be doubtful, it is certain that British shippers and manufacturers are not ready to bid for them.

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The inauguration of a Roumanian Chamber of Commerce was a move in the right direction, and as the list of its members includes some important and go-ahead firms, British trade interests in Roumania will probably be well looked after when the time comes. But Roumania is not the only country to be watched. There are Serbia, Greece, Turkey, and Palestine, to mention a few which are non-British; while, so I understand, the work of filling the trade gaps caused by the elimination of Germans and Austrians in Egypt has not nearly been completed. Are the holes being kept open for the re-entry of our enemies? Surely not, after all the brave threats we have made against them and the promises we have made to each other. We may be sure that unless the gaps are filled before the war ends, our enemies will return to occupy them. All the indications point to great activity in Germany in the matter of trade reconstruction and reorganisation, and our own people must guard against being caught napping. There is published in THE NEAR EAST to-day an excellent account of existing opportunities for British trade in Morocco, extracted from the *Board of Trade Journal*; the editors would do well to regard that as one of a long series, and prepare to deal similarly with other countries in that and other parts of the world.

***

If a statement made recently by the United States Consul-General (Mr. D. J. Murphy) at Sofia may be relied on, the Bulgarian National Bank made a profit in 1916 of about £733,122, compared with £200,000 in the previous year. It is stated also that 2½ per cent. of the profits was placed to the credit of the employees of the bank—which meant an increase of 23 per cent. on their salaries—and the Government share of the gain was £162,657.

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An interesting case is before the British Courts in which is involved the sum of £46,000, alleged to be due from the London branch of the Credit Lyonnais to the National Bank of Bulgaria, and the question to be decided is whether it should be forfeited to the Crown. The National Bank of Bulgaria is so closely identified with the Sofia Government that all its assets in this country are claimed by the Crown as the property of an enemy state. The case came to a hearing before a Commissioner on Saturday, and was adjourned for fourteen days; it is therefore *sub judice*. Counsel for the French bank made the interesting statement that the Credit Lyonnais had subscribed for Bulgarian Treasury Bills before the outbreak of war, that the Sofia Government dishonoured the Bills on due date, and that the bank had a claim against Bulgaria for a much larger sum than that claimed by the Crown in the present action.

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Turkish opium, long famed for its contents of morphia hydrochloride, will have a serious competitor when, after the war, its producers attempt to regain the old ascendancy for their drug. The stoppage of exports from India to China led the Government of India to try to find how to make the poppy a source of blessing instead of evil, and the factories were set the task of producing opium with the necessary properties. In the bad old days a certain quantity of medicinal opium was sent to this country from India—last year, indeed, the shipments amounted to about 300,000 pounds—but it was inferior for medicinal purposes to the Turkish. I am glad to learn now that the factories are working hard to produce an equally good drug, and that there is good reason to believe that they will be successful. Already they have produced opium which contains more than 9 per cent. of morphine.

A summary table has been prepared showing the total imports and exports of merchandise of the principal countries for which the particulars can be given for the two months ended in February, 1917. Egypt's imports, including bullion, amounted to £4,547,000 and exports to £9,314,000—in both cases a substantial advance on the results for the corresponding period in 1916.

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A curious result, first of the war, and secondly of the situation in Greece, is to be seen in the statistics of ginned cotton exported from Cyprus in the year 1916, as compared with the previous year. As will be observed from the statement published in THE NEAR EAST to-day, the position of the United Kingdom and Greece has been exactly reversed. In 1915 Greece took 6,223 cwt., and the United Kingdom 24; last year Greece bought 395 cwt. and the United Kingdom 7,578! The great advance in the price will also be remarked.

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Owing to the large demand for cattle food in this country, all kinds of oil-cakes have become marketable, and recent conditions have sent prices up to a very high level. Egyptian cotton-seed cakes in the Hull market stood in the neighbourhood of £9 15s. 3d. early in January, 1916; the price dropped by 12s. 6d. on April 3, rose again to £11 4s. on November 3 and to £15 1s. 10d. on December 30. As with cotton-seed cakes so with other sorts, and when the Food Controller came to consider the price of milk he was informed by the farmers that cheap milk and dear cattle food were an impossible combination. Lord Devonport then tackled the cake-makers, who had no difficulty in showing that, unless they could buy oil-seeds at the old price, they could not make cattle cake as cheaply as they had done in normal times. The result was that the Food Controller set out to endeavour to secure more tonnage for the oil-seed trade at lower freights. It does not seem that he has succeeded. What do our Alexandria friends say?

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Discussion of, or reference to, the merits and defects of the British Consular and Diplomatic Services is of frequent occurrence. The latest to come to my notice was in the speech delivered to the shareholders of the Investment Trust Corporation by the chairman, Mr. Robert Fleming, on Wednesday. "The need of some new machinery for extending and stimulating our (British) trade, better than exists through our present Consular and Diplomatic Service, is acknowledged," he said, and there will be little disagreement expressed with that view.

COMMENTATOR.

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A British Trade Centre without a Railway.

The Commercial Importance of Communications with the Port of Aden.

The war and the slow progress which we seem to make towards the end of it are not sufficient to divert attention from the future. Indeed, "after the war" has passed into a platitude, and there is not a department of life in which it is not used in and out of season. It is more particularly the case in respect to trade; reconstruction schemes, the opening up of new markets and trade banks, are in course of being organised with a zeal and keenness scarcely paralleled in the trade history of the Empire.

Aden, the centre of one of the most important British trade districts in the East calls for the attention of the reformers. The port wants a railway and waterworks, it wants a newspaper and an up-to-date printing works, it wants docks and modern equipment. When these have been provided Aden will rank, as it deserves, with the other great trade emporiums of the British Empire.

Value of Trade.

Because it has no producing capacity and its industries are confined to the manufacture of salt and cigarettes, Aden is regarded by many people as merely a port of call for vessels in the Eastern trade. "A barren rock" was a popular description of the place, and it will be a surprise to the multitude to learn that in the year 1915-16 the import and export trade of the port reached the respectable value of more than £6,360,000.

It must be remembered that Aden is the trade distributing centre for the Red Sea all Somaliland, Abyssinian and many of the East African ports, the Arabian Gulf, and the whole of Southern Arabia and a part of the Yemen. Its great importance is thus easily demonstrated, and there is little cause to wonder why the conditions in the port are receiving more and more attention from those who have trade interests in the East.

Wanted—A Railway.

One of the most serious defects in the equipment of Aden is the lack of railway communications with the interior. The construction of a narrow-gauge line was begun last year, but there is very small hope that it can be advanced materially during the war; that, perhaps, is nobody's fault, but there is blame due somewhere in that the line was not laid down years before the mad dog broke loose. Some years ago an attempt was made to build a line from Hodeida to Sanaa, in the Yemen; a large sum of money was expended on the project, great quantities of equipment and material were dumped near the site of the line, and four or five miles of track were actually laid. Then bright genius discovered that there was something wrong, work was stopped, and to-day quantities of valuable railway material are rusting and deteriorating in the sand, where they were landed from the ships—reminiscent of the fine British dredger which was treated similarly in an obscure backwater of the Shatt-el-Arab, near Busreh.

It is said that there is a chance of this project being revived after the war. We hope it will be revived. The Yemen is an extremely rich district, and after the war it may be taken for granted that the political and economic conditions will be greatly improved and more conducive to trade generally.

Camel Transport.

For the benefit of those who do not realise the importance of railway communication for Aden, it may be stated that in the year 1915-16 the total number of camel-loads of merchandise that entered the town was 92,285; that total was far below the normal, however. In the year before the war the total was 166,603 and in 1914-15 it was 151,958. There is, therefore, a promising groundwork for a goods traffic for a railway, the establishment of which would doubtless operate as a spur to trade development. The attention of the British Trade Corporation might be drawn to this subject.

The French have recently completed a line from Jibuti in their section of Somaliland to within ten miles of Adis-Abeba, the capital of Abyssinia, and when certain difficulties regarding the site of the terminal station have been adjusted the line will run right into the town. This railway is about five hundred miles long and has already benefited the trade of the countryside through which it runs. The Italians, too, have recognised the importance of railway communication, and have established a well-equipped and managed line, which runs from Massowa to Asmara, the capital of their colony of Eritrea, the mileage being about seventy-eight: the line is in course of extension.

From Suez to Bombay.

When it is realised that Aden distributes merchandise throughout an area which extends from Suez to Bombay on one side, and from Muscat, at the southern point of the Persian Gulf, to Madagascar on the other, its importance and potentialities for further development will be understood.

Other needs felt in Aden include a modern printing works. At present three mercantile establishments and the jail press do a certain amount of printing work, but these arrangements are inadequate. There is a profitable demand for an establishment which would undertake and execute work on up-to-date lines. Then, too, a good general daily newspaper ought to be successful. There is scope for advertising, and if its news side were properly developed there would be a certain circulation in Aden itself, in the Red Sea ports and down the East African coast. At present there is a small weekly paper, but it is totally inadequate for the needs of the district.

The inauguration of public waterworks is another urgent need of the port. At present practically all the water used by Europeans is condensed sea-water, and this is sold to them at about 2s. 11d. a hundred gallons! When the climate of Aden is considered—hot and dry, with hot, sandy winds at certain seasons, and with an average rainfall of three inches a year—the importance of this matter will be apparent.

Cargo and Shipping.

In normal times forty-two shipping lines are represented in the port, and to their large fleets of vessels must be added the tramps of the ocean. The Port Trust has constructed wharves for landing and shipping, but vessels are loaded and discharged in the harbour, and the handling of cargo is a more or less expensive matter. A small charge is levied on each package.

Whether wharf berths for ships is one of the good things which await the port remains to be seen; it is certain, however, that facilities of the sort would be a boon to the shipping people. The harbour of Aden is excellent in every way; it is approximately four miles by eight miles in size, and vessels drawing as much as 32 feet can be accommodated close in shore. The Port Trust wharves and warehouses are very extensive, and the charges are reasonable; but there is room for further facilities, the provision of which would raise the port to a position more in keeping with its dignity and importance than is the case at present.

THE SUDAN TIMES.
PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.
For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—
THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES, KHARTOUM.

ADEN'S GUM TRADE.

Excellent All-round Recovery in 1915-16.

According to the report of the United States Consul at Aden, the gum trade of the port made an excellent recovery in the year 1915-16. Two years earlier the total of the imports was 61,675 cwt., valued at £58,770; in the following year imports decreased to 26,823 cwt. of the value of £22,300. Last year the figures were as follows:—

	Cwt.		£
Olibanum	28,999	....	17,520
Arabic	11,576	....	16,989
Benjamin	296	....	1,249
All other kinds	22,659	....	16,342
Total	63,530	....	52,100

Exports show a similar decline and recovery. In the year 1913-14 the total was 64,701 cwt., valued at £77,163; in 1914-15 the figures were 29,123 cwt., and the value £33,664. Last year the returns were as follows:—

	Cwt.		£
Olibanum	29,590	....	22,782
Arabic	11,718	....	23,176
Benjamin	342	....	752
All other kinds	16,308	....	18,506
Total	57,958	....	65,176

Sources of Supply.

"The principal shipments of the gum come from British Somaliland, Suakin, independent Somali ports, Massowa, and Mocha. Large supplies of gum arabic are said to be shipped from Sudan to America, but the export figures do not show any shipments from Aden to that country. Much of the gum sold in Aden is said to be of as good quality as that from the Sudan. The principal exports of gum arabic are to France and India, where the better grades are said to be used in candy-making.

"The small quantities of gum benjamin (benzoin) handled in the Aden market are from India and the Straits Settlements, and are of little commercial importance. Exports are to the Turkish Yemen, Italian East Africa, and Egypt.

Cause of Prosperity.

"Gums and resins figure among the more important products of this district entering into the trade of Aden. The year under review was prosperous as a result of the heavy crops and steady demand with good prices.

"Gum olibanum, or frankincense, ranked first in quantity and value. Independent Somali ports, Arabian Gulf ports, and British Somaliland supply the greatest amounts of this aromatic gum to the Aden market. The amount handled in 1915-16 was double that handled in the previous year. The prices ranged from 14s. 7d. upward per hundredweight of 112 lbs. This gum is sent principally to India, Abyssinia, and Egypt, where it is used largely in religious ceremonies and for disinfection. France buys considerable quantities and, in normal times, Austria and Germany take fair amounts."

CYPRUS COTTON INDUSTRY.

The Chief Collector of Customs at Larnaca has furnished to the Board of Trade the following table, showing the quantity and value of ginned cotton exported from Cyprus during 1916, as compared with 1915:—

To	1915.		1916.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwt.	£	Cwt.	£
United Kingdom	24	81	7,578	21,325
Egypt	4	15	158	400
Greece	6,223	16,210	395	1,850
Total	6,251	16,306	8,131	23,575

An official bulletin issued in Cairo estimates that barley is five per cent., wheat four per cent., and sugar cane one per cent. above the average.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Continued Disorganisation in Trade Circles.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Manchester, June 7.

Business in the market has been resumed rather slowly after the Whitsuntide holidays and trade has been disorganised by the recent developments in the raw cotton situation, the rise in American and Egyptian qualities since a week ago being about a penny a pound.

It has been necessary to adjust prices in yarn and cloth, but it has been extremely difficult to establish the higher basis of values. Some necessary buying has occurred where our customers have been compelled to cover, but in most quarters there has been a disposition to hold aloof pending more settled conditions.

Lancashire is undoubtedly faced with a distinct shortage of supplies in the raw material during the next twelve months. It is understood that the growth in Egypt is making good progress

Spinners of Egyptian yarn continue to do rather badly so far as fresh business is concerned. Some producers of the finer numbers end of specialities have still fairly substantial engagements.

Some mills in the Bolton district are closing down and it is said that the number is now about twenty. It has been reported that another boat has been sunk with considerable supplies of cotton piece goods, and some buying of a replacement nature has had to take place at much higher figures.

Advices from Cairo as to clearances remain promising. The Monsoon in India has now broken and further reports relating to the rains will be watched with considerable interest. Very little fresh business has been about for our Dependency in cloth.

The China market has also been quiet. Only retail sales have been mentioned.

The position of manufacturers at the moment is not to be envied, and difficulties are met with at every turn. American yarns are decidedly dearer on the week, but where sales have occurred the prices secured have shown a narrower margin of profit than for a long time back, and users have purchased sparingly. The bids mentioned in bundle varns for India have been a long way out.

PROPOSED NEW DANUBE PORT.

The *Neue Wiener Journal*, as quoted by the *Berliner Tageblatt*, learns from a well-informed source that the Danube Shipping Company proposes to build a large clearing port on the right bank of the Danube, near Vienna, for the transhipment of coal from Upper Germany and Upper Silesia to the Near East, with the object of displacing, if possible, British coal in that market. The Vienna municipality intends to build another port on the left bank of the Danube.—Reuter (Amsterdam).

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council resumed their sittings on Tuesday. The Board was composed of Lord Dunedin, Sir John Edge, Mr. Ameer Ali, and Sir Walter Phillimore. The list of business includes thirty-four appeals—from Australia, 3; Canada, 6; Egypt and the Gold Coast, 1 each; India, 19; and the Prize Courts, 4. The Egyptian appeal concerns the development of an estate in the Sudan.

TRADE OPENINGS.

Great Opportunities to British Merchants in Morocco.

The British Consul at Casablanca (Mr. H. L. Rabino) has (writes the Board of Trade "Journal") forwarded the following information concerning the commercial situation in the French zone of Morocco, which has been furnished to him by a member of a British firm established in that town :—

Economic development on an unprecedented scale has taken place in the French zone of Morocco during the last two years and a half. Splendid roads have been made between all the principal towns, and where formerly only tracks existed real roads are being, and in many cases have already been, laid down to connect the principal centres of trade in the interior. Railway routes have been agreed upon, and a Commission is at present mapping out the actual tracks. The ports have also come in for their share of attention; lighthouses have been erected, and others are in course of erection, all along the coast.

Public Works.

The Government has bestowed special attention upon improving the town of Casablanca. The improvements effected, or about to be effected, consist of a water supply for the inhabitants; the installation of electric light in the streets and in most of the dwelling houses in the European quarter; the formation of a really fine square named the Place de France.

A fifty years' concession for the exploitation of a tramway system has been granted to a French company; it is expected that work will shortly be commenced on the main route, and that in five years' time the town and suburbs will be connected by a complete network of lines. Sanitary questions have also received careful consideration.

Great Opportunities.

The opportunities that exist for British trade in the French zone of Morocco have never been greater than they are at present. British trade has not only held its own, but, in spite of the many handicaps occasioned by a state of war, has increased in volume since the outbreak of hostilities. Two main factors make for a better outlook for the future: First, a British Chamber of Commerce has come into being; and second, and still more important, the Bank of British West Africa, realising the possibilities for British trade, has opened branches at Tangier, Casablanca and Mazagan.

While it is not possible to draw up an exhaustive list of British goods for which openings exist in the French Zone of Morocco, it may be said that certain United Kingdom goods are always in demand, such as cottons, candles, better-class hardware, furniture, jewellery, stationery, certain makes of preserves, sweets, biscuits, etc. In addition, the following may be mentioned :—

Coal and briquettes, cheap hardware (a line for which the Germans used to cater with no small degree of success), glassware, cotton-seed oil, cement (N.B., British cement is preferred, but it must be able to compete as regards price), and woollen goods. After the war there will, it is anticipated, be a demand for various kinds of machinery and motor-cars.

Agents can be appointed on the spot to push certain lines, but the difficulty of finding agents fulfilling at one and the same time the desirable qualities of being suitable and willing is almost insurmountable, and it is suggested that British firms wishing to do business in the markets of the French Zone of Morocco should be directly represented there; that is to say, they ought to send out their own representatives. Until this is realised and put into practice British trade is unlikely to make much further headway in the country.

Malta Wants Provisions.

The Collector of Customs at Valetta reports that a firm in that town desires to obtain the representation of United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of provisions. In the case of such goods as manufacturers and exporters may not be able to deliver at present, it is suggested that negotiations might be entered into now with a view to business being done directly circumstances permit.

United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of provisions desirous of being represented in Malta, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, as above. In making application the reference number (208) should be quoted.

LARGE OIL "DEAL."

The Near East is informed that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company has concluded the purchase from the Public Trustee of the undertakings of the British Petroleum Company, the Homelight Oil Company, Ltd., and the Petroleum Steamship Company, Ltd., which concerns have since the outbreak of war been the subject of a good deal of criticism owing to their enemy character, the whole of the shares having been held by the Europaische Petroleum Union, a German company in which the Deutsche Bank holds a controlling interest.

The purchase of these valuable distributing organisations by a company possessing such large sources of supply of crude petroleum, and by one, moreover, of such an undoubted British character and high standing as the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., will be welcomed by all consumers of petroleum products in the United Kingdom, as it will ensure more abundant supplies in future of these very important essentials of modern industry, and the retention by the nation of large sums of money which would otherwise be paid away to foreign producers and distributors.

The magnitude of the properties acquired may be gathered from the fact that they include a large fleet of tankers, 15 large ocean landing and storage installations with tankage of a capacity of 185,000 tons, 520 smaller inland depots, 535 railway tank wagons, over 1,100 motor and other road vehicles, and land, houses, etc., in various parts of the United Kingdom.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
May 28 } May 29 }	620,000	480,000
May 30	220,000	110,000
May 31 June 1 June 2 June 3	700,000	720,000
June 4 June 5 June 6	130,000	160,000

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

New Paraffin Vaporiser.

With the high prices and restricted supply of petrol, users of motor-cycles and motor-vehicles generally are in search of an efficient substitute, and are always glad to hear of any advancement in that direction. Various other distillates have been tried with but little apparent success, and there seems now to be a consensus of opinion that the most practical way out of the difficulty is to revert to vaporised paraffin, as being in many places less than half the cost of petrol, and when used with a suitable vaporiser fully as efficient. A vaporiser of this description is now being manufactured in England, and as the subject is of universal interest, abroad as well as at home, a few particulars of the new invention are given here. With this paraffin vaporiser, which is fully patented, the paraffin is heated before entering the float chamber, and also diffused, and the mixture is thoroughly heated before entering the cylinder. This is carried out by passing the paraffin through a tube surrounded by exhaust gas, so that on leaving to enter the float chamber it is thoroughly heated. The mixture from the carburettor is spread over a large perforated plate, which thoroughly diffuses it, and it then strikes again and passes round a hot pipe, and thence into the engine. The exhaust gas passes through a large tube, entering at one end, and through a copper pipe connected to the exhaust, and leaves at the other end through a perforated end plate. The paraffin heating pipe is surrounded by the exhaust gas passing through the pipe, which forms the heating chamber in the body of the vaporiser, and has an annular space of jacket all round. Thus the mixture, on leaving the carburettor, passes through the perforated plate directly on to the hot chamber, then right round this and into the engine. A small tap fixed on the top of the vaporiser admits a small quantity of petrol to enable the engine to be started. As soon as this is done the tap can be turned off, and then on opening the throttle the engine will at once begin to run on paraffin.

British Manufacturers.

In spite of the great military and naval preparations of America, and her actual entry into the war, the American manufacturers are adopting the famous motto "Business as usual," and are sending out representatives to try by all possible means to keep in touch with their customers abroad. Notices and advertisements are already appearing in journals circulating in the Near East, in which buyers are assured that whatever they cannot have now, owing to the war, they can have soon after peace comes. On this side of the Atlantic we have apparently different views, and it is not out of place to repeat here the words of a great authority on modern business methods: "It is," he said, "a suicidal policy for manufacturers to suspend intercourse with their overseas customers simply because they are for the time being precluded from supplying the needs of these customers. If a trade that has been established through long and patient effort is to be renewed after the war, it is essential that traders should keep their names before their old clients, both through the medium of business letters and journals with substantial circulation.

Electric Heating and Cooking.

Like all other inventions in electricity, electric heating and cooking is making rapid progress. One of the newest inventions is an American device employing electric induction for water-heating, which consists of a cast-iron core, through which the liquid passes, laminated U-shaped sections surrounding the core on both sides, and a primary coil passing the exciting current. As the outside coil is wound with heavy-gauge wire, insulated with asbestos, the heater is not readily damaged. The new plan of cooking by electrically generated steam is claimed to combine efficiency and economy. The cooking is effected by the heat of the steam instead of by boiling in the usual way, and the very small quantity of water necessary tends to keep the current to a minimum whilst giving also a means of regulation by automatically switching off the current when the measured supply of water has all been converted into steam. For cooking four eggs, for instance, by this new method, only a teaspoonful and a-half of water is needed. The special cooker for eggs includes a nickelled base, a porcelain bowl, with a little well in the centre to contain the water, and two carbon electrodes, a perforated metal plate to support the eggs, and a dome-shaped cover. It is evident that cooking by electricity will soon be as cheap, if not cheaper, as by gas.

Openings in Morocco.

We have had occasion in previous notes to call the attention of British engineer-manufacturers and public works contractors to the rising importance of Morocco as a desirable field for trade and enterprise; and it is very satisfactory now to hear that agricultural engineers have already recognised the value of that market for machinery of that class, and are preparing to enter the market in the near future. It must be mentioned, however, that up to the present all that has been done has been amongst European settlers, who have acquired large areas, which they are turning to good account in the cultivation of all kinds of produce. Native growers have so far been little inclined to avail themselves of the facilities offered by modern engineering, with the result that the yield of cereals is very much less than what it should be. The example set by European colonists, however, will do more than anything else to bring native growers to an appreciation of modern appliances, and it is fully expected that in the very near future Morocco will follow the lead of Algeria, which is now taking considerable quantities of cultivating and harvesting machinery. In Algeria, French makers supply deep ploughing tackle, ordinary cultivating implements, wine presses, and the like, but as regards volume of business they occupy only third position, after English and American firms.

Public Works.

Apart from the disinclination of the native grower to adopt modern mechanical methods, another, and more serious, impediment in the development of Morocco's resources is the want of roads and consequent means of communication. This impediment is to be removed now, for a recent presidental decree (already referred to in THE NEAR EAST) authorises the expenditure of £3,600,000 in executing certain public works in the French zone of Morocco. Of this amount £2,668,400 is for the improvement and construction of roads, and other large sums are provided for telegraph systems, irrigation works, experimental farms, buildings, etc., and for the establishments of public services in the country.

The total length of roads, exclusive of municipal roads, provided for by this (and a previous) decree is 1,900 miles, including the following main roads:—A coast road from Mogador viâ Saffi, Mazagan, Casablanca, Rabat, and Kenitra, to the frontier of the Spanish zone near Alcazar, where junction will be made with the road to Laraiche and Tangier; another road from this point to Fez direct; another from Rabat to Mequinez and Fez; from Fez to Oujda, viâ Taza; and from Marrakesh to Casablanca, and from the latter place to Tadla. Of these roads over 500 miles have already been made, and work is being actively carried on in the more important sections of the others. These roads will enormously increase the development of vast lands hitherto idle or inadequately cultivated, and aid mining enterprises, for it must be remembered that the Atlas Mountains abound in minerals, unworked for the most part.

COMPANY MEETING.

THE NEW EGYPTIAN COMPANY

The 16th ordinary general meeting of the New Egyptian Co., Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. A. A. Baumann (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Thos. Day) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—Although we have decided not to recommend the payment of a dividend to the shareholders, I think I am justified in congratulating you upon the substantial improvement in the financial position of the company since our last meeting. Our revenue has gone up, our debts have gone down, and I do not know that anything better than that can happen either to a corporation or to an individual. Taking first of all the balance-sheet. In a company of this kind, which buys and sells land, the relation of assets to liabilities is an important fact. As you will see from the right-hand side of the balance-sheet, our assets, taken at cost, amount to £680,042, and our liabilities to £607,665, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of £72,376. That excess of assets is represented by Nashart reserve, £2,390; profits reserve, £12,957; capital reserve, £40,398; and profit and loss account, £16,630. To turn to the profit and loss account, before charging debenture interest the profits amount to £15,021, as compared with £12,514 last year. The net profit for the year, after charging debenture interest, amounts to £9,607, as compared with £2,626 in the previous year, and with the carry forward of £7,022 the balance to the credit of profit and loss account amounts to £16,630, which we now propose to carry forward. The revenue from the company's lands appears at £16,660, as compared with £8,443 for the previous year, or an increase of £8,216. That is a substantial increase, and is made up as follows:—Our gross rentals received have risen from £23,155 in 1915 to £32,634 in 1916. The expenditure, including the irrigation drainage and taxes, maintenance, depreciation, salaries and general expenses, is slightly higher in 1916 than it was in 1915, and for the past year it amounts to £15,974, as compared with £14,712 in the preceding year. It is not a large increase in expenditure, more particularly when you consider the increase in the cost of coal, labour, oil, and everything else in consequence of the war. In Upper Egypt the estates are practically fully reclaimed, and owing to the higher prices of cereals, satisfactory rentals are being obtained. The estimated rental for 1917 shows an increase of 14 per cent. over the 1916 figures.

With regard to the sales of land, during the year we sold 181 feddans at an average of £91 19s. 1d., and a further 108 feddans at an equally satisfactory price, but as the deeds were not signed at December 31, when we made up our accounts, the profit on this area has not been taken into the accounts. Since January 1 we have disposed of a further 144 feddans at satisfactory prices, so that altogether, since the beginning of the year, we have 252 feddans that have been sold and that will come into the accounts in the current year. We anticipate that with the improved position of Egypt we shall continue to make satisfactory progress. One of the most important features of the financial position of this company is, of course, its indebtedness. With regard to our loans, as stated in the report, the loans and debentures have been reduced by over £18,000 since the previous year, and since January 1 last a further £8,000 has been paid off the loans. In addition to that, it will be seen on the credit side of the balance-sheet that the debenture trustees have over £8,000 in hand, which has since January 1 been increased to £11,304 for the purpose of the purchase and cancellation of debentures. This amount

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will increase from time to time, as by an arrangement with the debenture holders we have agreed to pay the trustees 60 per cent. of the capital receipts received from our sales in Upper Egypt. Arrangements have also been made with the mortgage banks, who have granted loans secured on our Lower Egypt properties for the release of areas sold from time to time on repayment on a *pro rata* amount of the loans. In the case of Samatay and Kahwakia this *pro rata* is equal to 60 per cent. of the mortgagees' valuation of these estates, and in the case of Docmera and Nas hart is equal to £50 per feddan. Provided the demand for land continues, we shall in this way reduce our loans automatically within a comparatively short period, as compared with the period for which the loans were contracted. Our average cost per feddan is slightly over £50, and there is little or no further capital expenditure necessary beyond routine work. The cash at bankers' shows the satisfactory increase of nearly £15,000, from £9,240 to £24,130. The company has bought during the year £20,000 of Five per Cent. War Loan.

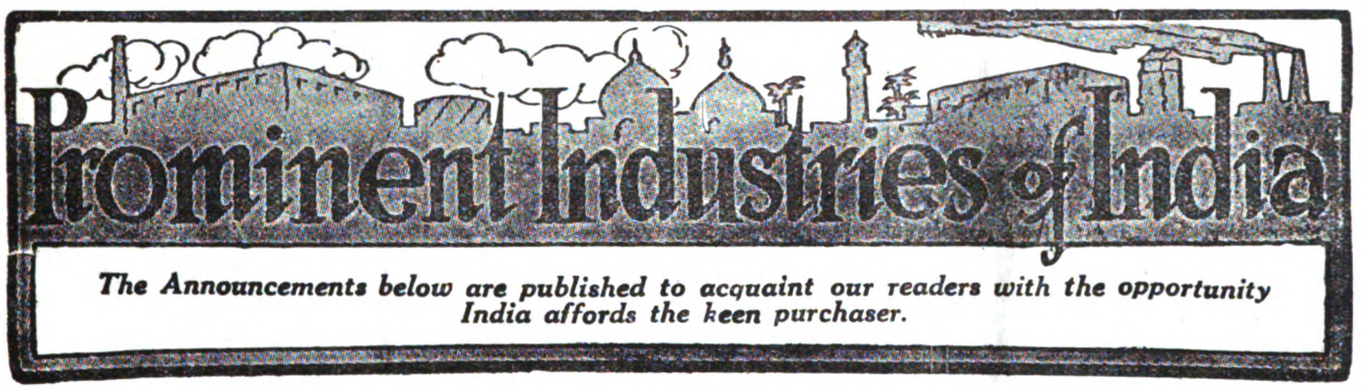
With regard to the general outlook for the company in Egypt, I can only say that it seems to me to have passed the most dangerous period. We can see now that Egypt was made a focus, long before the war broke out, for German and Austrian intrigue in the East. Luckily we were able to get rid of the Khedive, Abbas, as it subsequently transpired that he was merely an Austrian agent. He was educated in Vienna, and the Austrians supplied him with his favourite wife. We have got rid of him, and we have now got rid of all or most of the German and Austrian banks. As people are discussing what is going to happen after the war, I am always astonished that they do not pay more attention to Egypt as an avenue for the investment of capital, because I believe that the Valley of the Nile in a sub-tropical climate—in parts of it in a temperate climate—is one of the most fertile and profitable places for the growth of most cereals and of sugar, cotton, and, very probably in the future, tobacco. I should like to acknowledge, on behalf of the company, the very energetic assistance which we, as well as all other landowners in Egypt, have received from the Egyptian Government in the matter of irrigation, which has contributed very materially to increase the value of our lands. I am sure that we all of us appreciate the energy and devotion of our staff in Egypt, from Mr. Suares and Mr. Dempster down to all our managers, cashiers and assistants. I now beg, gentlemen, to move:—"That the directors' report, together with the annexed statement of account duly audited, be received and adopted," and I will ask Sir Ernest Spencer to second the motion.

Sir Ernest Spencer (Deputy Chairman) seconded the resolution.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith said that on the debit side of the profit and loss account he noticed an item, "To expenses of altering trust deed, £233 6s." That secured to him to be a somewhat heavy item, and he would be glad to have some particulars regarding it. He had nothing further to say except that he was glad to learn from the directors' report and from the Chairman's remarks that day that the company had been doing better, and he would like to express the hope that the company might continue to go forward and prosper.

Mr. Abraham remarked that he understood the company's land cost £50 per feddan, and as the sales realised about £91 per feddan there was a margin of about £41. Might he take it that only the most valuable land was being sold? The company possessed a very large acreage, and he took it that the demand was only for the most fertile land.

The Chairman, in reply, said that the directors only sold the best land first, or buyers would not come forward, but they were all the time spending money on the improvement of their lands, and were endeavouring to bring them up to a high state of cultivation. Of course, the value of their lands depended very much upon their situation—whether they were in this neighbourhood or that; and all the directors could do was to give the shareholders an average of the prices they obtained and the average cost. With regard to the item of £223 6s. expenses in connection with altering the trust deed, he would point out that they had had two meetings. The matter was very complicated and had entailed legal expenses, in addition to which there was the expense of



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the Debenture holders were represented at those meetings, for which a charge for expenses had been made. He did not consider that the amount was at all excessive.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then proposed, "That Sir Westby Brooke Perceval, K.C.M.G., be re-elected a director of the company pursuant to article 71 of the company's articles of association." In the course of the year Mr. Gilmour resigned his seat on the Board owing to the fact that he was at present engaged on Government work, and the directors elected Sir Westby Perceval in his place, and, therefore, he had much pleasure in asking the shareholders to ratify his co-option as a director.

Mr. E. Nathan seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman also moved, "That Mr. Edward Nathan be and is hereby re-elected a director of this company.

Mr. T. F. Dalglish seconded the proposition, which was unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr. Foat, seconded by Mr. Vere Herbert-Smith, the auditors (Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co.) were unanimously appointed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the directors and the staff brought the proceedings to a close.

COMPANY REPORT.

ANGLO-PORTUGUESE TELEPHONE CO.

The report of the Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Company for 1916 states that the floating assets and liabilities in Portugal have been valued at 31 9-16d. per escudo. The capital expenditure amounted to £15,319, in comparison with £11,946. for 1915 and £27,229 for 1914. The profit and loss account shows a gross income of £93,578, against £81,924, of which operating, management, and general charges absorbed £59,253 (against £51,578), and royalties to the Portuguese Government £2,727 (against £2,460), leaving a gross profit of £31,599 (against £27,886). After payment of income-tax and other expenses, including the addition of £10,000 to renewals fund, the amount available for disposal is £15,839. The directors recommend a further dividend of 3 per cent., less income-tax, making 6 per cent. for the year 1916, which will leave a balance of £6,839 to be carried forward. The reserve fund now stands at £25,000, the renewals fund at £30,000, and the exchange fluctuation account at £10,000. The profit was adversely affected by a further fall in the value of the Portuguese currency, the average rate of exchange being 34 1-32d., as compared with 35½d. for 1915. The actual loss on remittances amounted approximately to £16,000, an increase of £6,000. In view of the continued expansion of the company's business and in anticipation of the time when Treasury sanction may be obtained for a new issue, it is considered desirable to authorise an increase in the capital to £200,000.

SUBMARINED SHIPS.

There has been a marked improvement in the situation at sea. In the week ended last Sunday German submarines (or mines) sunk :

Vessels (1,600 tons or over)..... 14
Vessels (1,600 tons or under) 3
Fishing vessels 5

Fourteen vessels were unsuccessfully attacked. The figures are net, after deducting all large vessels sunk and three vessels attacked in a previous week.

Arrivals and sailings in British ports were 2,693 and 2,642, respectively.

The return (writes *The Times*) shows a slight decrease both on the previous return and on the average for the last five weeks. The decrease is probably merely temporary, as on the whole the totals show an increase. During the first five weeks the total number of ships passing through the zone was 23,318; in the second five weeks it was 24,775; and in the third five weeks it was 26,238. It should not be forgotten that the latest time limit set by the Germans for the success of the submarine campaign is September, and therefore during the weeks to come further efforts of greater intensity may be expected. On the other hand, as Mr. Lloyd George has said, it is easier to take protective measures for the mercantile marine now that America has come into the war on our side.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton St., E.C., Thursday.

There has again been a good deal of activity in the Egyptian market. Egypt has continued buying various shares, and here in London also there has been a fair amount doing.

Unifieds have been done to a fair extent round 83, and 3½ per cent. prefs. have been constantly in demand; they closed at the higher level of 72; but there is practically no stock offering.

National Banks have further improved sharply to about 14½, some few hundred shares being done in the neighbourhood of 14⅜. Agricultural Banks have changed hands to the extent of several hundred shares round 5 3-16, while Anglo-Egyptian Banks have been rather quieter at 12.

Delta Light prefs. have changed hands to a small extent at 5¾, and are still wanted, but sellers are scarce. Allotments are better, and some shares have been done round 2 9-16, with further buyers. In Behéras the tone has been a little quieter after the recent big advance, and some small transactions have taken place at the slightly lower level of 9⅞, but there are not many shares about, and a resumption of the upward movement is probable. Delta Lands have been in strong demand, and several thousand shares have been done between 10s. and 11s.

Foreign Trusts are slightly firmer, and should now participate in the general rise which is taking place in view of the appreciation of many of their holdings. Gharbieh Lands have again been done round 20s., and New Egyptians have continued an active spot in the neighbourhood of 11s.

In United Egyptian Lands some thousands of shares have been done round the improved price of 1s. Alexandria Waters are still wanted without finding sellers.

Markets have been very quiet round 27s. but some steady business has been doing in Salt and Sodas round 23s. A feature has been the further advance in Khedivial Mails, which have jumped from 32s. 6d. to 36s. 3d.

In Greek stocks the market is firm, but lifeless.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Persian prefs. rose 6d., to 23s. 6d., on the announcement that the company had purchased various undertakings (referred to in our news columns to-day). Other Near Eastern lines did not come into prominence.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included : Serbian (1895), 58 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 64 (against 64.10); Ottoman Bank, 460 (against 450); Suez Canal, 4,360 (against 4,350).

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week ended May 25.	1917. Week ended May 24.
Cattle markets	448 ..	467
General markets	383 ..	398
Cattle markets closed	52 ..	108
Receipts (£)	831 ..	865
Total from commencement of year (£)	25,016 ..	29,922

The quotation in Alexandria for cotton-seed on June 5 was 135 ps. for June and 137 for July..

In the year 1915-16 Aden exported to the Turkish Yemen, British Somaliland and Abyssinia, via Jibuti, 45,199 cwt. of sugar valued at £61,000.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price June 1.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83⅛	83
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	71½	72
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	54	54
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	54	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	50	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	42
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	54	54
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52	52
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	62	62½
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	71xd	72
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75½	75½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.....	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79½	79½
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69½	69
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5⅛	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.),.	7¾	7⅞	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12½xd	12
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2½	2⅝
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	4⅛	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	5⅜	5⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	14⅛	14⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅜	5⅞
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord..	17½	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	⅛	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2½	2⅜
Béhéra Co.....	8½	10	9⅜
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/-	10/10½
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	6/-	6/3
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅞	20/-	20/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	11/-	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	⅜	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1¼	1⅜	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/10½	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅜	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅞	23/-	23/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	32/6	36/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON MAY 12.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	14
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New	Frs.	68
" Privilligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	77
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85½
Privilégiée		73½
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	3⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		32
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		8⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5¼
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	160
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	310
" Div.	Frs.	280
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	260
Egyptian Salt and Soda		22 3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	640
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	336
" 1903 "	Frs.	267
" 1911 "	Frs.	266
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅛

The Egyptian Government have nominated Sir Henry McMahon as their representative on the board of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields in place of the Hon. Hugo Baring, who is serving in the Army.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.
DIRECTORS:
N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI,
CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.
CENSORS:
DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU.
C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.
GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 319.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

King Constantine has abdicated, and his second son, Alexander, succeeds him. It is anticipated that the first act of the new Monarch will be to recall M. Venizelos, whose support, had his father retained it, would have secured King Constantine's throne. The wording of the *communiqué* announcing the change at Athens seems purposely obscure in some details—possibly with a view to sparing the late King's feelings—but the main current of events is easily followed. M. Jonnart, the French High Commissioner, on Monday morning, interviewed M. Zaimis, when he demanded, in the name of the Protecting Powers, the abdication of King Constantine and the designation of his successor. It is not stated what, if any, obstacles were put forward by the King when the announcement was made to him by his Prime Minister, but on Tuesday morning the reply of the Crown was made.

It announced that the King had decided to leave the country with the Crown Prince—his destination is understood to be Switzerland, which is conveniently contiguous to Germany, his spiritual home—and that he "designated as his successor Prince Alexander." From this statement, taken as it stands, it would appear that the Protecting Powers did not insist on a change of dynasty, and that the retiring Monarch was allowed to choose his successor, the choice of the Crown Prince, who is known to favour his father's policy, being vetoed. It was further stated that the King had been induced to take this step being "solicitous, as always, solely for the interests of Greece." Clearly, therefore, he was not aware of what the interests of Greece demanded until the Protecting Powers indicated the proper course to him; or, if he was aware of it before, he did not act upon it. The dilemma is absolute.

The late King sacrificed his throne to his brother-in-law, the Kaiser, and that must be his only consolation in exile. He served Germany better than Greece, since his neutrality was a farce which involved the practical abrogation of the constitution, the sacrifice of an Ally whom he had sworn to assist, the loss of territory to Bulgaria, and the surrender of an army corps to Germany. There is no reason to question the sincerity of the King's almost canine devotion to Germany—an admiration which he showed before the war, and which the events of the war and, it must be added, the course both of military and political events, could hardly tend to dissipate. But the admiration of another and stronger country by a Monarch whose dynasty is not too secure is apt to become dangerous, and in the end King Constantine allowed the fact that his consort was a Hohenzollern somewhat to obscure the not less important fact that he was himself the constitutional Sovereign of Greece. He has had a longer reign than many observers of events expected, for the Allies might reasonably have requested him to leave Athens eighteen months ago; he seemed to learn daring from his apparent security, and even the disgraceful events in the capital last December failed to bring him to book. Apparently, it was only the danger of his securing the Thessalian harvest and consequently another year of security that persuaded the Allies at last to act with proper firmness.

Of his successor little is known. He is a young man of twenty-three, unmarried, and a captain in the artillery. Presumably, he will profit by the unhappy consequences of his father's policy and recall M. Venizelos, under whom Greece may regain the unity it should never have lost. There appears no immediate difficulty in the path; the new King has taken the oath to the constitution, which, in itself, seems tantamount to the recall of M. Venizelos as constitutional Prime Minister, and M. Venizelos himself has always denied republican sentiments, proclaiming that he was not anti-dynastic, but merely anti-Constantine, on grounds which could not be disputed.

King Constantine's farewell message needs little comment. "Obeying necessity and fulfilling my duty towards Greece, I am departing from my beloved country with the heir to the throne, and I am leaving my son Alexander on the throne. I beg you to accept my decision with calm, as the slightest incident may lead to a great catastrophe." The only chance of any such incident occurring would be if the factions which the ex-King has encouraged were to presume upon their past immunity, and to challenge the decision of the Protecting Powers.

The Italian protectorate over Albania has naturally been received with a storm of protest in Royalist Greece, and it has not been welcomed in Venizelist Greece, although M. Venizelos now has the satisfaction of saying "I told you so" to ex-King Constantine. But the Athens newspapers, which have hitherto distinguished Italy from the rest of the Allies as several degrees less black in character than France,

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now suddenly discover that Italy is almost as bad as, let us say, England. Italy is not likely to trouble herself very much about the vapourings of the supporters of the incredible Tino, but there have been disagreements in the Italian Cabinet concerning the Albanian problem, one party apparently being against "a policy of Balkan adventure," the other seeing more clearly that the extra-peninsular interests of Italy demand action, and that action at this moment, after so prolonged a delay is opportune. Italy is now definitely committed to a trans-Adriatic territorial policy. It is not likely to be reversed, but it is impossible to see how far it will carry her. But in Rome they have clearly no belief in the "No annexations" theory.

If the correspondents in Petrograd would send us fewer impressions and more facts it would be easier to gauge the situation in Russia. They assure us that the patient is suffering from an internal trouble, but they fail to describe the symptoms, and while one day he is described as being *in extremis* and so far despairing of his recovery as to be preparing to make his peace with the world (and particularly with the Germans), the next we are told that his magnificent constitution has rallied under the strong tonics of the last three months, and that the only thing necessary to complete the cure is a little violent exercise, preferably at the front. It is not really doing our Allies, or the Alliance, any particular service to talk round the situation in this way; the Germans know the facts, and it is only their unrivalled faculty for adding two and two together and making six that prevents them profiting politically more than they do from the difficulties in Russia. Militarily they have profited sufficiently, as the removal of troops from the eastern to western fronts attests.

The Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates has issued a statement which announces that the Socialist Ministers "were sent into the Provisional Government with a definite mandate to secure a general peace by agreement of the nations, and not to prolong an imperialist war in the name of the liberation of nations by bayonets." The worst of adjectives is that they are so indiscriminate; the Council does not say whom it thinks imperialist, whether friend or enemy or both. Substantives are more docile, and the Council, which has repudiated a peace attained by separation from the Allies, advocates a general peace in association with France and Britain. That at least is comprehensible, but many things are comprehensible which are not attainable, and at the present moment an agreement of the nations is clearly one of them. We are rather dubious whether all the missionaries who have gone from England to Russia will achieve very much—Mrs. Pankhurst is the latest departure, and there is really no reason why Mr. H. G. Wells should not follow, except that he is now engaged in reconstructing our theology—but the Notes from America and Britain to Petrograd will probably do more to make things clearer.

President Wilson has slightly changed his formula from "Peace without victory" to something indistinguishable, to our rough island ears, from "Peace with victory," and we thank our Ally for the emendation; thus does war educate us all. Washington holds that there must be effective readjustments, which "must follow a principle, and that principle is plain. No people must be forced under a sovereignty under which it does not wish to live. No territory must change hands except for the purpose of securing those who inhabit a fair chance of life and liberty. No indemnities must be insisted on except those that constitute payment for manifest wrongs done." These definitions are the politest negation of the "No annexations and no indemnities" formula conceivable, but they are none the less direct negations, and their effect is not minimised by a reference earlier in the American Note to the "private projects of power all the way from Berlin to Baghdad and beyond. . . . The meshes of that net must be broken, but they cannot be broken unless wrongs already done are undone, and adequate measures must be taken to prevent it from ever again being rewrapped or repaired."

The short British Note to Russia, which was published a day after the American Note, is both a shorter and a less noteworthy document, and it reads, no doubt unintentionally, as though the Government had got rather tired of all this talk and preferred to get on with the war and discuss its objects when the battles have been won—an attitude which is not essentially dissimilar from that of the average Englishman. The one point which needs remark in this document is its announcement that, if the Russian Government so desire, the British Government are quite ready "to examine, and, if need be, to revise," the agreements which have been made with the Allies. If Russia, for instance, quite definitely makes up her mind that she does not desire Constantinople, then it is quite obvious that we cannot compel her, and that particular agreement, with all that depends thereon, would necessarily undergo revision. It would appear that both the British and the American Notes have been received with a certain lack of cordiality in Petrograd.

It is to be noted that the Roumanian Premier, M. Bratiano, has made a statement to the correspondent of the *Petit Parisien* in Petrograd to the effect that the Roumanian people accept the Russian formula of no annexations with the proviso that "her sole aim in entering the war was the liberation of Roumanian territory from Hungarian subjugation, to emancipate Roumanians, and to restore them to their country." This is not annexation, but restoration, and we hope the Russians will see it in that light. He continues that "Roumania, who has kept her engagements to her Allies, has a right to expect that the Allies will observe the terms of the treaty which binds them to her, and will respect the engagements they have made." This view should find endorsement in Petrograd.

How far the German Socialists are from the standpoint which the Russian idealists wish them to adopt may be gathered from Deputy David's remark at a discussion with the Dutch-Scandinavian Committee. He threw the blame for the origin of the war entirely upon England, declaring that it lay in England's hand at the last hour to prevent all harm to Belgium and France. It is quite natural for a German to blame England for participating in the war, since our entry upset their calculations, as was admitted in the agitated interviews with the Dutch Ambassador at Berlin on the eve of the conflict; but to suggest that had we not come in, France and Belgium wauld have escaped is a clumsy lie. Belgium was already invaded before Britain declared war, and the German Chancellor himself admitted that France was to be despoiled of her colonies. The ingenuous David should try again before he attempts to inveigle the Russian Bathsheba.

The Mesopotamia Report is expected within the next few days. It is to be published immediately, without abridgment, and it is understood that it will contain a strong criticism of the responsibility of the Indian Government for the blunders and omission of the early part of the campaign, which led to the surrender at Kut. Mr. Wedgwood, following the fashion set by Mr. Roch in the Dardanelles Report, has submitted a minority memorandum.

Complaint has so often been made, and justly made, as to the paucity of honours given for distant expeditionary services, that the issue of a British Indian list for Mesopotamia is welcome. The distinguished services which have been noted in the list issued this week were given in the action in which the Turks were routed near Basra in April, 1915, so that it cannot be contended that the awards have been made with undue haste.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 21.

New Appointments.

It has been definitely decided to appoint Dr. Alexander Granville, C.M.G., to the Presidency of the International Quarantine Board, which was held up to his death by the late Sir Armand Ruffer. Lewa Hopkinson Pasha, Commandant of the Alexandria City Police, will succeed to the Director-Generalship of the Alexandria Municipality, left vacant by Dr. Granville's promotion. General regret is felt at the latter's departure from the municipality, where his administration has been marked with conspicuous success; but his appointment to the Quarantine Board is regarded as a well-merited recognition of the good work he has achieved. Hopkinson Pasha, who is most popular in Alexandria, has been for many years in the Egyptian Police, and is a most efficient and capable officer. His selection for such an essentially civil position as the Director-Generalship of the Alexandria Municipality has, however, come as a great surprise; and one cannot help admiring his pluck and public spirit in accepting a post which, it is no secret, had been offered to other senior Government officials and promptly declined by them, and which, next to the Adviserships to the Interior, is perhaps the most difficult in the country to fill with success and dignity.

It is announced that Mr. G. M. Dickson, sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt in Alexandria, has been offered and has accepted the managership of the British Trade Corporation recently formed in London. Mr. Dickson's departure is a serious loss to Egypt, where he was regarded as one of the shrewdest, most level-headed bankers and men of business in the country, and where his advice and opinion have been continually sought by the Government authorities in connection with the various economic and financial crises that have supervened during the past three years, and with the reorganisation and protection of British trade interests. The National Bank of Egypt will also feel his departure very much. That institution has already lost the services of one of its ablest officials, Mr. B. Hornsby, who was recently nominated Public Custodian in Egypt, and who, together with Mr. Dickson, is admitted to have been in a great measure responsible for the satisfactory manner in which the local financial situation was handled and all panic averted during the early days of the war. Mr. Dickson's departure now will throw an additional strain on the already depleted senior staff of the bank.

The New Greek Courts.

On Thursday last the new Consular Court of the Salonika Provisional Government, the creation of which was recently authorised by General Murray, was inaugurated in Alexandria. The President is Judge Lambros, and the Procurator-General is M. Sachtouris, the Venizelist Consul-General and Diplomatic Agent in Egypt. Speeches were made by both these officials, condemning the Athens Government and expressing admiration for Great Britain. Mr. Mercinier, the leader of the Mixed Bar, who was accompanied by several of his colleagues, also spoke, and offered the congratulations of the body which he represented to the new Court. There are signs that the republican movement is finding favour with the local Hellenic colony; but as yet there has been no decided public expression of opinion on this question.

Sudan Public Works.

Mr. Bonham-Carter, Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government, who has been in Cairo for the past month with Colonel Bernard, the Financial Secretary, has left for London. His journey is understood to be in connection with the question of the £3,000,000 Sudan Loan and the resumption of work on the Blue and White Niles. He will be shortly followed by Colonel Bernard.

Trial of Famous Coiners.

The Cairo Assize Court is at present occupied with the trial of the famous gang of false coiners, who have been laid by the heels during the past year, and one of whose more prominent members was the Cashier of the Native Court of Appeal. There are an unprecedented number of accused and witnesses, and the trial is expected to last some considerable time.

Meanwhile, an inquiry has been conducted into charges of corruption and dishonesty brought against certain members of the staff of the Mixed Courts in Alexandria. Quite a number of officials are implicated, and the revelations made have created somewhat of a sensation. A Council of Discipline will examine the charges and decide what is to be done with the officials concerned.

The State Railways.

The Egyptian State Railways have decided further to curtail the train service, and, in addition, to increase fares by 50 per cent. over the pre-war rates. The reason for this is the difficulty in obtaining coal and material, and the greater call which is being, and will, in the near future, be made on the existing rolling-stock by the military authorities. This decision has aroused considerable comment and opposition on the part of the public, first, because it is proposed to apply the higher rates to suburban season-ticket holders, and secondly because, as it is, since the war, the accommodation on the trains has been quite inadequate. No one objects to the curtailment of the train service; for it is generally agreed that the present conditions and future prospects fully justify this measure; but strong exception is taken to the accompanying general raising of the fares, which is considered to be uncalled for —at any rate to the extent and on the scale decided upon. As a matter of fact, it is a moot question whether any raising of the fares will itself bring about any material reduction in traffic; for in Egypt there is, especially at present, very little of that indiscriminate travelling which existed in England and had to be stopped, and the bulk of local railway passengers merely travel because and when they are forced to do so. There are, indeed, many ways besides curtailment of service by which whatever indiscriminate travelling does exist could be checked, and a reduction in passenger traffic could be brought about without inflicting unnecessary hardships on sections of the community which, by their very circumstances, are compelled to travel by train, and which can ill afford the extra expense now put upon them. Whilst one sympathises very much with the railway authorities in the difficult task that confronts them, one cannot help feeling that the general raising of the fares has been decided upon without sufficient consideration being given to the effect such a decision might have on certain sections of the population.

EGYPTIAN MAIL LOST.

The Postmaster-General announces that a small mail for the United Kingdom from Egypt and the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, despatched on May 27, was lost on the French mail steamer Yarra It is probable that mails from East Africa also were lost.

Under date of June 1, the Cairo correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs:—I understand that Japan has decided to appoint a Consul in Egypt. Japan has not hitherto been represented here, as she had no political relations with Turkey. The decision is due to the increase in Japan's commercial interests in Egypt, and may be regarded as a recognition of Egypt's new status.

A letter has been addressed by the Japanese Consul at Cairo to the diplomatic agent of the Greek Provisional Government. This is the first act whereby Japan has recognised the Provisional Government at Salonika.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held (for business purposes only) at the Office of the Society, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.1., on THURSDAY, JUNE 21, at 3.30 p.m. There will be no Special Address.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Legislative Council—Greek "Propaganda."

On the assembling of the Legislative Council the draft reply of the members, which merely records their thanks to the High Commissioner for his Address, was passed. Various additional paragraphs were then proposed by Greek elected members. They were opposed by the Turkish representatives, and in the voting were all negatived. The votes of the six official and three Ottoman members being equal to those of the nine Greek members, the Chairman gave the casting vote. The rejected paragraphs related to matters which could be brought forward during debates, and were quite inappropriate for insertion in the Reply. They practically led up to the main object of expressing the hope that Cyprus might be handed over to Greece. The argument advanced at present is pretty much as follows:—Cyprus remained under British administration, by virtue of the Anglo-Turkish Convention, until November 5, 1914, when it fell through. The basis of the Convention was that Great Britain should help Turkey against Russia. As Britain and Russia are now allied against Turkey, the agreement is no longer valid. Which of the Powers, then, has a right to the island? By what right does England hold it? Our hopes are based on the principles which England has always professed, and has emphasised in late years.

The Turkish members opposed the arguments. Irfan Bey said that the proposal gave him the impression that the Greeks desired either autonomy or a Kingship. They did not require a King who was unworthy of confidence, or a kingdom of that character. The ideas expressed by Greek members were diametrically opposed to the interests of Cyprus. Hami Bey observed that the fate of Cyprus would be decided when peace terms were considered after the war. Irfan Bey had previously expressed the hope that the Government would take suitable measures to stop the agitation and propaganda of the Greek element. "What," asked an hon. member, "do you mean by 'propaganda?'" The reply was that facts known to all fully explained the term.

A "Regrettable Incident."

The debate was continued during the first days of May. On the 3rd an expression of a Turkish member led to a request that he should be called to order. The President—the High Commissioner—ruled that the hon. member was not out of order. The first reading of the Appropriation Bill was then voted by a majority, consisting of the official members, the three Ottoman, and three Greek members, who supported it "in order not to impede the working of the administrative machine." Later in the debate one of the "regrettable incidents" took place of which the history of the Council has furnished several examples. One of the Greek members having alluded to an occasion on which they voted against the construction of a new Council Chamber on the ground that they could well continue to use the present one until the day when they would be called to sit as representatives of the people in another House, Irfan Bey remarked that the site of such a new Chamber would no doubt be found in the Ayia Pareskevás region of Nicosia. The locality referred to contains the lunatic wards—the only asylum in the island. The Greek members were roused to exasperation by this harmless piece of sarcasm. The President was asked to call the hon. member to order; but he ruled that there was no reason, and that he did not consider the words, which were, of course, used jocosely, to constitute an attack on the *amour propre* of any members. Moreover, the Turkish member offered to withdraw his words if the hon. member would withdraw those which had given occasion for them. The Greek members, however, persisted in regarding the words as a dire insult, and to show their view of the matter they marched out of the Chamber in a body. The incident calls to mind some other occasions on which the Greek representatives have behaved in a very similar manner. The whole proceeding was very petty and improper, as showing disregard for the ruling of the Chair. After their departure the British and Turkish members voted the Estimates without further delay.

The Sensitive Members.

Next day, after deliberation, the Greeks despatched a letter, signed by all nine members, in which they explained their feelings, stating that, since they could not by the rules of the Council protest in that place, the step they had taken was a protest against the attack which had been made upon them, and also against the decision of the Chair, which, they plainly said, had astounded them. A reply was received the same day from the Acting Chief Secretary, Mr. Fenn, in which the attention of the Greek members was called to the fact that the decision on a point of order was entirely in the hands of the President. Nothing that had taken place was an attack on anybody, and the Greek members have adopted an entirely wrong course in the matter.

One of the principal subjects referred to related to education and the need of a new law, on which much stress is laid by the Greeks, but the introduction of which the High Commissioner had explained could not be effected during the present Session or in present circumstances.

Honour for a Cypriot Policeman.

The King having been pleased to bestow a medal for an act of conspicuous bravery on a member of the Cyprus police force, Yani Hajji Georgiou, the ceremony took place at Government House at one of the Wednesday afternoon receptions. This policeman some time ago saved the life of a labourer who, while cleaning out a well, fainted and was in imminent danger of death from asphyxia. The High Commissioner himself placed the medal on the breast of the recipient. The Greek Archbishop, several members of the Legislative Council, Government officials, and a large company of leading citizens were present. Officers of the Nicosia Police, and of detachments from Larnaca, Famagusta, Limassol, and Kyrenia attended.

Destruction of Sparrows.

A notice signed by the Chief Inspector of Schools, Canon Newham, and the Director of Agriculture, Mr. W. Bevan, sent to the teachers of elementary schools, calls attention to the need of destroying sparrows, which commit such havoc in ripening crops and garden produce. The best means at this season is the destruction of nests and eggs; and as sparrows build chiefly in and near human habitations, children can easily help in the work, out of school hours. Teachers can give valuable aid, not only by showing villagers why sparrows should be attacked, but why other kinds of small birds should be protected, as not only harmless, but, on the contrary, as very beneficial, since they feed on insects. At the same time they can teach children and villagers the difference between cruelty, such as keeping a bird tied by the leg with string till it dies, and killing one immediately when necessary. To encourage the work Government will pay from 5 to 8 paras (360 paras = 1 shilling) for every sparrow's egg. The eggs will be collected by the teachers and delivered at police stations in the Mesaoria plain—ten in the Nicosia and five in the Famagusta district, up to May 24. The money will be paid through the teachers. The experiment will be on a limited scale, in order to see whether results justify its adoption on a wider scale in future. It is not unlikely that this will lead to the destruction of the nests and eggs of various other birds, which in so comparatively treeless a place as Cyprus would be regrettable. But there is no doubt as to the great damage done by sparrows, as well as by hooded and other crows, and it must be hoped that the results will be satisfactory.

General News.

A Cypriot villager, who has been condemned to twenty years' imprisonment for murder in Egypt, has been transferred to Cyprus, to undergo his sentence in the central prison at Nicosia.

There is but little local news. Various rumours are afloat, as is generally the case in a place not in constant receipt of information from reliable sources. Fortunately the island is fairly well supplied with war telegrams. The Press is much occupied with the proceedings of the Legislative Council. As regards Greece, the "Greek" Cypriots are pretty evenly divided between the Venizelist and Royalist parties, the former perhaps predominating. It is hoped by both that, whatever may be the result of the war, Greek interests will not suffer.

THE TURKS AND GENERAL TOWNSHEND

Under date of June 9, Reuter's Paris correspondent reports:—The newspapers publish an interview with Mr. Elkus, ex-Ambassador of the United States to Turkey, who has arrived in Paris.

Mr. Elkus says that, generally speaking, the Turks behave generously towards their enemies, and that General Townshend in particular assured him on many occasions that he had only appreciation to express of the way in which the Ottoman Government had treated him. General Townshend often obtained permission to come into Constantinople from the island on the Marmora on which he is detained in order to make purchases, and on these occasions he frequently looked in on Mr. Elkus for a talk.

Foreigners, Mr. Elkus said, and many Turks have retained their friendly feeling for France. To his knowledge there have been no disorders in Constantinople, and he never saw any indication of any real loss of confidence on the part of the Turks. The Turks, he says, evinced regret at the entry of the U.S.A. into the war.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Greek Throne. June 13.

Earl CURZON said: I have to inform your Lordships that his Majesty's Government have received information from Athens that King Constantine has abdicated the Throne of Greece in favour of his second son, Alexander, who has taken the oath as King. It is the hope of his Majesty's Government that this event may make for the union of Greece and the restoration of constitutional government in that country.

The Earl of CAMPERDOWN asked whether the Germans who had assisted King Constantine would be required to leave Greece as well as the King.

Earl CURZON: The King of the Hellenes is taking a party of his friends with him, but on the particular point raised I should like to postpone a definite answer till a later day, when I hope to make a statement with regard to the position of Greece.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Future of Austria. June 7.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. LEES SMITH, who asked whether the correct interpretation of the Allies' Note to President Wilson was that it was proposed to dismember the Austrian Empire into two or more independent States, provided that suitable forms of home rule were granted to the Czecho-Slovaks and the other subject races of the Empire, said:—The words of the Allied Note seem to me perfectly clear. It is the object of the Allies to secure the liberation of the races referred to, but they have not defined the exact method by which such liberation is to be secured.

Bulgaria and a Separate Peace.

Major CHAPPLE asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs the names of the representative of the United States in Bulgaria and of the representative of Bulgaria in the United States; whether the former had been asked to represent British interests; and whether any overtures had been made by Bulgaria to any of the Allies for a separate peace.

Lord R. CECIL: The United States representative at Sofia is Mr. Warfield, and I understand that the name of the Bulgarian Minister at Washington is Monsieur Panaretoff. The answer to the second part of the question is in the affirmative; that to the last part is, so far as I know, in the negative.

Bulgars' Treatment of Serbians.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been directed to a report given by Serbian deserters from the Bulgarian Army, in which they had been forced to serve, of the savagery with which a so-called insurrectionary movement in Old Serbia was crushed last winter by the Bulgarians; whether he had official information to the effect that out of 6,000 prisoners captured by the Bulgarians 2,000 were murdered in cold blood by machine-gun fire and the remainder deported to Asia Minor; that the whole rural population of the district were removed to Bulgaria, where the men were reduced to slavery and the women and children handed over to the Turks to be taken to the Turkish Asiatic provinces; and, if so, could he say whether the German officers and troops assisted the Bulgarians in perpetrating these atrocities?

Lord R. CECIL: His Majesty's Government continue to receive confirmation of the brutality with which the recent rising in Old Serbia was suppressed, but the details which have hitherto reached them do not show that any German officers or troops participated in these atrocities.

The Situation in Greece. June 11.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether any steps had been taken to prevent the harvest in Thessaly falling into the possession of King Constantine's Government; whether such an event would make it possible for the King to order the return of his troops from the Peloponnese, thus threatening danger to the Venizelists and to the Allied forces operating from Salonika; whether he could give an assurance that such danger had been effectively provided against by ordering the occupation of Thessaly by Allied troops or otherwise; and whether the time had come for the Allies to break decisively with King Constantine in agreement with the policy of M. Venizelos.

Lord R. CECIL.—Steps are being taken to secure the control of the Thessalian harvest. I do not think it would be desirable to make any further statement at present.

Mr. R. M'NEILL.—Can the noble lord give any idea as to when it will be possible to make some disclosure with regard to the policy of his Majesty's Government in this theatre and in the Near East generally?

Lord R. CECIL.—I should not like to pledge myself to a day, but I hope very shortly.

Italy and Albania.

Lord R. CECIL, asked by Mr. LEES SMITH whether the protectorate declared by the Italian Government over Albania included the district of Epirus, said:—I have as yet no more detailed information regarding the extent of the proclamation than that which has appeared in the Press.

Mr. LEES SMITH.—Is it not a fact that this particular district of Epirus is inhabited by a civilised population having Hellenistic sympathies, who have never wished to be handed over to Italy; and before the protectorate is made effective will steps be taken to ascertain their desires?

Lord R. CECIL.—As the hon. member is probably aware, some of the population are Albanians and some Greeks. I do not understand that the proclamation hands over anything or anybody to Italy. I understand that it is a proclamation of the independence of Albania under the protection of Italy.

Mr. LEES SMITH.—Does the noble Lord recollect that when the Italians moved troops into this district the Italian Minister at Athens made a public statement that the international status of Epirus would not be altered, and that the movement of troops was for a merely temporary military purpose?

Lord R. CECIL.—I do not remember the exact wording of the statement, but I feel quite sure that whatever the Italian Government said they will stick to.

Prisoners of War. June 12.

Mr. J. F. HOPE, replying to Mr. G. FABER said:—According to returns made up to the end of May, the number of British combatant prisoners of war of the Regular and Territorial Forces, Royal Navy, Royal Naval Division, and Indian Forces is as follows:—Germany 1,354 officers, 34,304 other ranks; Turkey, 556 officers, 8,355 other ranks, Austria, five officers, 12 other ranks; Bulgaria, 22 officers, 523 other ranks—1,937 officers, 43,194 other ranks. The German figures include a certain number of prisoners taken in East Africa. In reply to a supplementary question, Mr. HOPE added that he thought that he was right in saying that the great majority of prisoners in Turkish camps were native Indians.

The Situation in Greece.

Lord R. CECIL, answering Mr. R. M'NEILL, who asked if any statement could be made regarding the situation in Greece, said: I am afraid I cannot add much at present to what has already appeared in the Press. Hon. members will have gathered that, in order to secure unity of Allied diplomacy in Greece the French and British Governments have appoined M. Jonnart High Commissioner for Allied purposes in Greece. He is entrusted among other things, with the duty of securing control of the Thessalian harvest.

Mr. WHYTE.—Will the new Commissioner exercise the rights of the three treaty Powers, including Russia?

Lord R. CECIL.—No, sir; the three treaty Powers, including the British Government, will still continue to be represented in Greece. The Commissioner is merely entrusted with the duty of representing the British and French Governments at present for Allied purposes when they wish to make Allied representations.

Mr. LYNCH.—If M. Jonnart discovers that King Constantine has exceeded his legal powers as conferred by treaty will he dispossess him?

Lord R. CECIL.—That is a question which should be addressed to M. Jonnart.

The Mesopotamia Report. June 13.

Mr. BONAR LAW, in reply to questions by Mr. King and other hon. members, stated: The report of the Mesopotamia Commission, which includes Sir William Vincent's report, will be published immediately, without alteration.

Italy and Albania.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a question by Mr. King about the Italian proclamation of a protectorate over Albania, said: I understand that the proclamation was issued for purely military reasons, and it was not therefore thought necessary to consult other Governments. The proclamation does not affect, and indeed could not anticipate, the settlement to be arrived at when peace is made.

King Constantine's Abdication.

Replying to Mr. Asquith, Mr. BONAR LAW said: His Majesty's Government has received information from Athens that King Constantine has abdicated the Throne of Greece in favour of his second son, Alexander, who has taken the oath as King. It is hoped that this will make for the reunion and restoration of constitutional government.

Mr. LYNCH: What does the Government expect to gain by the change? Is it not simply perpetuating the same régime under another name?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: What the Government hope to gain is that there will be in Greece a constitutional Government representative of Greece.

Mr. LYNCH: Is it not a fact that the weakness of the Government has endangered the whole campaign there?

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is it not a fact that King Constantine has been given permission to abdicate in favour of a man of his own choice? Having regard to the fact that he has been practically expelled from his throne, should he be allowed to nominate his successor?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: I do not think that it is in the public interest that I should give more information than I have given, but I think that I may say that the hon. gentleman is wrong in saying that the successor was nominated by the late King.

Mr. LYNCH: The dynasty has been preserved.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The report that "Turkish Asiatic troops have arrived in Europe in large numbers," and that they "will be used for the town garrisons of Austria and Germany," is somewhat startling. In the first place, one would hardly have thought that Turkey could spare troops "in large numbers" from Asia at the present time. And then of what use will these problematical troops be for garrison duty? Are they to be used to cow the good ladies who seem to agitate more or less regularly for an increase of food, or a reduction of prices, in certain parts of Germany and Austria? If so, we may yet have a new edition of the Armenian massacres. Or would the doughty Hausfrau, who stands not in awe of even that fearsome creature the POLICEMAN, rise in her might and give the Turkish Ally "what for"—or its German equivalent? I scent possibilities in the report. Allah send that it be true!

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Apropos of Germany and of outrages, I read in *The Times* that "the German Stage Union, at its annual meeting, not only adopted the resolution proposed by Count Seebach, of Dresden, which will forbid German singers and actors to make tours in America, but it was announced that the Stage Union and the German Foreign Office have created 'an organization for the centralization of German operatic and theatrical performances in foreign countries.'" The latter part of this announcement leaves me cold; but the first part is horrible indeed. It indicates—or so I gather—that the vengeful German will *not* "forbid German singers and actors to make tours in" this country. And I had fondly hoped that after the war poor old England might be free from the Germs in any shape or form for at least a generation. I can only take the adoption of the resolution referred to as intended to indicate that America may eventually be forgiven, but Britain never will. "Hate" indeed!

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I have not read Mr. Aaronsohn's "With the Turks in Palestine," but in a notice of it I came across a truly delightful touch. It seems that in forwarding the news of the Turkish defeat at the Suez Canal Jemal Pasha announced it as an overwhelming victory. Our forces, he telegraphed, had been routed, and some British men-of-war had been sunk at the cost of five Turks and two camels—"which," he added, "were afterwards recovered." We are not told whether they were shot as "deserters" or "spies," as was the case with some Turkish soldiers recently referred to in these columns. But, in any case, the Turkish losses were not large for such great results! And, after the glorious victory, it must have been tantalising indeed to have to fall back. The ingenious Jemal reported: "A terrible sandstorm having arisen, the glorious army takes it as the will of Allah not to continue the attack, and has therefore withdrawn in triumph." The Turkish hand has not yet lost its cunning!

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I heard the other day a quaint little story about the late Lord Kitchener. It was first told by "K." himself to the friend who passed it on to me, and it may therefore be regarded as quite above suspicion. The incident took place in India, soon after Lord Kitchener's arrival there, when, strange as it may seem in regard to such a commanding and striking personality, he was not always recognised. He was walking alone when he happened upon a solitary soldier, a private, to whom he spoke, asking the man what regiment he belonged to. The private was apparently in a somewhat disgruntled state. "I," he answered, sourly, either ignorant or feigning ignorance as to who his questioner might be, "I belong to the Royal B——y Well Fed-ups."

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There is always a touch of satisfaction in hearing of the horrifying of a really prim and "starchy" person. Of course there was nothing of that kind about "K. of K.," and the fact that he told the story himself shows that his soul rose above pettiness. But not all soldiers are free from the vice; indeed, the "disciplinarian" is a likely victim for it; and of one such, a General, a tale something like the Kitchener story is told by his A.D.C. His name I suppress, but I may say that he is usually regarded as "fussy" and inclined to stand too much upon his own dignity. I have heard other things about him, but these will suffice for the present purpose. Well, this General—being somewhere not far from the Front—came upon a member of a Labour Battalion who appeared to be quite "on his own." The distinguished officer was shocked to find a private wandering over the face of France thus, uncontrolled and looking none too spick and span. "Here, my man," he said, sharply, "what do you belong to?" The horny-handed one in khaki regarded him stonily for a few tense seconds; then spat luxuriously on the ground. "Damned if I know," he replied.

***

In neither of these instances was the private over civil to his superior. But here is another soldier story, in which no charge of incivility is brought against the Tommy. It concerns a Field Marshal who has served in many parts of the world and is particularly well known in Malta—to wit, Lord Methuen. But the incident occurred a good many years ago. The gallant officer referred to was in camp at a place the name of which I have quite forgotten, and, being invited out to dine informally, went unaccompanied by any members of his staff. On his return he was alone, and in the darkness he missed his way for the moment. Just then he ran into—almost literally ran into, for it was a dark night—a solitary soldier. Relieved, he asked this wandering warrior the way to his own quarters. The soldier saluted respectfully and replied: "Very sorry, sir. But, please sir, I'm drunk myself."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

"THE MAN IS"—MY FRIEND, ALTHOUGH —"A ROGUE."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow space for the following in THE NEAR EAST? I fully agree with Mr. H. M. Wallis that the goloshes of the Serbian professor may have been stolen by a person of different nationality from Bulgarian, but as the affair happened in Sofia it is only natural that a Bulgarian should be suspected, just as, if it had happened in Paris, a Frenchman would be blamed, or in London, an Englishman. But I think the following may be of more interest to Mr. Wallis than the goloshes.

In Serbia it is the custom on Christmas Day to have a sucking pig for dinner, just as in England one would have a turkey. Consequently the Serbian Government, before Christmas of 1912, sent 10,000 freshly killed sucking pigs to the Adrianople front for the Serbian troops who were there fighting to conquer Adrianople for Bulgaria. But not one of them ever reached the soldiers, for they were "pinched" en route in Bulgaria.

During the same winter the Serbian Government sent 20,000 complete new uniforms for the troops at the Adrianople front, but not a single coat arrived safely. Now, I will not accuse the Bulgarians of having stolen the 10,000 sucking pigs, as there is no evidence to prove that they were the culprits, therefore the thieves may have been Greeks, Jews, Turks, Americans, Englishmen, or even brother Serbs, but the uniforms were undoubtedly stolen by Bulgarians. This was definitely proved in 1913 during the time that the Bulgarian friend-rogue treacherously attacked Serbia. Twenty thousand Bulgarians were dressed in those very Serbian uniforms for the purpose of deceiving Serbians; but the ruse failed. Can Mr. Wallis imagine anything more despicable, more dishonest, more utterly contemptible in a foe, much less a friend?

After Bulgaria has deceived Great Britain and her Allies, has sided with our enemy, and is fighting against us, Mr. Wallis (who knows Bulgaria), instead of advising us on how to defeat them, suggests a way of bribing them. Is he aware, I wonder, that the German offer to Bulgaria exceeds tenfold the offer suggested by himself? Does he know that, even after the enemy has been totally defeated, Bulgaria, win or lose, will not separate from Austria-Hungary and Germany? Does he know that the Bulgarians are fighting with all their might to help Germany to defeat us, so as to establish Bulgarian hegemony in the Balkans—a greater Bulgaria that would place the British interests in the East in jeopardy?

Can Mr. Wallis imagine how the heart of every Serbian who read his last and his previous letters ached? Can he imagine in the least what the Serbian nation is suffering at present? Has he forgotten the words of praise of Serbian heroism spoken by the late Lord Kitchener? Has he any conception of the grief of English mothers, wives, and sisters who have lost their sons, husbands, and brothers on the Salonika front? And does he think that Serbia deserves the anguish of discovering that her friends, as well as her enemies, demand a "pound of flesh"? No, Mr. Wallis, that would not be cricket. That is not English.—I am, etc.,

11, Air Street, D. JANITSCH.
Regent Street, W.1,
June 6, 1917.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE MECHANISM OF EXCHANGE.*

This book deals with the economic development of the world's trade and the effect of the war on the intricate machinery of modern finance. The author holds that the study of economics has not received in the past the popular attention to which it is entitled. This may have been due to the more or less satisfactory manner in which the prevailing methods have worked; but the war has had such an effect upon international trade, and, as a corollary, on our monetary system, that the subject has developed into one of great practical interest, of significance to every member of the community.

The earlier part of the book deals with the history and origin of the various forms of money or money substitutes, from the primitive exchange or barter of goods between nomadic tribes to the development of a medium of barter by the invention of money and the evolution of the markets of the world.

The author then explains the earlier problems which arose in the establishment of the precious metals as the media of exchange, eventually resulting in the acceptance of a gold standard by all the more important nations of the world. This leads to the consideration of the growth of the modern banking and credit system, which for practical purposes has now replaced the actual employment of money for all business transactions. This credit system is one of profound importance, as upon it rests the whole edifice of trade development.

The functions of money are necessarily of a temporary nature only. Money is employed to represent values between the sale and purchase of commodities; in other words, it is a common measure of values. Now, in order that this common measure may fulfil its functions satisfactorily, it must have a recognised fixed value, and must be universally accepted at that value. Gold has been the accepted medium of exchange, and has more or less fulfilled these requirements, but the quantity of gold available has precluded its actual use as a medium in the vast turnover of modern business.

In consequence of this the modern credit system has arisen, which employs the common measure in terms of gold. By this means the merchant who sells goods receives credit "in terms of gold" for his sale, disposing of that credit by a purchase at a later date. No actual gold passes through his hands. In fact, except in very small transactions, the actual use of gold would be a serious inconvenience to business.

In recent years, owing to the enormous expansion of trade, the current requirements of a medium of exchange have risen out of all proportion to the amount of gold available, and in consequence the credit system in terms of gold may be said to have taken the place of gold, the metal forming an adjunct only to that system in settling a temporary difference in the balance of trade.

Nevertheless the credit system is controlled by gold, as it is based on the recognised though tacit understanding that, if demanded, payment will be made in gold. For this, indeed, in normal times, the available stock of gold was considered sufficient. In critical times, however, when people doubt their neighbours' ability to meet their obligations, there is a general attempt at liquidation, and an effort is made to return to the old method of treating gold as the actual medium of exchange.

The author gives a very clear and useful account of the financial crisis in August, 1914, and its effect on our credit system. Every man of business remembers only too vividly the sudden demand for cash, the four days' suspense, and then the issue of treasury notes; and it is interesting to observe how these notes supplied the want of a mobile medium of exchange to replace the contraction in the credit system. It would be a mistake, however, to say that treasury notes have taken the place of gold as the medium of exchange, as they only form at present a development of the credit system, and are based on the credit of the country in terms of gold. In fact, they may be changed for gold if anyone desires to do so.

Paper money, however, has undoubtedly come to stay in some form or other, and the interesting problem arises as to what its relation to gold will be, and how it will fulfil its functions. As the author points out, the value of gold as a medium of exchange varies according to the output of the world's mines. It is subject to great local fluctuations through sudden demands arising in one or other of the countries using it as a standard, thus causing the world's stock to gravitate in that direction. He thus clearly shows its weakness on the basis of the quantity theory of money.

Properly to fulfil its functions, the supply of money should be controlled by the world's requirements, as shown by the "Index Number of Wholesale Prices." In the case of paper money it would be feasible to do this, and thus average values could be kept constant. On the other hand, the value of paper currency is dependent upon the responsibility and credit of the Government of the country in which it is used; and it is further complicated by its position in relation to international exchange.

The author makes the suggestion that an international note might be issued based on the requirements as shown by the index numbers of the countries concerned, the issue being controlled by an international commission. While the suggestion in this form might appear fantastic, if one bears in mind that a medium of exchange between countries is only required to adjust temporary differences in the balance of trade, it should be feasible by the establishment of temporary credits between the nations concerned to obviate the employment of gold as a medium. Of this method, indeed, our financial relations with the United States for the past two years offer a striking example. Owing to her excessive exports to this country we became heavily in her debt. Gold in payment was not acceptable as the creditor country had ample for her purposes; and the method of settlement adopted was to pledge her securities held in this country.

Apart from such fruitful speculations on economic methods now evolving before our eyes, the author has embodied in this useful volume his long-cherished ideas of how economics should be studied both by the student and the man of business, and he is to be congratulated on the comparatively simple and effective manner in which he presents the "dry science." In this respect the book is good enough to reach a wider circle than the merely professional and technical student.

J. P.

* "The Mechanism of Exchange." By John A. Todd, B.L. Published by Humphrey Milford. 5s. net.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Lane has just published "In Greek Seas and Other Poems of Travel," by Oswald H. Hardy. (3s. 6d. net).

Mr. Leonard S. Woolf's "The Future of Constantinople," which is published by Allen and Unwin, advocates the internationalisation of that city.

Part 147 of "*The Times* History of the War" carries the account of the Roumanian campaign of 1916 to completion. The illustrations are numerous, and the maps useful.

Two pamphlets advertised by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton are "Microbe Culture at Bukarest," describing discoveries at the German Legation, from the Roumanian official documents; and "The Murderous Tyranny of the Turks." The first costs one penny, the second twopence.

Mr. Robert Scott has just published a new book, by Miss Norman Lorimer, "By the Waters of Africa." The book, which is illustrated by many photographs, is priced at 10s. 6d. net.

M. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, left Sofia for Berlin last week.

Five hundred delegates were present at the first congress of Zionists of All Russia in Petrograd last week.

Mr. John William Redfern writes (from Petrograd) to the *West Sussex Gazette*: "No doubt it will be of interest to many of your readers who have, or did have, until recently, friends or relatives in Roumania, and especially in Bukharest, that up till January 14 last the English (about 100) who could not get away from that city before its surrender were being treated by the Germans with every consideration, and neither the men nor the women were interned up till that date, but had been allowed to attend to their different vocations as usual."

Colonel the Hon. Guy Wilson, M.P., commanding the battalion to which the late Lieutenant Gresham, of Bridlington, was attached, has written to Lieutenant Gresham's parents regarding their son's death. Colonel Wilson states that Lieutenant Gresham had been in hospital only two days when the Turks carried out an air raid on the hospital, and a bomb exploding in the ward in which Lieutenant Gresham was sleeping he was killed. Colonel Wilson remarks: "This systematic bombing of our hospitals by enemy aeroplanes makes one's blood boil. The Turks say they are only retaliating for what we have done, but if we have bombed their hospitals it has only been by mistake, whereas the Turks have made every effort to bomb ours and have also shelled them."

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. June.	1917. June.		1335. Shaaban	5677. Sivan
15	2	Friday	24	25
16	3	Saturday.....	25	26
17	4	Sunday	26	27
18	5	Monday	27	28
19	6	Tuesday	29	29
20	7	Wednesday	30 Ramadan	30 Tamuz
21	8	Thursday	1	1

In a message dated June 6, Reuter's correspondent at Jassy reports:—Sir George Barclay, the British Minister, was to-day received in audience and handed to King Ferdinand of Roumania, on behalf of King George, the Collar of the Victorian Order.

The Crown Prince of Serbia arrived in Corfu last week.

Prince Soutzo, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, and Princess Soutzo have arrived in London from France.

Lieutenant N. A. Lahovary, the son of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, arrived in London on Thursday from France, on his way to Jassy to join his regiment.

General Georgescu, the chief of the Roumanian Military Commission, is leaving London very shortly for France.

Major-General Count Gleichen and Countess Gleichen have arrived at 35, Catherine Street, Buckingham Gate, which will be their permanent address.

Mr. L. Einstein, formerly American Minister to Sofia, has arrived in London. Mr. Einstein's splendid work on behalf of the British prisoners in Bulgaria will be recalled by our readers.

Colonel Borisavitch, head of the Serbian Red Cross, left England last Saturday for France.

Mr. Bonar Law has received official confirmation from the Vatican of the fact that his second son, Lieutenant C. J. Law, King's Own Scottish Borderers, is a prisoner with the Turks. A Reuter's message from Rome adds that the Vatican has ascertained that Lieutenant Law is being well treated, and that there appears to be no cause whatever for apprehension in regard to him.

On June 7, at Alexandria, the wife the Rev. C. A. Lea Wilson, C.M.S., Gordon Memorial Mission, gave birth to a daughter.

An engagement is announced between Temporary Major H. A. Wernher, Lancers, second son of the late Sir Julius Wernher, Bt., and Lady Wernher, of Luton Hoo, and Countess Zia de Torby, elder daughter of his Imperial Highness Grand Duke Michael of Russia and Countess de Torby.

The marriage arranged between Captain H. B. Haydon-White, D.S.O., the Queen's Own (Royal West Kent Regiment) (attached Egyptian Army), only child of the late C. Haydon-White, M.R.C.S., and Miriam Olive, youngest daughter of Alfred Barrett, of Lammas, Cowes, I.W., will now take place quietly at Holy Trinity Church, Cowes, on Wednesday, June 20, at 11.30 a.m. There will be no reception, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

The presentation of the Royal Asiatic Society's Public School gold medal and prizes took place on Tuesday. Sir John Hewett, G.C.S.I., C.I.E., made the presentations.

The King's new honorary chaplain, the Rev. E. A. Burroughs, is one of the discoveries of the war, says a writer in the *Daily Chronicle*. A young clergyman, with a brilliant University career, he has suddenly leapt into the first rank of speakers and writers. Just lately he has been in Egypt, addressing military and other audiences. Mr. Burroughs has the gift of putting old truths in a new and fascinating setting—hence the large sales of his books. Other Churches than his own—for instance, the Presbyterian—have lately invited him to address clerical gatherings. He is only thirty-six.

Miss Vivian Edwards, whose delightful lecture recital on "Ballads and Folk Songs of Serbia and the Southern Slavs," illustrated by songs and lantern slides, has given so much pleasure, will be at Pond Farm, Worcester Park, until the middle of July. Miss Edwards has been giving her recital in various parts of England for the benefit of the Serbian Relief and other War Funds.

We regret to learn that Professor Pavlé Popovitch has been indisposed this week. He is now, we understand, making satisfactory progress.

The Serbian Minister, the Roumanian Minister and M. Gennadius were among those present at the recital of Serbian Church music which was given at the Church of St. Augustine, Queen's Gate, last Saturday afternoon. The recital had been arranged by the Anglican and Eastern Association in aid of Serbian Red Cross Funds, and it attracted a large attendance. The music, with English words, was sung by the choir of St. Mary, Boltons, South Kensington, aided by members of the Gregorian Festival Choir, directed by Mr. F. Burgess.

The matinée being organised by Miss Helen Morris for the Royal Flying Corps troops in the Near East (to provide them with comforts, mosquito nets, and the like) will take place at Wyndham's Theatre on the 19th inst.

Sir P. Nairne, chairman of the Seamen's Hospital Society, speaking at a Red Cross meeting at Lee, said that the society he represented had been asked to send out a party of doctors especially skilled in tropical medicine to the Serbian Red Cross Society at Salonika. The London School of Tropical Medicine was one of the off-shoots of the Seamen's Hospital Society, he said. They had a large staff of teachers and doctors working in that school, and in the branch hospital at the Victoria and Albert Docks. As a result they would be able shortly to send a party of doctors to go and work with the Serbian and British Red Cross Societies.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has agreed to send a further sum of £40,000 to the British Red Cross Society, £30,000 of this amount being for general hospital work, stores, etc., in Mesopotamia. The fund now reaches the satisfactory grand total of £613,859. Donations and offers of assistance will be gratefully received by the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.1.

Reuter's message from Madrid announces that the Archduke Salvator of Austria, who died at Palma de Mallorca, left his property in Egypt and practically his entire fortune to his secretary, Antonio Vives, and his sons.

The National Roumanian Relief Fund has sent £25,000 to the Roumanian Minister in London for Roumanian Red Cross purposes. The Hon. Treasurer of the Fund is Mr. John Rae, the Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The assailant of Lieutenants Campbell and Burns—the two British officers who were stabbed at Phaleron, near Athens, last month—has been committed for trial, charged with attempted murder and with unlawfully carrying arms.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, has telegraphed to M. Ribot, congratulating him on his success in dissipating cleverly circulated but chimerical ideas in favour of a peace without annexations or indemnities, the purport of which is to relieve Germany of her responsibility and re-establish the *status quo ante* in Europe, and thus allow Germany to dispose of 40 million people belonging to other nations.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Right Honourable Austen Chamberlain, M.P., Secretary of State for India, has appointed Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan, barrister-at-law, to be a Member of the Council of India, in succession to Sir Abbas Ali Baig, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.

Sahibzada Aftab Ahmed Khan belongs to a noble Pathan family. He studied at Christ's College, Cambridge, and was called to the Bar in 1894. He has done very valuable work as a trustee of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh, and has taken an active part in the movement to raise the college to the status of a university. He was President of the Moslem Conference at Calcutta in 1911, and he is an advocate of higher education for Moslems.

Major Nicolas Arion is to be accredited to the Court of St. James as Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation. He will still remain chief of the Roumanian Government Committee at the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement in Canada House, Kingsway. Major Arion is the son of the late General Arion, formerly Commander-in-Chief of the Roumanian Army, who was succeeded by Prince Ferdinand, now King of Roumania.

The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent reports that Mr. G. D. Grahame, Councillor of the British Embassy in Paris, is to represent Great Britain at the Montenegrin Court at Neuilly.

General Berthelot has been promoted Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour for exceptional services rendered in the reorganisation of the Roumanian Army.

M. Popovitch has formed a new Montenegrin Ministry. He will himself act as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

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OBITUARY.

DR. CARL ETHE.

Dr. Carl Hermann Ethé, the eminent Oriental scholar died at Clifton, Bristol, on June 7, at the age of 73. For nearly forty years he had been professor of German and of Oriental languages at the University College, Aberystwyth. Early in the seventies he went to Oxford to complete the catalogue of Persian, Turkish, Arabic, and other Oriental manuscripts in the Bodleian Library; and later he worked upon the supplementary catalogue of Arabic in the Bodleian. In 1875 he went to Aberystwyth. Meanwhile in 1872 he was entrusted with the compilation of a catalogue of Persian manuscripts in the India Office Library. He was not a naturalised British subject, and his employment at the India Office led to some discussion in the House of Commons last year. It was stated on behalf of the India Office that Dr. Ethé had been engaged on the work for many years, that he had all the threads of it in his hands, and that he was over seventy years of age; and that the India Office would be sorry to lose the results of his patient and laborious work. Subsequently Professor Herford, of Manchester University, wrote to *The Times* stating that Dr. Ethé left Germany because he was absolutely opposed to Prussian political ideas.

In addition to the catalogues of the Bodleian and India Office libraries, Dr. Ethé was the editor of "Yusuff and Zalikha," by Firdausi of Tus, and of numerous publications in Germany.

Colonel Richard William Charles Winsloe, late of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, died last week at Dover at the age of eighty-two years. The second son of the late Mr. Richard Winsloe, of Taunton, he obtained a commission in the 15th Regiment, from which he transferred to the Royal Scots Fusiliers, and with the latter regiment he took part in the Siege of Sebastopol and in the Expedition to Kinburn, receiving for his services the medal with clasp and the Turkish medal. He also served in the Zulu campaign, the Transvaal campaign of 1880-81, and the Burmese Expedition of 1886-87. He was made a C.B. in 1889, and was an aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria until 1890.

Commander Charles E. F. Cunninghame Graham, R.N., M.V.D., Groom in Waiting to H.M. the King, died last Friday. He entered the Navy in 1867, and he was in command of H.M.S. Ariadne when she conveyed the then Prince and Princess of Wales to Egypt and the Crimea. For some years he was deputy chief-inspector to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. His brother, Mr. R. B. Cunninghame Graham, is a distinguished author and traveller.

The funeral of Commander Cunninghame Graham took place on Tuesday afternoon at Ashtead Parish Church. The King was represented by Sir Charles Cust, R.N., Equerry to his Majesty. A Memorial Service was held, by special permission, in the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace. Queen Alexandra was represented by Colonel Sir Henry Streatfield, the King and Queen of Norway by Colonel Sir Henry Knollys, and Princess Beatrice by Mr. Victor Corkran.

It is announced that the Postmaster-General of the Serbian Army, Serbian G.H.Q., Mr Radoye Radoylovitch, died suddenly in Salonika. For many years he was a very well-known member of the Serbian Progressive party and also for some time editor of the party's organ *Videlo*.

The death is announced of Mrs. S. A. Latham, widow of G. R. Latham, M.I.C.E., of Bombay, described as the "projector of the overland route through Turkish Arabia."

Inspector-General Robert Bentham, who has died at Ealing at the age of seventy years, was in charge of Malta Hospital from 1904 till 1907, retiring in the latter year with the honorary rank of Inspector-General of Hospitals and Fleets.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Dickenson, late of the Bombay Staff Corps, whose death in his eighty-sixth year is announced, took part in the Persian Expedition in 1857, and two years later served in the Indian Mutiny. In 1848-9 he had served through the Punjab campaign. He was also in the Abyssinian campaign of 1867-8, and shortly afterwards was made Companion of the Order of the Star of India.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

MARTIN.—On June 4, at Alexandria, Egypt, the wife of Lieut. John Grantley Martin, Army Pay Department, of a son.

MULLINS.—On June 8, at the Anglo-American Hospital, Cairo, Marjory, the wife of Hugh T. Mullins, Khartoum, of a daughter.

DEATH.

ETHE.—On the 7th inst., at 29, Royal York Crescent, Clifton, Carl Hermann Ethé, M.A., Ph.D., late Professor of Oriental Languages, University of Wales.

The portrait of the Sultan Mohammed II., by Gentile Bellini, which formed part of the Layard Bequest, has now been placed on view in the entrance hall of the National Gallery.

According to the *Lokalanzeiger*, the Austrian Aero Club is preparing a Hamburg-Constantinople air service, which, it is estimated, will cost 40 million marks (£2,000,000 at pre-war rates).

News has been received by the Montenegrin Relief Committee, 11, Victoria Street, that there is famine in Montenegro. In the small town of Niksitch 18 died of famine in a single day. The population are reduced to eating horseflesh, grass, herbs, and the roots of trees.

Messrs. Christie sold on Tuesday the Rhodian, Persian, and Damascus faience of Mr. S. E. Kennedy. The highest price was £661 10s. for a Rhodian bottle, with pear-shaped body and bulbous neck, 17 ins. high. A Damascus dish, painted with formal flowers, 14 ins. diameter, brought £546. Other prices were: A Rhodian bottle, 15½ ins. high, £399; a Persian or Damascus jug, £183 15s.; a Rhodian jug 9½ ins. high £136 10s.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

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This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.
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FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1917.

GREECE: THE NEW PHASE.

History has repeated itself in Greece. Fifty-five years ago the Greeks expelled their first King for his autocratic tendencies, and for failing to establish good government. The first symptoms of a breach between the Court and the people at that time manifested themselves in connection with contemporary events in Italy. The Court took no pains to conceal its attachment to Austria when war broke out in Italy, while the Greeks sympathised strongly with the Italians, moved by the revolutionary traditions of their own war of independence. Of King Otho, Finlay, the historian of Greece, writes that he "had no clear conception of what patriotism really was, and no settled conviction that the Greek people had a better right to good government than a foreign king could have to occupy the Greek throne. . . . He was one of those who hardly believed that a king, who was seeking to increase or defend the Royal power, could go wrong in politics." To-day it is King Constantine's turn. The course of events has varied; but the principles at stake are the same. By the actions of its Sovereign the Greek people has again been deprived of its constitutional right to determine the national policy. King Constantine may have satisfied himself of the honesty of his intentions, but it is entirely a delusion to believe, as he has done, and, indeed, has acted on the belief, that his honesty has rendered him superior to the wisdom of the country as a whole and to that of its ablest statesman in particular. His offence has been directed against Greece and the Greeks. He has contrived to antagonise the protecting Powers, and it is they who have supplied the machinery for his deposition; but they would have had little ground for their drastic step if they had not been confident that the great bulk of Greek opinion supported them and realised that they were acting in the best interests of Greece.

The march of events in Athens has been dramatic in its rapidity, and many parts of the full story are still lacking from the information that has been made public. King Constantine's recalcitrancy has remained the one unchanging factor in the situation. In spite of the appointment of M. Zaimis as Prime Minister, and of a formal acquiescence in the demands of the Entente Powers that nothing should be done to endanger the safety of the Salonika Army, the King continued to show that he regarded himself as absolved from all undertakings in giving effect to his feelings of hostility towards the Allies and his loyalty to the cause of Germany. The ripening of Thessaly's harvest introduced a fresh development. That province is the granary of Greece, including the islands. There was ample ground, it appears, for the suspicion that King Constantine intended to seize the Thessalian crops in order to reserve them for that part of Greece which nominally accepted his government, and thus to leave the rest of the country, which had thrown in its lot with the Nationalist movement, to starve, or, at least, to fend for itself. The fiction of the disarmament of the Greek army and of its removal from Northern to Southern Greece could no longer be maintained. It was evident that the Thessalian harvest could be secured for the benefit of Greece as a whole only by the Allies' assuming control of it and holding it in trust for the Greek people, and not merely for the small following that openly sided with the King. With this end in view, the French and British Governments decided to send a special emissary to Greece. M. Jonnart, formerly Governor-General in Algeria, arrived in Greek waters on June 6 as High Commissioner for Allied purposes. After a brief visit to Salonika, he returned to the Piræus, and last Monday presented a Note to the Prime Minister demanding the abdication of King Constantine and the designation of his successor, the Crown Prince being excluded. A Crown Council was held the same day, and a reply was communicated to M. Jonnart within twenty-four hours. The King, so ran the message, solicitous, as always, solely for the interests of Greece, has decided to leave the country with the Crown Prince, and designates as his successor Prince Alexander. For the first time in a sorry record extending over two years the Allies have taken the one practical step that offered an immediate solution of the Greek problem. The abdication of King Constantine was not called for in 1915. It would have been sufficient then if the Allies had shown themselves as resolved on a definite course of action as they did on June 11, 1917. The Athens Government is no stranger to Allied demands; but so long as these were unsupported either by unmistakable determination or by adequate force, they could be met with prevarication. The difference between M. Jonnart and the numerous emissaries who have preceded him was that he was able to speak with conviction, and King Constantine had the knowledge that Allied troops and Allied ships were at last within reach to support his demands.

The curtain rings down on King Constantine, but it is too early to infer that the Greek drama is at an end. Great Britain and France have done well in restricting their action to a demand for a new Sovereign. Greece, of her own accord, elected to be a constitutional monarchy, and the protecting Powers guaranteed her in the possession of that form of government. Any change in her status must be made by the Greeks themselves, and cannot be suggested from outside. Constitutional monarchy in Greece is not necessarily bankrupt because King Constantine has been a failure. King George succeeded where King Otho courted disaster, and Prince Alexander may be able to avoid the mistakes which have proved the undoing of his father. It would be idle, however, to ignore the fact that the prolonged misrule of King Constantine has directed the public mind to the subject of republicanism. Forces are at work which may, perhaps, be found to have received during the past two years too much encouragement to be denied now. The future of the dynasty founded by King George depends in part on the strength that these forces have acquired, and in part on the action of the members of the Royal house. If King Constantine, Queen Sophie, and the Crown Prince accept their decree of banishment and act as they claim to act—"solely for the interests of Greece"—and if the young King loyally upholds the Constitution and places himself unreservedly in the hands of the man who has saved Greece before and is able to save her again, then all may be well with the dynasty. There has been no vacancy on the throne, and a favourable demeanour on the part of Prince Alexander may disarm some of the hostility to a monarchy which was inevitable in the face of King Constantine's persistent offending. In regard to this point, however, Greece must decide for herself. On the Allies is laid the obligation to see that the work they have taken in hand is done cleanly and effectually. The Court and its immediate entourage have battened for so long on intrigue that it will have become second nature to them. When the King and Queen have been removed there will still be others in a position to carry on the German tradition. Unless, therefore, steps are taken to see that the country is freed completely from the evil influence of the old Court party, the good achieved by the Allies will be largely undone.

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SERBIAN MEMORIES.

By ELBRIDGE COLBY.

III.—Among the Country Folk.

Most of my time in Serbia was spent at the little village of Klitchevatz, on the Danube, within very, very close range of the Austrian troops and artillery, who occasionally fired at us or dropped a bomb or so from an aeroplane. What was I doing so near the frontier? Carrying corn to starving Serbians! Sounds well, doesn't it?

I was one of a unit of twenty, and we all loaded our little Ford autos every morning with about eight hundred pounds of corn and carried it twenty odd miles over very bad roads to a small station on the railway, passing through Posharevatz and ending at Osipaonitsa—three trips a day. This corn had been purchased in this, the richest section of the country, by the Minister of the Interior, and was being shipped south for distribution among the poor peasant folk in the Macedonian and Albanian districts. That is how I happened to be "carrying corn to starving Serbians."

But the natives from whose district we took the corn were neither starving nor very poor, and their countryside was very beautiful and very interesting. Klitchevatz was an out-of-the-way place, almost untouched by any civilization except the civilization of war—the whole place teemed with soldiers. Every night there was a stampede of pigs down the hill and along the one and only street; they came from the rich grazing grounds on the plateau above, and each found his own house and supper without help or guidance. Twice a day the strong and healthy peasant girls came to the two wells beside the "town hall" and filled their earthen jars with water. A stick over the shoulders, a few notches on the stick, and the sturdy young creatures marched off with several large pitchers brimming full. So, while the men crowded the army posts, the women did the work in the fields, on the roads with the ox-teams, at the market place, as well as about the house. The old men and boys who had not been called to military service were decked out in a strange costume. A vest and a coat, always of the same brown cloth, an embroidered shirt, large loose white trousers even bigger than pyjamas, and a short affair of the same white stuff much like a petticoat, curious raw leather sandals with long hide lacings, and gaudy decorated woollen socks almost to the knees—queer clothes, which I felt no inclination to adopt.

Whenever we went into a Serbian house, we were received according to the custom of the country. A tray was presented with one large dish of sweet preserves, called *sladko*, and spoons and glasses of water. The proper thing is to dip a spoon into the large dish and just taste the sweets, then to drink a glass of water and leave the soiled spoon in the glass. Each of the visitors is served in turn, and then after a while some thick Turkish coffee is offered, accompanied by the inevitable glass of water. Perhaps, if you are a particular friend or an official person on an official visit, you would be offered some *shlivervitz* or *komenovitsa*, alcoholic beverages made from plums and cherries, and also some fruit. But always there will be the glass of water; and always, except with the coffee and the liquors, the host and hostess will avoid partaking of the refreshments. "It is the custom."

IV.—Belgrade Between Battles.

In Nish we boarded a special railway carriage set apart for the members of foreign missions. There we met French doctors, nurses, and aviators, Russian nurses and sailors, British Red Cross people and Marine Artillerymen, members of a Danish unit, American medical men and relief expeditionaires. All the world had come to the assistance of Serbia.

In such company we travelled from Nish to Belgrade, in a train which left at eight in the evening and arrived the next morning. So slowly did that train wind its way around the turns and up the grades that one of our party jumped off, ran up an embankment, took a snap-shot of an interesting bridge, and climbed again up the same carriage step.

We left the train at a pleasure resort amidst the hills just outside Belgrade, and tramped through an old palace garden and over a temporary bridge, constructed in place of the one we had seen battered into the bed of the small stream, and so on up a high hill. An antique church on the slope was untouched by warfare, even the gilt steeple and the sacred paintings were intact, but a house on the top of the hill was badly shattered by shell-fire. So, among old trenches and shell holes, we marched towards the big military hospital of three thousand beds, kept by Dr. Ryan and the American Red Cross. Here cleanliness, system, order and neatness reigned: on every hand were seen the marks of an organizing Irish genius. All the materials were shipped direct from New York; the work went on with admirable punctuality and precision; and the little automobile in the yard reminded us of American impatience and hurry. A French battery on the hill behind fired sometimes over the hospital, and Austrian shrapnel often broke windows and wounded passers-by. The next excursion was into the very river-front trenches, where excavations lurked behind rows of trees and under railway embankments. A cigarette or so to the soldiers on duty and an offer to "snap-shot" a group were the inevitable passports going in, and it was only when we were coming out of the military zone that anyone asked to examine our papers. We dashed madly across an open exposed place, and gained the wharves beyond, where the houses facing the water were badly damaged by gun- and rifle-fire. The bridge, they told us, was the most dangerous locality; so we sneaked behind brush and buildings and arrived at the long, ruined railway bridge which formerly connected Belgrade with Austria. We were fearful of being "sniped" any minute, but when we arrived at the huge stone pier on the shore, there was a British sailor clambering out of the wet after a swim in the Sava, while two Serb soldiers calmly fished for their midday meal. True, the improvised torpedo raft did look like business; but never an Austrian appeared, never a shot interested us.

In the afternoon we wandered among the shell holes in the garden of the Minister of Finance, and then marched into the old citadel. Here a railway passport and correct replies to a few detailed inquiries as to certain facts about the American hospital served to let us in. Damaged portraits of George Kara-Georgevitch and of Prince George testified to the Austrian occupation, and huge heaps of burned muskets to the systematic Serbian evacuation of a year ago. We were then shown an old chapel, a masked searchlight, and let through the communicating trenches to the French and Russian batteries. Here in the walls of these hidden passages were visible the bones of buried soldiers who had fallen in battle some hundred years ago.

Lieutenant Pavitchevitch, commanding the Russian battery, was very kind. He invited us to eat and drink with him; and we discovered mutual friends, as we consumed cigarettes, beer, coffee, cognac and sandwiches; but he as host, following the Serbian custom, did not partake; for there the host gives of what he has and does not eat or drink himself. It is a habit indicative of true hospitality.

Then we proceeded to the *café* of "The Russian Tsar." The *café* was only partly full, for the town was deserted by nearly two-thirds of its inhabitants; the streets were empty, and the big French auto-lorries came thundering down without hindrance. In the *café* we had our evening meal, interrupted only by an inquisitive detective who came around examining papers, and by the occasional sound of a shell fired by the batteries over the hill. But, within the radius of the few lights, one would scarcely have known that Belgrade was the exposed capital of a country at war. Only about 5 per cent. of the buildings had been at all damaged, some few of the shops did "business as usual," and the varying uniforms of Serb, Briton, Frenchman and Russian served almost to lend a touch of gay colour to the scene.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

King Constantine's Abdication.

The news of the abdication of King Constantine has been received with undiluted satisfaction by the British Press. Here are two extracts from *The Times* leading article of Thursday, "King Constantine's Fall":—

The ease and tranquility with which this necessary step has been carried out show how unfounded were the timid fears which forbade its accomplishment long ago, when its salutary results in the Balkans would have been more certainly assured. Even now we believe that it will have a very wholesome effect, not only in that peninsula, but in Courts elsewhere which have presumed too boldly upon the forbearance and the vacillation of the Allies. . . . King Alexander is understood to be free from the Potsdam conceptions of monarchy, and it has been believed in the past that he would be acceptable to M. Venizelos as a constitutional Sovereign. We earnestly hope that the statesman who saved the dynasty and the country when military anarchy threatened them eight years ago will be summoned at once to assist King Alexander in this new crisis of their people's destinies. It is true that quite recently some prominent members of the Provisional Government at Salonika over which M. Venizelos presides have roundly declared that not only the ex-King but the dynasty has become impossible, and that no compromise is conceivable between it and Liberal Greece. But it is worth noting that, while M. Venizelos vehemently reiterated his refusal of any reconciliation with the then Sovereign not many weeks ago, he does not appear to have extended it to the Royal House.

The *Morning Post*, heading its article "M. Jonnart's Broom," writes:—

King Constantine has abdicated, and a son has been put in his place; but it is necessary to remember that as long as the clique which directed the King's policy remains, so long will there be trouble. The King may or may not have been a figure-head; but it is certain that he would have been impotent for mischief without the men who surrounded him, whereas if they are left no change of kings will make much difference. The names of these pro-German plotters are, no doubt, known to M. Jonnart, and we hope that he has adequate powers to deal with them.

The article concludes:—"As for King Constantine and his advisers they are dangerous men, who should by no means be permitted to join the Central Powers, where they would renew their intrigues from a secure basis, but should be kept as hostages until after the war."

The Occupation of Janina.

The Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* (June 12) writes that the Italian occupation of Janina "has aroused Greek public opinion, irrespective of party cleavage, as no other occupation of Greek territory has done since the fall of Serres, Drama, and Kavalla into Bulgarian hands." He continues:—

Certainly outside the small Germanophil circle no occupation of Greek territory by British or French forces during the present war has created any such sensation. Had it not been for the blind and unreasoning hatred of the Greek Court against M. Venizelos, Italy would not have set foot in Epirus.

It is perhaps not generally known that shortly after the establishment of the Venizelos Government at Salonika King Constantine was urged by his friends to permit the extension of Venizelist occupation to North Epirus and Janina. Not only was this friendly advice rejected, but North Epirus was used by the Germanophil Court and Government at Athens as a point of contact and communication with the Central Empires.

The Allies' Task in the Balkans.

In a leading article in Tuesday's issue, *The Times* thus defined the main task of the Allies in the Balkans:—

That task is to reinstate the Serbians in possession of their own country, to defeat Bulgaria, and to cut the German road to the East. The liquidation of the Greek Royalist imbroglio being now a pressing necessity, let that liquidation be carried through with all vigour and despatch. Then, perhaps, it will be possible to concentrate attention upon what ought to have been throughout the main business of the Allied Armies based on Salonika, and to fulfil the Allied pledge to Serbia with exclusive regard for the military methods by which it can alone be satisfactorily fulfilled. As we have repeatedly insisted, the Allies owe it to themselves not to allow the military enterprise to which they are committed in the Balkans to be stultified by secondary considerations. That enterprise can be carried through only by defeating the enemy in the field. If, as a preliminary to his defeat, it be necessary to remove the Greek menace from the Allied flank, the menace ought certainly to be removed. But when this has been done—say, even while it is being done—the Allied Governments should prepare to deal with the major problem in such a way as to ensure success.

German Control of Austria.

The *Observer* last Sunday grappled boldly with that thorny question, the future of Austria-Hungary—a problem which, as the *Observer* remarks, is very seldom frankly faced. Unless it is dealt with, however, there can be no lasting peace. "The existing constitution and spirit of Austria-Hungary are," says the writer, "absolutely incompatible with peace, and, on the contrary, make a positive breeding-ground for war. The failure to understand this has been responsible for half the miscalculations and disappointments of the Allies." The writer proceeds to argue that without control over Austria-Hungary, and through that over Bulgaria and Turkey, Germany would have been unable to bring about this war; and points out that "that control is actually exercised against the will of the majority of the population in the Dual Empire. The majority, consisting of nearly 30,000,000 of Slavs, Roumanians, Italians, is fighting the Allies against its will. History hardly records a grosser violation of all human decencies." To break the German ascendancy over the Dual Empire is the central problem of peace.

Austria-Hungary, unlike the other civilised Powers, is neither a national nor a natural State. It is a mass of anomalies and inequalities compacted into an artificial whole by the two minorities, the German and the Magyar. The races held in bond are the Czecho-Slovaks, the Poles, the Ruthenians, the unredeemed Roumanians, the South Slavs, the Italians of the Trentino, Istria, and the Dalmatian coast. Most of these live on intolerable terms of political subjection or of separation from their kindred or both.

Unless this system is wholly changed and replaced by large measures of equality and emancipation, the six subject-races we have mentioned will strive—and as education advances despite all impediments will strive more and more—for freedam and reunion. Restored peace will not endure because still not founded on justice. There will again be agitation, repression, conspiracy, assassination, explosion, and war. Renewed war will only be a question of time. The volcano of racial discontent in Central and South-Eastern Europe will have another of its periodic eruptions, and the upheaval as now will jeopardise nations thousands of miles away on either side. Either the Hapsburg Monarchy must be wholly reconstructed, or its artificial conglomerate must be finally broken up, or else we must expect tardy peace without stability or long rest. A seismic line would continue to stretch underneath the whole world's politics.

As to what is to follow the break-up, "there has yet been no practical answer."

You cannot propose to replace the existing state of things by arrangements still more artificial and precarious. The idea of a Slav corridor or highway driven through non-Slav territory as a link between the Czechs, Slovaks, and the Serbo-Croats will not bear serious examination. If the Hapsburg Monarchy were broken up into fragments there would either have to be a close political and economic connection between these smaller States or there would be chaos come again. Balkan conditions would be introduced into the heart of Europe.

Amongst points on which the writer expresses his views quite positively are these:—

The South Slav stocks ought to have every facility for forming one State, if the Croats and Slovenes are found to be ready for voluntary union with the orthodox Serbs. . . . The claim of the Roumanians to reunion with the unredeemed millions of their countrymen in the highlands will cause more trouble than before unless it is satisfied.

He then declares that:—

The Allies ought to have set up long ago a standing conference for thinking out these subjects. They bristle with thorns. Regarding them from the general standpoint of European interests and the world's, we are strongly inclined to the view that, as a result of subtractions and additions, a new Hapsburg federation can and ought to be created. If it cannot, the more drastic solution will have to be faced. Without an Austrian solution there can be no safe Balkan or Turkish solution. . . .

The need for something in the nature of the conference here suggested has repeatedly been referred to in THE NEAR EAST.

The Albanian Problem.

In an article entitled "The Future of Albania," the *Liverpool Daily Courier* says:—

No foreign State has been able to hold the country in the past. The Turks ruled it nominally, but the Sultan's power and the Sultan's laws were virtually ignored. And it is equally difficult to conceive Albania as one autonomous State. The Powers tried to make it one, but Prince William of Wied was besieged in his capital almost as soon as he was installed on the throne, and it was not long before he gave up a hopeless task. The solution has seemed really to lie in the establishment of a league of two or three autonomous but federated republics, and it is possible that this may have to be accomplished. The proclamation by Italy of a free and independent Albania under her protection may be the beginning of Albanian pacification. It is obvious that until the machinery for self-government is set up the protection of a Great Power is necessary, and since that Power cannot possibly be aggressive and greedy and despotic Austria, and as the other Balkan States could not agree—even if the Albanians agreed—to one of them filling the rôle, the responsibility must fall on one of the nations of the Entente. Italy's neighbouring position across the Adriatic naturally makes her this Power.

The Entente and Bulgaria.

In an article entitled "The New Departure in Balkan Diplomacy," in the *Nineteenth Century*, Mr. Noel Buxton urges strongly the advisability of detaching Bulgaria from the Central Powers and concluding a separate peace with her. Very early he makes a statement of strong interest:—

The public has been under a great delusion in regard to the Balkan question, for it was believed that Sir Edward Grey

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adopted the so-called "pro-Bulgarian" attitude, and was deceived by Bulgaria to the detriment of Serbia. The trouble, in point of fact, was, that offers worthy of the name were not made to Bulgaria; and it is time now to say that the credit of having urged that they should be made is due to Mr. Lloyd George.

The plan of sending a force to Salonika, again, was originally part of a scheme designed, not only to support Serbia, but for the enlistment of Bulgaria on our side. The subsequent plan of using Salonika to beat Bulgaria was a *pis aller*. Its success as a step in the march to the Danube appears now to be impossible, but the Prime Minister may have the satisfaction of seeing it used in its original form as an assistance to diplomatic action. It would be no more than justice that his policy in regard to Salonika should in this way be vindicated and not discredited, as it otherwise will be.

The desirability of the proposal in a military sense is obvious, as Mr. Buxton remarks. He defines what is suggested as follows:—

The Bulgarians might, when the moment comes, be induced, not indeed to fight for us, but to break with Germany, and as a pledge of good faith to allow the Allies to use their railways, now largely managed by Germans. The inducement offered might be the recognition of the 1912 Treaty between Bulgaria and Serbia (in which Russia was the arbitrator, and which gave part of Macedonia to Bulgaria) and of the old frontier with Roumania in the Dobrudja. We have other inducements to offer, probably adequate in amount.

The author refers, later in his article, to an episode which he rightly describes as of great importance. It took place in March, 1915:—

The Bulgarian plenipotentiary in London was invited by a Minister of the highest authority to telegraph to his Government an attractive proposal, but when the Bulgarian Government replied, making a definite request for a statement of the Entente's intentions, and saying that the Government would then come to a decision, the proposal was not adhered to by the Cabinet, and after long delay a cold answer was returned. Such an experience was enough to discredit and discourage the pro-Entente parties at Sofia, and it is perhaps, even by itself, a sufficent answer to the charge that Bulgaria had no justification for mistrusting the Allies.

As to a charge that has very frequently been brought against Bulgaria—and from a number of different directions—he writes:—

The idea that Bulgaria was treacherous has been sedulously promulgated by the party which has lost its head about Balkan affairs and forgotten British interests. Some members of this party are moved by enthusiasm for Serbia, which we all ought to feel: some by spiteful animosity against Bulgaria, which is a shallow and uninformed sentiment, very unprofitable to us and to each one of our Allies, both great and small. A genuine mania has arisen among them.

Mr. Buxton refers to the Foreign Office and its handling of the Balkan situation several times. Here are some quotations, in the order in which they occur in the article:—

We shall now hear no more of the violent attacks on the War Office and the Foreign Office for their leanings towards a rational policy. These Departments and those who shared their views have been charged with having been deceived by Bulgaria, and till now there has been no public advantage in correcting misapprehensions. . . .

The Foreign Office, though warned repeatedly of the certainty that Bulgaria, if not dealt with by the Allies, would be forced to resort to Germany, so that Serbia would be destroyed, hesitated under the influence of rival pressures, and sought safety in not committing itself to either policy, thus irritating both sides at once. . . .

The charge against the Allies' diplomacy, of which the British Foreign Office must bear its full share, is that it lost the sole opportunity of early and crushing victory. What fundamentally were its defects? (1) It held, as we learnt afterwards, that the Balkan States could be kept out of war altogether. (2) It was untrue to the principle of national rights. (3) It failed to unify itself so as to arrive at decision and action. Further, the Foreign Office must bear a heavy share of blame for "red tape." One of the really important causes of the Entente's failure was the unwillingness to place at Sofia diplomatic machinery capable of carrying out a rational policy.

Roumania and Russia.

In a message sent off from Jassy on June 6, and published on Saturday, the special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* writes of the grave anxiety with which Roumania is naturally regarding events in Russia. He says:—

The whole of Roumania is watching with the closest interest and greavest anxiety the varying phases of the political situaion in Russia. Roumania is irrevocably bound to the Allied cause; for her there is no turning back, no pausing by the way.

To-day, more than ever since her participation in the war, her military and pol'cital destinies rest in the hands of the Russian people. Any defection on the part of Russia, any compromise with the common enemy, would probably result in the disappearance of Roumania from the comity of nations.

These are anxious moments for King Ferdinand and his Government, for they fully realise that their country has arrived at the most critical moment in her history.

The Roumanian army, brave though sadly thinned in numbers, but ready and eager, awaits but the signal to demonstrate afresh its fidelity to the Allied cause, but it finds itself in a cleft. stick. The indifference and inertia of its powerful neighbour and ally paralyse its initiative, condemn it to uninterrupted inactivity.

There is no echo of war to be heard along the stretch of the Russo-Roumanian front from the borders of Bukovina to the junction of the Sereth with the Danube. Here, where two vast armies confront each other, the guns are silent and the rifles equally so . . Operations on this front have entered on a new phase. It is a war of propaganda.

The Germans are hurling missiles, but they are "not the old-fashioned high explosive shell which killed or maimed physically, but the moral and no less hurtful mendacious manifesto, printed on stout, red paper, with heavy black type, fresh from the German factory, which is calculated to kill loyalty and honour and engender discord, mistrust and hatred among the Russian soldiers."

Mount Athos in Wartime.

"C. F." contributes to the *Church Times* (June 8) a picturesque account of "An Easter Holiday from Macedonia." This holiday he spent in a flying visit—from Salonika—to Mount Athos, his companion being the Serbian Archimandrite Joachim. Arrived there safely, he found that—

The peninsula is occupied by a detachment of French and Russian troops, who are engaged in keeping an eye on the monks and to restrain any tendencies on their part to take a hand in the war. The ordinary Westerner does not usually connect monks with bellicose activities, but in the Balkans religion is very often the strongest incentive to race-hatred. In the Greek war of independence the massive walls of the Athonite monasteries and their considerable wealth had made them valuable supporters of the insurrection. Hence the occupation by Turkish troops, the confiscation of arms found in the monasteries, and the little permanent Turkish garrison which I had seen on my previous visit. As one of the great Greek houses was suspect of having assisted German submarines, and as the Greek and Russian monks seemed to be at daggers drawn, Allied troops are now supplementing the Greek Nationalist police force.

On Maundy Thursday he went to visit the Bulgarian monastery of Zograph:—

The Bulgar monks, true to their intensely practical national character, keep their road in excellent condition, which was a pleasant change after the other tracks, often more like beds of mountain torrents than paths. . . . I hurried into the church, where the brethren were assembled, and was at once invited to occupy a central stall where I could see all the ceremonies in progress. At the moment all present were passing in a long *queue* before the "Igumen" (superior) and five other monks, who stood, robed, in a semi-circle before the ikonostasis and signed each monk with oil on the forehead. I joined the procession, which seemed endless. We crossed ourselves and kissed the ikons, then passed down the line of senior monks and kissed the hand of each, after he had anointed us, then moved to the north transept and wiped our foreheads with little dabs of cotton-wool.

Of his treatment by the monks he writes:—

The French officers had assured me that, curiously enough, they always received the kindliest welcome at the hands of the Bulgars. They were certainly most hospitable to me. The service finished, they carried me off to their guest-chamber, and, after the usual refreshment, presented me with gifts, photos, a specimen of their wood-carving, and an ikon of their patron, St. George. It was pleasant, too, to be able to make oneself understood. Among the Greeks I am tongue-tied, until a brother is produced who speaks French or American. But Bulgarian is so closely akin to Serbian that my small stock of the latter language, helped on by good will, made conversation possible. My hosts politely regretted that our respective countries were at war, and declared themselves averse to mixing in political questions From what I have heard of politics on Mount Athos and of Bulgarian methods elsewhere, I do not know that I entirely believed them. But, anyhow, they were delightful, and gave the same impression as the Russians of a real monastic life.

Articles to Note

"Salonika and its Weather," by H. C. Owen, in *Land and Water* (May 31).

"Greece and the Entente," by W. Albery, in the *Socialist Review* (June).

"Motor Hospital Ships on the Tigris," in *The Times* (June 12).

"Turkey of To-day," in *The Times* (June 13).

"John Bull in the Garden of Eden," by D.S.O., in the *Saturday Review* (June 9).

"The Future of Mesopotamia," in the *Field* (June 9).

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* reports that Signor Chiesa has given notice of a question in the Italian Parliament on the proclamation of Albanian independence. It will be remembered that last week some extracts from an interview with Signor Chiesa were given in the "Press on the Near East."

Dr. Karl Wolff, a member of the Hungarian Chamber of Magnates and leader of the Transylvanian Saxons, writes in the *Pester Lloyd* that Roumania must be struck off the map of Europe. The guardianship of the Lower Danube must be in safe hands, and the Hungarian frontier, which incursions have proved to be dangerously exposed, must be changed.

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ROUMANIA AND HER ALLIES.

The Lord Provost of Edinburgh, as chairman of the National Roumanian Relief Fund, has received the following telegram from M. Také Jonescu, the Roumanian statesman :—

"The large sum of money which Lord Rosebery has given to our Legation in London on behalf of the National Roumanian Relief Fund for Red Cross purposes is a new evidence that the British nation is as generous as she is heroic. For the Roumanian nation the debt of gratitude is most sacred. We shall never forget what we owe to the British nation. This war has been our war, long before we entered into the field. We all know that you were, and that you are, fighting for us. It was our war, this war of civilisation against barbarism, of right against might, of free institutions against Prussian militarism, of nationalities against foreign domination, of freedom for the small States against Austro-German slavery. The British nation has entered into the contest without seeking any material advantage for itself. Like the sister Brito-Saxon Commonwealth beyond the ocean, the British nation has drawn its sword, and from the beginning, moved only by the loftiest motives of a noble conscience, it has spared nothing, its sons, its riches, the treasures of its warm hearts. It is thus writing the most beautiful pages of human history, alas, with so much blood. On a much smaller scale we have done the same. We were not materially attacked. It is by our own will, in perfect freedom and without pressure from anyone, that we have declared war on the mightiest military empire. We well knew all the difficulties. We have taken all the risks with a full conscience. In the unequal struggle of heavy artillery against human breasts we have been defeated. More than two-thirds of our country is under the heel of the hated German. Hundreds of thousands of our youth are lost. What was beaming with abundance and joy is a desolate wilderness. We do not mind. It was our duty to fight, and the price of doing one's duty is never to falter. If we were to choose again our path we would do the same. But our sufferings are appalling. Whatever the great heart of the British nation can do to alleviate them is welcomed and appreciated as a brotherly help. The day of crushing victory, which will be also the day of merciless expiation for the authors of this human catastrophe, will come, and after the victory we shall enjoy the just peace, the only peace which we wish for. Then my nation will prove by her fidelity to her great and noble Allies that she is worthy of their friendship. —TAKE JONESCU."

TURKEY AND THE JEWS.

The following appeal has been addressed through the Swiss Government to the Sultan of Turkey by Jeroham el Yachar, Chief Rabbi of Baghdad :—

The painful news that the youth of Judea, who in this age are the flower of Mosaic culture, have been expelled from their country has alarmed the Jewish world, and has grieved the children of Sion. No, Sire, I could not believe it if I had not had the unhappiness to observe the régime of corruption which obtains among the minor Imperial officials—wicked officials, alas! who, after having long assisted in dishonest operations which have caused the ruin of the country, have finally violated the *lois de la contribution* by strangling poor children, even in the police bureau, and afterwards secretly throwing the bodies in the Tigris, with the object of gaining the sympathy of their superiors. God knows whether this same class of officials are doing the same in Palestine, and in order to cover their deeds are trying to arouse enmity against the sons of Abraham.

Prostrate at the foot of your Throne, I venture to hope that my representations will be interpreted with the same sincerity with which they have been made, in begging your Imperial Majesty, in return for the eminent services I have rendered since the beginning of this terrible war, to ensure the safety of Sion.

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

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— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
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THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

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Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The exhibition of foreign trade lists and samples, organised by the Department of Commerce and Industry of the Board of Trade, to which I have referred previously, has already produced some results. In the issue of the Board of Trade *Journal* of June 7 British manufacturers and producers of certain classes of goods, formerly obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary, are invited to apply to the Department for the names of enquirers abroad. The list, at present, is small, but it includes one noteworthy need—small steam turbines of less than one horse-power. I mention this particularly because there is likely to be a demand in the Levant and Balkan countries for small-power plant. In any case, as the Board of Trade "shows willing" to take a hand in a trade campaign, our makers and merchants can do no less than offer to co-operate.

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Another important invitation issued by the Department is to those British manufacturers who have initiated new industries since the outbreak of the war. Many have been established in the United Kingdom, and goods which formerly had to be obtained from abroad are now being turned out at home. Manufacturers are therefore invited to inform the Department (at 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2) of new, or new developments of existing industries. I am glad to pass the invitation on; but having done so, would like to impress on our friends in the Near and Middle East that they have a certain obligation. Many, before the war, used to secure their stocks from the Continent; these should now send to the Department a list of those articles for which they can find a market. I am assured that the Department would be glad of information on such a subject.

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I have to welcome a new British trade body in the British Merchants' Morocco Association, which has just been incorporated. It has been established to facilitate the consideration and discussion of matters of interest to our trade in connection with Morocco, and the initiation of measures which may be desirable to promote British trade interests in that country. The secretary is Mr. P. B. Robinson, 17, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.2. Readers of THE NEAR EAST will recall the Trade and Engineering Notes in the last issue.

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We publish to-day an interesting account of the system of agricultural education established by the Bulgarian Government for which we are indebted to that excellent reporter, Mr. D. T. Murphy, the United States Consul-General at Sofia. Mr. Murphy makes it clear that although the Sofia Government has a poor conception of honour and gratitude, it has a clear eye for the main chance; its recognition of the advantages of agricultural education is an example to many better-placed and greater peoples. It is more than that, however. When the war has ended, the Allies will have a great work to perform in rehabilitating industries. Agriculture is one of these, and I suggest very earnestly to those who are now pushing various propaganda for Serbian relief to begin to organise a scientific agricultural department which would prove the salvation of the devastated countryside and the impoverished people of the country.

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It is not now too soon to begin. There may, or may not, be truth in the contention that we are still far from peace; we may take it for granted, however, that peace will come, like death, as a thief in the night, which means that all should be ready to reckon with it. In the case of Serbia, and other war-broken lands in which reconstruction will have to be the first work, too early a start cannot be made, and friends of the stricken Balkan State will serve her best by beginning to prepare now. Mr. Murphy's report, while brief, is fairly comprehensive, and is sufficient to show how a start may be made.

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Some interesting figures are included in the report of the Suez Canal Co. for 1916 which, presented at the sixty-third general meeting at Paris on June 11, is published in THE NEAR EAST to-day. The total receipts, compared with the previous year, declined by £367,350, notwithstanding the increased rates which came into operation in the year. The traffic account is even more gloomy. The traffic through the Canal—15,266,155 tons in 1915—fell to 12,325,347, a drop of about three million tons, to be added to the losses of four millions in 1915, and of 600,000 tons in 1914. This is war time, however, and the Canal could not possibly avoid being hit badly.

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Regarding the immediate future—what can be said? The directors decline to pose as prophets, and declare that there still exists an uncertainty. "After the war" is another matter, however. "The position after the war may be regarded with confidence" (the directors state), "for after peace, there is no doubt that as soon as the ocean routes become safe again there will be a notable renewal of shipping passing through the Canal. If the figures of pre-war years are not at once attained the Canal will present, nevertheless, renewed activity. On the other hand, it is to be hoped that the maintenance of higher tariffs over those in force at the outbreak of war will facilitate a quick return to former prosperity. Special mention is made of the death while on active service of the company's distinguished secretary, M. Maxime Bertrand, who has been succeeded by M. Bèret, already long in the service.

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The honour of K.C.M.G. conferred recently on Mr. Herbert G. White, British Consul-General in Morocco, has caused much pleasure to Britons in that country and others to whom he is so well known. As the correspondent of *The Times* wrote, "Mr. White's long and valuable services in Morocco are justly appreciated not only by the British subjects in this country, but also by the representatives and subjects of our friends and Allies and by the Moors themselves. Mr. White's great knowledge of the country and its people has been invaluable in the maintenance of peace and order, and the honour which his Majesty the King has conferred upon him has been most deservedly bestowed."

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The shipping returns for the week ended on June 10 are less satisfactory than those of the previous week; indeed, they are the most adverse since May 6. Twenty-one vessels of more than 1,600 gross tonnage each, and nine of less than that tonnage were sunk, an increase of twelve losses on the week. Some time ago, when the enemy's submarine toll began to grow less, I pointed out the unwisdom of over-expectation, and also that in some cases in which the aggregate of lost ships appeared less the actual result might really be worse. It will be as well to bear this in mind, as also the fact that in this submarine "warfare" there are bound to be fluctuations. One satisfactory feature of the latest returns is that the number of vessels which resist attack was maintained, which goes to show that the pirates do not get it all their own way. It would be as interesting to know how many U-boats were lost in the sixteen unsuccessful attacks as it would be to learn the aggregate of the lost tonnage.

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If, however, this is a "military secret"—and the authorities continue to treat it as such—we have the satisfaction of knowing that, on the whole, British oversea trade proceeds with only slightly varying regularity. Thus, in the Foreign Trade returns for the month of May, 1916, which have just been published—they are summarised elsewhere to-day—it is shown in regard to seventeen items of raw material and other essential commodities that the imports, both as regards quantity and value, showed a slight increase of value as compared with May, 1916. Exports were down slightly, but, so far as value is concerned, the total oversea business only fell by about £4,500,000, not a considerable matter, considering the whole volume of trade and the fact that certain restrictions operate independently of the submarine menace. This is doubtless causing great inconvenience, which may, indeed, increase; but the Germans will not win the war on the under-sea, or any other, ticket.

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The Engineering Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST discusses in his Notes to-day the German statement which reached this country from Bucharest that the enemy has succeeded in restoring to complete working order the great oilfields of Roumania. Has this actually been accomplished, however? The most recent information available is that the Germans are *endeavouring* to restore the fields, which, it need not be pointed out, is another matter altogether. It would be unsafe, perhaps, to rely on the Germans' inability to repair the damage done during the overrunning of the country, because they are clever engineers, and there is the additional spur to industry and ingenuity in the need to replenish their depleted stocks of oil and lubricants. In the meantime, there is no definite information on the subject, and those in London who might be expected to know what had transpired up to, say, three months ago, do not care to hazard an opinion on the actual situation.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Sudan and its Economic Condition.

No. 9.—The Kordofan Province.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

Up to the year 1882, Kordofan formed part of the Kingdom of Darfur, the inhabitants of which country had previously lost it to, and again had wrested it from, the Fungs, then one of the most powerful tribes of the Sudan. Mohammed Dey Dafterdar, the brother-in-law of the unfortunate young Egyptian prince, Ismail Pasha, and, consequently, the son-in-law of Mohammed Ali, then came on the scene, and this doughty warrior it was who recovered Kordofan, which became part of the Egyptian Sudan. At that time the superficial area of the province was a little more than 131,560 square miles, and its boundaries remained unaltered for some years after the British occupation; they were modified in 1913 when the province was divided, 100,000 square miles of territory being allotted to Kordofan and 31,560 square miles to the newly-constituted province of Nuba Mountains.

The province notwithstanding its sensible reduction in area, is still large enough to make the administration one of some moment, and, with the exception of the Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, it employs the largest number of inspectors and minor officials. On the other hand, it has but six *mamurias* against fourteen in the Bahr-el-Ghazal and thirteen in the Mongalla Provinces, while in regard to population (336,589) it ranks second among the fifteen political divisions.

The Water Supply.

In the economic welfare of Kordofan the question of water naturally plays an important part. The supply is entirely dependent on the local rains, which yield it in the form of wells; in surface water, in pools or *fulas*, and the lakes; and in the tebeldi trees (*Adansonia digitata*).

The best-watered portions of the province are Dar Hamid, Bara and El Eddaiya, while the wells and basins of El Obeid, Abu Haraz, and Sherkeila are likewise of great importance. In other parts water is continually giving out, and whole tribes, with all their living belongings, are sometimes obliged to migrate to more favoured places until the rains once more fill the *fulas*.

In the district of El Obeid, the capital, there are, or were when I was in the country, between 180 and 200 wells, twenty of these being in the cantonment, twenty in the small khor, 112 in the main khor, and the remainder distributed at various points of the main khor districts. Of this total, forty wells produce undrinkable water. As a fact, only fifty-nine of the wells produce sweet water, the remainder yielding a liquid either moderately-sweet or moderately-bitter. Between El Obeid and Korti, a waterless desert stretch, several wells have been sunk for the use of the railway. At the station of El Obeid there is one well 118 feet deep, giving between 5,000 and 6,000 gallons of water daily, the liquid having been originally found here at a depth of 105 feet. At El Ein station there is a well fifty-two feet in depth, while other wells have been sunk at Nava, Um Ruaba, and in the Rahad depression; these latter yield together about 15,000 gallons of water *per diem*. Boring is continually going on in other directions, although the efforts made to meet the water deficiency are of varying success. The great quest, of course, is for a permanent supply.

Trade.

The trade of Kordofan is perhaps, larger than that of any province, except that of Khartoum, and the province contributes more largely to the revenue of the country than any other, the provinces more nearly approaching it being those of the White and the Blue Nile.

The great native industry, of course, is that of gum, although other activities are devoted to the pursuits of agriculture, horse-breeding, cotton, tobacco, india-rubber, ivory, ostrich feathers, salt, and iron—to some small extent. On the other hand, the imports are of considerable consequence, and comprise cotton-fabrics, sugar, soap, all kinds of ironmongery and small agricultural implements, and such luxuries as tea, coffee, perfumes, and brightly-coloured muslins for the dusky ladies of the country.

A Hint to Manchester.

The many Greeks who keep stores, and who seem to flourish especially well in the larger towns, are well worth cultivating by Manchester houses as potential customers. For many years past they have been in the habit of obtaining supplies of cheap cotton and other dress-goods from Germans, but it may be assumed that it will be many years before the German will be afforded another opportunity of pushing his wares in Kordofan or in any other part of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan; I doubt, too, whether he will have any greater latitude allowed him in that of the French.

Cattle Markets.

Active markets are held at frequent intervals for the sale of horses, camels, donkeys, sheep, and goats. Among the horses offered are sometimes to be seen some wretched-looking specimens, although Abyssinian ponies and Dogolawi horses are to be obtained at moderate prices. The first-mentioned are extremely handsome little creatures, fast and gifted with great powers of endurance. If they would live in our English climate, which, however, they cannot do, they would fetch almost fancy prices.

Carefully trained, these beautiful little animals will travel sixty miles readily without requiring either food or water. In the Kordofan markets they seldom realise a higher price than £E3 or £E5; on occasions, however, an eager purchaser, attracted by a particularly showy animal—and most of them are distinctly stately in their movements—will bid as much as £E16 and even £E18 for a really good specimen. I heard of one little Abyssinian beast that made the journey between Abu Zabad and Nahud, a distance of about sixty-one miles, in a single day and arrived perfectly fresh and fit at the end of his journey.

El Obeid.

Of the original town of El Obeid, which was besieged and subsequently occupied by the Dervishes under the Khalifa, no traces beyond the fort remain. The whole of the surrounding country—indeed one may say the entire province—was laid waste, all the large towns and most of the villages ceased to exist, and so remained in this ruined condition until the British Occupation in 1899.

Modern El Obeid consists of a number of neatly-constructed and thatched *tukls*, several well-built, single-story, mud-brick houses and shops, and a number of commodious official residences constructed of burnt brick and locally found stone. The bungalows occupied by the Governor and the two or three inspectors who are permanently located here are good specimens of their kind, but they possess no gardens.

The lack of vegetation of any kind is one of the drawbacks which have to be suffered by the inhabitants of El Obeid, consequent upon the sandy nature of the soil and the scarcity of water.

After El Obeid, Nahud probably ranks next in importance from a trade point of view. It is almost a new town, containing about 7,500 inhabitants of a very mixed character—Greeks, Syrians, Arabs, and many pure negroes. The town is 130 miles from El Obeid, and it gradually expanded until it has now become a very considerable trading centre. In fact, all of the commerce from Darfur originally passed through Nahud, and even up to the time of the late troubles with Ali Dinar it remained of much moment.

Now that this once-disquieting province has been settled for all time, the commerce between the two adjoining districts will undoubtedly again exercise widespread influence. Nahud, however, is not a gum centre as yet, although one day it may well become so, because the tendency of the central market is to stray in that direction.

The chief industry is cattle rearing, the animals brought to market being of the small and hump variety. The Baggara tribes around own immense herds of sheep, as well as horned-cattle, and thus drive a very vigorous trade in the local markets. They are likewise camel owners, and live chiefly in Southern Kordofan. They occupy the plains between El Obeid and the Bahr-el-Arab, and were formerly the chief slave-dealers. Their occupations now, however, are more peaceful, mainly hunting for meat and skins and occasionally for ivory; but it would probably be in no way distasteful to them to revert to their former profitable and exciting occupation of man and woman-hunting.

Big Game.

If it were not for the unattractive scenic appearance of the greater part of the province and its lack of water, Kordofan might very well appeal to the hunter of big game, for within its borders are to be found an immense variety of animals of the chase—elephants in the regions of Dar El Homr, Dar El Ahamda, Dar El Tagale, and Dar Jange; rhinoceros, both the black and so-called "white" variety, in Dar El Homr and Dar El Rizeigat; buffalo in the Dar El Homr, Dar El Nuba and the Dar El Ahamda districts; and lion, leopard, and cheetah everywhere from south of Kaja Katul, where they are very numerous.

Then there are giraffe, also extremely plentiful, especially to-day when they are left almost entirely unmolested, there being no "guns" after them; roan antelope, kudu, hartebeeste, tiang, oryx, addra gazelle, ariel, white-eared cob, Mrs. Gray's waterbuck, several other kinds of waterbuck, reedbuck, oribi, duiker, dig-dig, bushbuck, four other kinds of gazelle, harnessed antelope, hares, quail, partridge, jungle-fowl, bustard—of these there are four kinds—and guinea-fowl galore; indeed, it may be said that for the sportsman who does not mind "roughing it" in the truest sense of the word, there exists in Africa no more alluring field for his prowess than that of Kordofan.

The Administration.

The present peaceful and prosperous condition of Kordofan is due in a good measur to the long and painstaking administration of Miralai R. V. Savile Bey, who has seen nearly sixteen years' service in the Sudan Government. At present Major Savile is doing duty in the newly-acquired province of Darfur, and Mr. J. W. Sagar, Senior Inspector, is serving as Acting Governor of Kordofan. The remainder of the provincial staff comprises Mr. R. A. Bence-Pembroke and Captain T. G. N. Bardwell, Second Inspectors of Nahud; Mr. F. T. C. Young, Second Inspector at Bara; Mr. R. Davies, Second Inspector at Dar Kababish; Captain R. S. Gibson, Second Inspector at Uni Ruaba; Mr. E. G. Coryton, Third Inspector at El Obeid; and Mr. J. A. Reid, Third Inspector at Bara. Mr. B. H. Bell retains his long-held position as District Judge of the Kordofan Province, stationed at El Obeid.

MODERN SHIP LOADING.

In the course of a lecture to 200 young mercantile officer cadets training in H.M.S. Worcester, Mr. P. Donald, managing director of Rownson, Drew, and Clydesdale, Limited, described the progress made in transporting cargoes between ships and the shore from early days to the present time. He pointed out that ancient as well as modern methods are still in use. For example, coal is shipped at Port Said in much the same way as the slaves carried the stones when building the Pyramids in Egypt, while lately progress has been made in the introduction of ingenious appliances for the quick loading and unloading of ships. He described, with the aid of lantern slides, how cargo can be put on board ship or discharged into warehouses, railway trucks, or barges without the intervention of man-handling, and explained that not only are labour and time saved, but the risks of damage to cargo are reduced, by the employment of mechanical appliances.

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BULGAR FARM SCHOOLS.

Agricultural Science for the Young.

The United States Consul-General at Sofia, Mr. D. I. Murphy, has submitted to his Government an interesting report on agricultural education in Bulgaria, from which the following passages are extracted. "Bulgaria (he writes) established agricultural schools at Roustchouk and Sadovo in 1883. Each had a model farm attached to it. Later a similar school and farm were established at Pleven, with special courses in viticulture and oenology, and a fourth school was provided for girls at Ohanie.

The institutions are now called agricultural gymnasia, ranking as secondary schools with a general course of study for five years, and special courses covering four years. Students are never admitted unless they have successfully passed the pro-gymnasia and are under seventeen years of age. The subjects studied are: Bulgarian history, geography, physics, civics, mathematics chemistry, natural history, psychology, logic, agriculture, cattle breeding, political economy, bookkeeping, agronomic technology, sericulture, apiculture, oenology, viticulture, forestry, gardening, drawing, singing, and the Russian, French, or the German language.

Study and Practical Work.

Study hours per week must not exceed twenty-eight, but there must be eight hours for practical work. Students pay annually 20 leva, which is used to purchase books for the library and school manuals. Poor students who have shown excellence in studies may be admitted without charges of any kind.

In the special schools, as at Pleven, the studies are: Bulgarian, Russian, history, geography, civics, mathematics, physics, chemistry, natural history, oenology, viticulture, fruit growing, vegetation, park building, essentials of agriculture, political and domestic economy, bookkeeping, synopsis of laws, and drawing. Twenty-two hours for study and eighteen hours for practice are required of all pupils in the special schools.

The number of pupils in the agricultural schools is not permitted to exceed forty in any one class. Promotion comes only after a successful year, and no student is permitted to remain in the same class more than two years. At the end of the course all students must appear before a special examining committee, appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture, for oral and written examination. Only those who successfully pass this examination may enjoy the privileges accorded graduates of the national gymnasia—one year's military service, an opportunity to become a teacher, or of entering a university, or obtaining a low-grade Government position, but all graduates must promise to engage in farming for eight years after graduation.

Cost and Entrance Requirements.

In all agricultural secondary schools the students live in pensions which are governed by special rules and regulations. The cost of board and tuition is about 400 leva per annum, payable in two instalments, one at the beginning of the term, the other at the end of the following January. The Ministry has the right to change the charges for board in accordance with the ascertained cost of living, but due notice is given of any change.

The school year begins September 1 and ends June 30. Applications for admission are accepted only if filed between July 1 and 15. After the latter date students may be admitted only when it is shown that their failure to apply was due to causes beyond their control. The Minister of Agriculture, however, has advisory power in regard to admissions. During the ordinary summer vacations the students may work on farms, but in the last year of the course they must remain during the entire period.

The aim of these secondary schools is to give students a solid general and a sufficient special education to fit them for the higher branches of study, either at home or abroad, and make them scientific farmers or skilled farm workers.

Schools of Lower Grades.

In addition to the agricultural schools there are eight schools of the lower grades, located as follows: Tartar-Pazardjik, Haskovo, Boroush, Aitos, Knejia, Shoumen, Kustendil, and Vidin. These are for boys and girls, but are not co-educational. The object is to teach the boys how to manage nurseries by modern methods and to prepare them for every branch of agriculture, and to fit the girls to become good wives for farmers, and drill them in domestic and farm economy.

Each of the lower-grade agricultural schools is managed by a director and a teachers' council, all directors and teachers being obliged to live in the schools, where apartments are provided free for them.

To these schools are admitted only boys and girls whose parents are farmers, who have successfully passed the national primary schools, and are between fourteen and eighteen years of age. The curriculum provides for twenty-two hours of theoretical study per week in winter and fifteen hours in summer, the rest of the time being spent in practical work.

Studies for Boys and Girls.

The studies in the boys' lower-grade schools are: Bulgarian, arithmetic, geometry, elementary civics, natural history as related to agriculture, agriculture, cattle breeding, husbandry viticulture, gardening, sericulture, and apiculture. In the girls' schools, the course is the same, with the addition of home training, housekeeping, hygiene, home remedies, and singing. The time required is two years, and there are general and special courses. In the former all branches of agriculture are studied, and in the special one or several branches according to local conditions. The period of study is fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture, according to the needs of the particular locality in which a school is situated. The male graduates are required to serve only one year in the army, provided they promise to do farm work up to their thirtieth year.

For all the work the students do in the farms attached to these schools they receive regular compensation, which is generally sufficient to cover the cost of board and tuition. Districts, parishes, and individuals are permitted to support pupils.

Temporary agricultural courses are also maintained in the winter season for the farming community.

CATTLE CENSUS.

News from Sofia states that the Bulgarian Government recently framed and put in force regulations which require an exact count of all cattle in the Kingdom to be made for the purpose of arranging for a proper supply of fodder. The rules will also provide a check on the sale and exportation of cattle to foreign countries. Such high prices have been offered by foreign agents for their cattle that the peasants have sold them off.

Each owner of cattle is required to file an exact declaration to the proper authorities setting forth the exact number and kinds of cattle he possesses. The committees appointed to supervise the count in the various districts and establish the records are charged to keep themselves *au courant* with all sales of cattle throughout the Kingdom, reporting to the Central Committee in Sofia. All cattle in Bulgaria are to be considered as the property of the Government, the Central Committee having complete control of them.

SUBMARINE WAR.

The Secretary of the Admiralty has issued the following weekly return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks:—

Week ending 3 p.m., June 10, 1917.

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):

(a) Arrivals	2,767
(b) Sailings	2,822

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:

(a) 1,600 tons (gross) or over	*22–1=21
(b) Under 1,600 tons (gross)	†10–1= 9
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarine	‡23–7=16
British fishing vessels sunk	6

*Includes one sunk during week ending June 3, 1917; †includes one sunk during week ending May 27, 1917; ‡includes five attacked during week ending May 27, 1917, and two attacked during week ending June 3, 1917.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Marked Increase in the Price of Raw Material.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, June 14.

The market, compared with a week ago, is distinctly dearer, and the feature of interest has again been the decided advance in raw cotton rates, the rise in American qualities during the week being more than twopence a pound. Although traders believe that the position is strong, such an important advance in so short a time can scarcely be justified, and at the time of writing the outlook is very unsettled.

There continues keen competition for the supplies available in Liverpool, and offers are scarce and quickly taken up when made. The weather in the American belt rather tends to improve, but there is not much probability of a bumper crop.

The prospects for the Egyptian growth remain fairly healthy, and prices of Egyptian staple have not been very much affected by the big advance in American descriptions. Operations in piece goods for Egypt have been checked during the last day or two by the remarkable rise in prices, buyers not being in a position to follow. The position in Cairo, however, continues encouraging, and it is believed that more business will be done in the near future if prices will steady.

Irregular operations have occurred in Egyptian yarns, and comparatively few spinners have secured business of any importance. There are still many complaints from producers of the lower numbers.

There has been plenty of inquiry about for a variety of cloths for India and China, but light miscellaneous goods have attracted more attention than ordinary grey staples, which remain flat. Some merchants have again done well in the way of selling stocks of goods which were bought several months ago, when prices were on a much lower range. Business in the yarn market has been much disorganised by the violent fluctuations in the raw material. In spite of difficulties, however, some spinners have had a fairly good week.

Production rather tends to be reduced, and the output of the mills is being more fully absorbed than some time ago. Some producers of export bundles have recently sold rather more freely.

THE WORLD'S SILK SUPPLY.

The British Consul at Lyons (Mr. E. R. E. Vicars) has submitted to the Board of Trade a table of statistics published by the Lyons Silk Merchants' Association, showing the estimated world's supply of raw silk in 1916. The provisional estimate for 1916 puts the total for Europe at about 843 1-5 tons more than the total of the previous year. The estimated production in the Levant and Central Asia was about the same as in 1915, while in the Far East it was about 1,155 tons more. Japan was the largest contributor to the increase, but India (Bengal and Kashmir) is well to the fore.

	1916. Tons.
Levant and Central Asia.	
Turkey-in-Asia—	
Western Europe	4,004
Brousa and Anatolia	178
Syria and Cyprus	341
Other Provinces	64
Turkey-in-Europe	29
Balkan States (Bulgaria, Servia, and Roumania)	93
Greece, Saloniki, and Crete	106
Caucasus	128
Turkestan and Central Asia (exports)	49
Persia (exports)	34
Far East.	
China—	
Exports from Shanghai	4,615
" " Canton	2,386
Japan: Exports from Yokohama	13,136
India: Exports from Bengal and Cashmere	113
Indo-China: Exports from Saigon, Haiphong, etc.	3
Grand total	21,273

Applications for French import licences in respect of goods of British origin which are included in the list of articles prohibited to be imported into Algeria, must in future be addressed by the proposed importer to the competent authorities in France. The licences will no longer be issued in this country. Exporters in the United Kingdom should apply for advice regarding classification of their goods to the French Customs House, Bank Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C. 2.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Roumanian Oil Industry.

According to a telegram received in London this week, a German report from Bucharest states that the Roumanian oil industry, notwithstanding the great destruction of last year, is once more in full swing. The production is increasing weekly, and now provides for the needs of the Central Powers. The report, if true, is of great importance, because, apart from the reinforcement of the enemy's meagre supplies of liquid fuel, it will also provide for another of his urgent and embarrassing needs. As is well known, owing to the British blockade there exists in Germany a severe shortage of lubricants, and as a direct result of the shortage working of trains is much hindered. Eight hundred locomotives were recently reported to be "laid up" at Essen alone through lubrication troubles. Grease used for lubricating railway axles contains a large proportion of palm oil, a tropical product to which Germany now has no access. Though animal fats could be used as lubricants in engineering, they are naturally in demand for feeding purposes. Fatty oils, while generally unsuitable for use in engine cylinders, can be employed in internal combustion engines, but with the Roumanian oil wells in full swing (if the story is true), Germany may be able to obtain supplies of necessary mineral oils for lubricants.

A Big Russian Order.

A considerable Russian order for agricultural implements and machinery has been received by one company alone in America, which, recently, has shipped for the Russian Government 3,000 mowers, 2,000 reapers, and 1,700 boxes of "extras." This consignment is only part of the order, for, it is reported, a second consignment will comprise 3,000 binders, 1,000 reapers and over 500 mowers and rakes.

New Potato Planter.

Any agricultural labour-saving machine is of great interest to farmers at the present time, when the labour problem is seriously embarrassing them. The value of such machines, however, is more noteworthy when simplicity of design and efficiency in working are their principal characteristics; and machines combining these merits are nowhere so much appreciated as in the East. A newly-invented machine, therefore, for planting potatoes will interest many landowners and others there. The new planter opens the drill, plants the potato and covers it up. Potatoes may be planted at distances varying from fourteen to eighteen inches apart, without being damaged, no matter whether cut or uncut sets, with long or short sprouts, and irrespective of their size. Provided the machine is fed regularly, the sets will be planted equi-distant apart; no two sets are planted together, and no sets are missed.

The Machine Described.

The machine consists of a travelling belt passing continually and horizontally from left to right in front of the man or woman who feeds it. Equi-distant apart on this belt are curved plates standing at right angles to the surface of the belt. Between each plate a set is placed by the operator. The belt then passes from the horizontal to a vertical direction. The set is carried downwards on the plates, and is discharged carefully into the drill made by an adjustable plough in the front of the machine, and the drill is closed by adjustable revolving discs placed immediately behind where the potato is planted. Motion is transmitted from the road wheels to the belt by gearing; while the machine is adjustable for twenty-five, twenty-eight, and thirty-inch drills, and can be arranged to plant on the flat, at the top of the drill, or at the bottom of the drill on manure. The machine can be attended by two girls—one to feed the planter and the other to lead or drive the horse.

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BRITISH FOREIGN TRADE.

Large Increase in Essential Foodstuffs.

The trade returns for May again show an increase in the value of imports and a reduction in the value of exports, but it must be borne in mind that the month had one working day less than May, 1916. From a financial point of view the returns are not so satisfactory as they have been for some time past.

Bearing in mind the submarine attacks on shipping, it is gratifying to observe that the volume of overseas business is only 4½ millions down on the corresponding month last year, which had one working day more. Compared with the previous month, which had three working days less than the past month, imports advanced by three millions, exports of home produce by 7½ millions, and re-exports fell by two millions.

The revealed balance of trade, leaving out of account movements of coin and bullion and allowing for re-exports, was for the month 37¾ millions, as against 35¾ millions in May, 1916, and 40¼ millions in April, 1917, and for the five months ended May, 1917, 167 millions, as compared with 147¾ millions in the corresponding period of 1916.

As regards imports, grain and flour advanced in value by £6,894,009, meat by £66,621, other food and drink (non-dutiable) by £799,663, and tobacco by £186,943, whilst dutiable articles of food and drink declined by £1,200,663. The total increase in the value of food, drink, and tobacco amounted to £6,746,543. Raw materials show an advance of £2,740,879.

Raw cotton rose in value by £963,589, but was reduced in quantity by 495,000 centals; sheep's wool rose in value by £841,707, but declined in quantity by 18,311,000 lbs.

Oils and fats show an increase of £680,319, petroleum being higher by £861,000, with an increase of upwards of five million gallons in quantity.

Manufactured articles are lower in value by £5,772,280, every section showing decreased values. Iron and steel are lower by £239,000, other metal manufactures by £1,052,000, chemicals by £886,000, leather manufactures by £710,000, textiles by £1,082,000 (cotton manufactures accounting for £602,000, and silk manufactures for £273,000).

BRITISH TRADE BANK.

At a meeting of the Council of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, held in London last week, a resolution was passed expressing appreciation of the steps taken by the Government towards the formation of a British Trade Corporation. The Council considered a financial institution of that nature would be in the highest degree calculated to further the interests of the British manufacturer and trader, and they regretted that the criticism to which the scheme was subjected in the House of Commons resulted in the temporary withdrawal of the Board of Trade vote for the purpose. They added that the scheme in its general outline always and still had the support of the Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom. The Council, which represents 35,000 manufacturers and trades, adopted the resolution.

ITALIAN SHIPOWNERS' FEDERATION.

The Times is informed that an Italian shipowners' federation has been formed at Rome under the chairmanship of Senator Maggiorino Ferraris, a former Minister and President of the Italian Navy League. The federation has, it is stated, the warm approval of the Italian Government, and is supported by such shipping companies as the Navigazione Generale Italiana and La Veloce. Its inception is due to Professor L. Fontana Russo, a member of the High Council of Trade and President of the Council for Commercial Instruction, and the organisation is intended to promote the common interests of the Italian Mercantile Marine. The war has, it is declared, shown the need for a development of the Mercantile Marine, which will be recognised shortly in new legislation, and it is confidently expected that the Shipping Federation will be able considerably to assist the movement.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

The Suez Canal Co.

The report of the Suez Canal Company for 1916, which was adopted at the annual general meeting of the shareholders, held in Paris on Monday, states that the position did not differ essentially from that of the previous year. The outlook was only slightly more sombre. The war continues. The persistence of the same causes had only intensified the effects produced. While the traffic passing through the Canal amounted to 15,266,155 tons in 1915, this was reduced to 12,325,347 tons in 1916, which was a fresh drop in round figures of 3,000,000 tons, and added to the previous losses of 4,100,000 in 1915 and 600,000 tons in 1914. The receipts, however have not fallen in the same proportion, thanks to the increases of the rates which have been successively adopted. At the last annual meeting the shareholders were informed that an additional surtax of 50 centimes had just been put in force, and it was added that if its effect was inadequate there would be no hesitation in deciding to impose another of a similar character. Not only was this done, beginning from October 5, 1916, but a third increase of the same amount had been put into operation, starting from January 1 this year. Furthermore, the council had resolved that a fourth surtax, which would come to 75 centimes instead of 50, would be applied from July 1 next. That would be an increase of 36 per cent. on the pre-war tariff.

These successive increases had met with no obstacle or opposition. This was a proof of what the directors had advanced last year, namely, that the shareholders would reap the benefit of the wise and liberal policy that had invariably been followed. In days of prosperity they had consented to a considerable reduction of their dues in favour of their clients. Now the company could withdraw those concessions without exciting murmurs or even surprise from anyone. Those increases, however, had not been sufficient to counterbalance the diminution of the traffic of the Canal. The receipts for special navigation dues showed a deficit of some 14,000,000 frs., as compared with those of 1915. The results of the current year, to which much importance was attached in determining the dividend proposed for distribution, showed a new and profound depression. The ruthless submarine war which Germany announced to the world on February 1 was certainly the principal cause of that new decline. The uncertainty of the immediate future required them to be more than ever faithful to their customary rules of prudence. Therefore, the council proposed to distribute a total net dividend of 90 frs., which only very slightly exceeds the actual profit for the year, and will leave to be carried forward an amount very similar to that of the previous year.

The total receipts for 1916 reached the sum of 89,044,276 frs. 83 centimes, showing, as compared with the total receipts for 1915, a decrease of 9,183,822 frs. 04 centimes. The decrease from transit dues alone amounted to 13,473,769 frs. 62 centimes, but there is a compensation to the extent of 4,289,947 frs. 58 centimes due to the increase in the company's revenue from other sources.

The total expenses of the year amounted to 34,565,714 frs. 23 centimes, showing an increase of 2,535,745 frs. 87 centimes as compared with those of the previous year. This increase is due partly to the increase in establishment charges, to which is added a sum of 3,252,500 frs., representing the interest and sinking fund of the five per cent. bonds issued in 1915. On the other hand, the increase in the price of materials has been such that, despite all efforts at economy, there is an increase of 1,151,615 frs. 19 centimes in the working expenses. But for a strong compression of expenses in all branches this increase would have been still more considerable. A diminution of 2,000,000 frs. in the amount set aside for depreciations, the almost com-

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plete absence of heavy contingencies in the current year, and the good condition of the company's material amply justify this reduction in the allocation.

The excess of receipts over expenditure, including the amount brought forward from 1915, amounts to 54,051,351 frs. 70 centimes. It is proposed to fix the amount of profits for distribution at 43,707,842 frs. 26 centimes, and to carry forward to the current year the remaining surplus of 10,344,309 frs. 44 centimes. This distribution represents a dividend of 77 frs. 58 centimes per share, and, with the addition of 25 frs. interest, gives a gross revenue of 102 frs. 58 centimes and a net revenue of 90 frs.

The general maritime movement of 1916 was represented by the passing through the Canal of 3,110 ships, of altogether 12,325,347 tons net. This, in comparison with 1915, is a decrease of 598 ships and 2,940,808 tons (*i.e.*, 19.26 per cent.), and as compared with 1913, the last normal year, a decrease of 1,975 ships and 7,708,537 tons (*i.e.*, 38.48 per cent.). But there are other interesting comparisons. If one separates the purely commercial traffic of 1916 by deducting from the general movement the proportion of State transports, the figures are 2,240 ships and 8,631,584 tons, as against the corresponding results of 1913, when the figures were 4,980 ships and 19,732,739 tons—a decrease of 56.26 per cent. This comparison requires explanation, as the 870 ships and the 3,683,763 tons of State transports in 1916 include important commercial elements which it is impossible to separate from the others. In a great number of cases, in fact—and this tendency appears to be on the increase—State commerce is substituted for private commerce. The decrease of the commercial traffic in 1916 is not then in reality so great as the above figures would lead one to suppose. The average net tonnage of the ships passing through the Canal was 3,963 in 1916, almost equal to that of 1913, which was 3,940 tons. The number of passages made by ships of over 10,000 tons remains practically stationary. Among such vessels there were the "Franconia," of the Cunard Steamship Company, and the "Ceramic," of the White Star Line, the largest ships which have passed through the Canal.

The increases in the transit dues already mentioned produced altogether an additional revenue of 5,923,000 frs., which reduced to 14,162,000 frs. the diminution in the receipts from those dues.

The immediate future of the traffic of the Canal still remains uncertain. All prognostications on that subject would be futile. But the prospects for the period after the war can be regarded with confidence. The directors are persuaded that when peace comes and the ocean routes again become safe traffic through the Canal will increase, and if it does not immediately attain the pre-war figures it will show, nevertheless, a notable resumption of activity. It is possible to hope, on the other hand, that the maintenance of higher rates than those which were in operation when hostilities began will bring the company a return of its former prosperity. The report deals at some length with the military operations in the Isthmus of Suez, and points out that the military situation there has improved considerably. The directors offer no comments on the submarine war; none, they say, are needed. They had only to note the facts, and among the most recent is the unrestricted submarine warfare, which, in the zones established by the Central Powers, threatens, indiscriminately, neutral as well as Allied traffic.

The outlet for traffic in the Mediterranean is in one of the zones where the Austro-Germans hope to prohibit navigation of all kinds. Hence the submarine warfare is a sort of declaration of war directed specially against the Canal.

The report closes with a tribute to those officials of the company who had enlisted, some of whom had fallen, special mention being made of the late general secretary, M. Maxime Bertrand.

Anglo-Portuguese Telephone Co.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting held on Tuesday last, said that in 1916 they did a record business; they added a larger number of subscribers to their several exchanges than in any previous year; they passed a record number of messages, and they had a record income and a record profit. The gross income in 1916 was £93,578, an increase of £11,655 on that of the previous year; their gross profit was £31,598, an increase of £3,713, and their net profit was £25,430, an increase of £2,493. The increased profit was scarcely proportionate to the increased revenue, but that was partly explained by the universal rise in the cost of materials and labour, and in a still greater degree by the loss on remittances. Of the net profit they accounted for £10,000 by a further appropriation to the renewals fund, which now stood at £30,000; they had written down their investments by £2,500; they had placed a further £1,500 to the exchange fluctuation fund, rounding it off to £10,000; the general reserve they had left undisturbed at £25,000; they were applying £9,000 to the payment of a 6 per cent. dividend; and they carried forward £2,430 more than on the previous occasion.

Their three reserve funds now amounted to £65,000, and they had all been built up in the last seven years, whilst at the same time they had reduced the debenture debt by nearly £10,000 and given other evidence of their prosperity which he need not particularise. The exchange question was for the moment a disturbing feature in their affairs, and it was one over which the company had no control. Eight or ten years ago the escudo or milreis was within a fraction of its par value—that is 53¼d.—and their loss on remittances was only about £300 a year.

Since then the exchange had steadily gone against them, until last year it averaged only 34 1-32d., and they lost over £16,000 on their remittances. The present quotation of 31d. was the lowest for the last twenty years. So, perhaps, it would not be long before the pendulum swung the other way; they still must be prepared for its going worse before it went better. Then there was the question of capital requirements. In the last 15 years their capital expenditure had been £225,000, or an average of £15,000 a year, and he saw no reason to suppose it would be less in the future; at all events, he hoped not. The business of a telephone company never stood still, and they were continually incurring fresh capital outlay, but it was just now difficult to obtain the Treasury sanction to new issues, and for some time to come they would probably have to rely more upon surplus revenues for capital requirements.

These were the considerations which had influenced the directors in curtailing the dividend until they could see their way ahead a little more clearly, and, after all, a dividend of 6 per cent. in these times, in a business which the war affected adversely in almost every particular, was not so bad. It was not that they had *earned* only 6 per cent., as a glance at the accounts and the handsome appropriations made to the various reserves out of the year's profits would speedily show. The continuous expansion in their business was sufficient testimony to the efficiency of the service given by the company and the steady reduction in their average charge per message showed that their prosperity had not been earned regardless of the interests of the public.

Apart from the automatic element, he believed there was no more up-to-date telephone system in the world than theirs at Lisbon, and but for the temporary obstacles to the raising of new capital they would now be bringing Oporto equally up-to-date. The building of a new exchange in that city was the next important capital work to be taken in hand, and this would no doubt be followed by a third exchange in Lisbon, although it was only three years since they opened the second one there, with an ultimate capacity of 6,000 lines.

The company started business about 30 years ago with a revenue of £4,934 and a profit of £1,695 derived from 1,423 subscribers. Coming to more recent times, the last twenty years had been a period of uninterrupted progress, and between 1896 and 1916 the gross income had increased from £17,004 to £93,578, the gross profit from £8,310 to £31,599, and the net profit from £4,030 to £25,430. By 1904 they had increased the dividend to 7½ per cent.: then for nine years running they paid 8 per cent., and the directors saw no reason why the near future should compare unfavourably with the recent past. The present reduction was more in the nature of a precautionary measure than an actual necessity.

Anglo-American Nile.

The accounts for the year ended March 31 show a profit, after providing £E3,118 for maintenance, writing £E3,062 off for depreciation and including £E4,666 brought forward of £E28,876. A further dividend of five per cent. has been declared, together with a bonus of three per cent, making a total distribution of eleven per cent. for the year, and £E3,562 has been transferred to reserve, leaving £E9,558 to be carried forward. No dividend was paid for the previous year, the last distribution being five per cent. in respect of 1913-14.

COMPANY REPORT.

Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt.

The report of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt for the year ended March 31 last, states that the gross earnings amount to £35,509, against £32,690, and the net earnings to £7,313, against £4,896. With the balance of £11,446 brought forward, the amount to the credit of profit and loss account is £18,759. The directors recommend a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year, less tax, leaving £11,259 to be carried forward.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

At the annual meeting at Spring Gardens of the Incorporated Society of Inspectors of Weights and Measures, Lord Crewe presiding, Mr. C. MacDonald (Glasgow), in a paper on "The Compulsory Adoption of the Metric System," said that at the beginning of the year the metric system was obligatory in trade in thirty-eight countries, having a total population of 476,890,000. Its use was optional in eleven countries having a total population of 727,233,000. The metric system might be described as the standard system of the world, and the development of foreign trade after the war would be facilitated by its adoption.

Mr. H. Cunliffe replied in a paper opposed to the change. He did not think compulsion should come except at the demand of the users of weights and measures. British weights and measures effectively satisfied the needs of international trade, and it was a matter for doubt whether the adoption of the metric system in this country would not assist Continental countries to enter the British market more than it would assist British merchants in entering theirs.

Mr. A. Granger (Birmingham) submitted as a compromise that the pound weight should be made equal to the half-kilo and the gallon equal to the half-decalitre. In each case it meant practically an increase of 10 per cent.—the new cwt. to be 100 and the new ton 2,000 of these lbs. The new lb. might have decimal divisions for scientific purposes, but it might be advisable for several reasons to divide it into sixteen parts. The ounce so obtained would approximate very closely to the troy ounce. Measures of length should be left alone.

A set of the new weights placed upon a shop counter would allow business to go on as usual simply by increasing prices 10 per cent. The retailers, a numerous class, desired no change. It would be comparatively easy to require that all goods sold by weight or measure should be sold in terms of weight and measure and no other. Thus at one stroke we should get rid of our sacks and sieves, our tods and trusses, our pots and pockets, and so on and so on. Further, corn would no longer be sold by a bushel, of which there are some 200 variations.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Flower Motor Ship Co.

An interim dividend of 5 per cent. has been declared for the half-year ended June 30, and will be payable on July 5.

Alexandria Water Co.

A dividend of 9s. 9d. per £5 share on coupon No. 57 will be payable on and after to-day at Messrs. Barclay and Co.'s, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria.

Piræus-Larissa Railway.

The coupons falling due on June 15, 1917, on bonds of the Greek Five per Cent. Loan of 1890 should be presented for payment at the office of Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son, 70, Old Broad Street, London, E.C..

Land and Mortgage Co. of Egypt.

The thirty-seventh annual general meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Station Hotel on June 22, at noon.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 286 tons (previous week 21 tons); Hurgada, 1,724 tons (against 1,924 tons).

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
June 5	150,000	90,000
June 6	170,000	210,000
June 7 / June 8 / June 9	790,000	360,000
June 10	170,000	170,000
June 11	230,000	70,000

PRIZE COURTS.

It was notified in the *London Gazette* of June 4, that proceedings are in progress before the prize court at Zanzibar against the following vessels and goods laden therein:—Koenig, Tabora, Kaiser Wilhelm II., Praesident, the gunboat Moowe, three small steamboats (un-named), three small motor boats, ten small yachts, forty-nine dhows, twenty-three lighters, sixteen lighter boats, one mooring lighter, fifty-seven pulling boats, and twenty pontoons. Appearances should be entered by all persons claiming an interest as soon as possible.

The Times correspondent, writing on May 17, says:—"Mr. E. Bonham Carter, Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government, has left for England in order to make arrangements for taking up some more of the loan which was arranged for the Sudan just before war broke out."

NOTICES.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

Payment of Dividend.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a DIVIDEND OF NINE SHILLINGS AND NINEPENCE per £5 Share on Coupon No. 57 is PAYABLE on and after June 15, 1917, at Messrs. Barclay and Company, Ltd., 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., Alexandria, Egypt, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

By order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

Alexandria, Egypt,
June 8, 1917.

THE LAND AND MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT, LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Shareholders of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, will be held at the Cannon Street Station Hotel, Cannon Street, London, E.C., on Friday, the 22nd day of June, 1917, at 12 o'clock precisely, for the purpose of considering the Statement of Accounts and the Directors' and Auditors' Report thereon for year ended 31st March, 1917, sanctioning the declaration of a dividend, electing Directors and Auditors, and transacting any other competent business.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 12th inst. to the 25th inst., both days inclusive.

Dated this 12th day of June, 1917.

By order of the Board,
T. H. MARSDEN, Secretary.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.
Thursday Evening.

Our market has continued on the whole very strong, but business has been less active. The crop reports from Egypt continue to be of a satisfactory character, and the prices of all produce remain very high; so that it is not likely that the present inactivity will last long.

Unifieds are somewhat firmer at 83¼, after business as low as 82¾. The 3½ prefs. continue strong at 72 without sellers.

National Banks have again been a feature, advancing ¼ to 14¾ on small transactions. Agriculturals are, if anything, rather quieter at 5 3-32, while some small transactions have taken place in prefs. round 7½.

Delta Lights are again ⅛ higher at 6, at which they are an attractive lock-up purchase. Some Aboukirs have been done round 3/32, and Allotments have been in demand at about 2⅝, but sellers are asking 3. Some business has been done in Behéra round 9/32.

New Egyptians and Delta Lands have been changing hands round 11s. and Uniteds round 1s. Gharbieh have improved over 1-16 to 1 3-32 bid. Some transaction have taken place in Alexandria Waters at 12⅜ to 12 7-16. Salts and Sodas have been fairly active at about 23s. 3d., and Khedivial Mails are rather quieter at 35s. 9d

Greek securities are firm, with the exception of Monopoly and Rente, which are lower at 48 and 40 respectively.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptian "B" marked from 14s. to 15s.., and Anglo-Persian prefs. from 23s. 6d. to 24s. 6d. Roumanian Consolidateds were in the neighbourhood of 9s. 3d.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included:—Egyptian- Unifieds, 92.95 (against 93.25); Serbian (1895), 58 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 63.50 (against 64); and Suez Canal, 4400 (unchanged).

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to March 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to April 13, 1917):—

—	Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
	Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Mar., 1917	2,086,926	1,379,000
Do. do. do 1916	2,656,893	3,664,000
Estimated Receipts for 3 months (Law of Control)	7,225,000	2,675,000
Actual do. do., 1917	7,162,913	3,602,000
Do. do. do., 1916	9,299,840	7,486,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months 1917	— 62,086	+ 927,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 3 months 1916	+ 2,074,840	+ 4,811,000

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold both from Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange of the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price June 8.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83	83½
Do. Pref. 5⅛ %, 1890	88	72	72
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	54	54
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	54	54
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	48
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	40
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	54	54
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52	52
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	72	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	90
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75½	75½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79½	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69	69
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	52
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅝	5⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	12
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅜	2⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6⅛	5⅝	5⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13⅝	14½	14
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	5⅞	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4⅛%.	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	31/32	31/32
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅜	2⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	9⅛	9⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/10½	10/10½
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	6/3	6/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅛	20/-	23/6
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	11/-	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	3/32	3/32
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1 3/16	1 3/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	23/-	23/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	36/3	35/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3⅝	3⅝

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Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Privilégiée	Frs.	73
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	81
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85⅜
Privilégiée		74
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	3 3/16
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5½
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		34
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		8⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	103
" Jouissance	Frs.	163
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	340
" Div.	Frs.	280
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	260
Egyptian Salt and Soda		23/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	660
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	334
" 1903 "	Frs.	264
" 1911 "	Frs.	262
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		½

A Central News telegram from Geneva of June 9 states:—"The Vienna *Zeit* publishes a telegram from Krosno stating that the petroleum refinery at Jedlicze, Galicia, is on fire. The flames have attacked the naphtha reservoirs."

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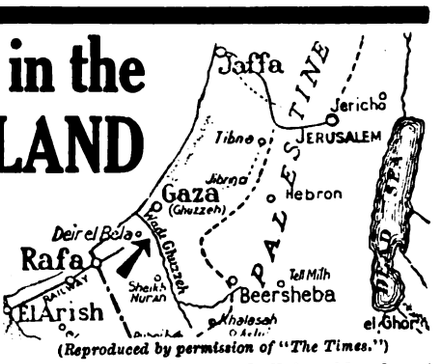

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 320.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The first proclamation of the young King of Greece made an unfavourable impression. He stated that "in my sorrow at being separated, in critical circumstances, from my dearly loved father, I have the sole consolation of carrying out his sacred mandate. I shall endeavour with all my power to realize it, following the lines of his brilliant reign, and with the help of the people, upon whose love the Greek dynasty rests. I am convinced that, obeying the will of my father, the people will contribute by their submission to our common object—the extrication of our dear country from the terrible situation in which she now finds herself." There was also an allusion to "my august father," who has made "the supreme sacrifice." It may be pointed out that Constantine's brief and troubled reign could hardly be called brilliant by any stretch of the imagination, and that, however admirable filial piety may be in ordinary circumstances, it cannot be regarded as a substitute for constitutional rule in a constitutional country. Where there is a Constitution, as in Greece, the "sacred mandate" is derived from the people, and not from the monarch; and King Constantine would have been spared the necessity of abdication had he recognized this fact—his dismissal, indeed, was the logical but belated consequence of his own dismissal of M. Venizelos. The whole message smacks somewhat of the divine right of kings, a doctrine still taught in Prussia, but hardly suitable to the historic soil of Greece. It must be admitted, however, that a later message from the King has somewhat undone the effect of the first proclamation. He now speaks of "the Government's efforts for the restoration of the unity of the country," and states that he "remains the faithful guardian of the constitutional charter," and is "convinced of the good intentions of the protecting Powers." In this case second thoughts are certainly best.

The German Emperor, by the familiar telegram, has declared his "righteous wrath at the infamous outrage" on Constantine, and assures him that his deprivation can only be temporary; he is to be restored by "the mailed fist of Germany, with the additional aid of Almighty God." It is pleasant to hear once more of this famous alliance, in which the Kaiser is now apparently the senior partner. The exiled monarch has also the condolences of Count Reventlow to cheer his exile. The noble journalist invites the late King to believe that when he remounts his throne "under German protection" he will be "compensated for his sufferings by the addition of a slice of Italian territory, the southern part of Albania, and Cyprus." The exiled monarch might have preferred a bird in the hand to three in the Entente bush.

With the expulsion of the pro-German politicians and the German agents from Athens the ground should be more clear for M. Venizelos to return. M. Gounaris, Colonel Metaxas, M. Mercouris, M. Saghias, the head of the reservists, and others who have made themselves notorious during the past two years will now have the opportunity to reflect on the results of their policy from the safe distance of Spain or a convenient Mediterranean island; Corsica is spoken of as a healthy and not unlikely residence. Meantime, at a Cabinet Council the Government has decided to form a committee of four to consider the proper method of reorganising and reuniting Greece. The committee will consist of two members of the Athens Government and two of the Provisional Government at Salonika, and should they disagree a representative of the Allies' High Commissioner will have a casting vote. Among the matters to be considered are the grant of an amnesty to political offenders, the summoning of the Greek Chamber and the inclusion of Venizelists in the Greek Ministry.

M. Venizelos, who has hitherto made no public statement regarding the changes in Athens, has now expressed the opinion that M. Zaimis is responsible for the wording of King Alexander's manifesto. He looks forward hopefully to the time when Greece will be reconstituted as a united kingdom which will pursue the path of democratic ideas. It is more than ever clear that the only way to carry out this policy is for M. Venizelos himself to return to power.

It is in anticipation of that eventual return, which can hardly be long delayed, that the news of King Constantine's abdication has produced such tremendous enthusiasm in Salonika. On the other hand, the action of the Royalist party in resisting the French occupation in Thessaly—which resulted in the death of several French soldiers—appears to have revolted public opinion, and the people of Larissa are everywhere showing their gratitude to the French army. It may be hoped rather than expected that this outburst of fanaticism is the last expiring effort of the Royalist faction; but they are now putting about a legend that the French intend to occupy Greece permanently and to

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turn the kingdom into a French colony. The absurdity of this report, which can hardly deceive the most ignorant, is sufficient evidence of the straits to which the defeated party are reduced.

The Roumanian Parliament, which has been entertaining M. Vandervelde, the distinguished Belgian Minister, is now engaged in discussing the questions of agrarian reform and the Jewish problem. The settlement of both problems is somewhat overdue; in particular, the Jewish population have urged with effect the recent liberation of their co-religionists in Russia, and the fact that they possess greater privileges in Hungary, which is not precisely a model democratic state, than in Roumania. The agrarian question is more complicated, but the grievances of the peasantry are real, and recent misfortunes have induced the governing classes to recognise their reality.

While Roumania is setting its house in order and reorganising its army to resume the campaign, Bulgaria is intent upon the fruits of victory. M. Radoslavoff, the Prime Minister, has stated to the *Fremdenblatt* the intentions of his Government. "We want," he said, "that part of Macedonia which is already occupied by our troops. We want to keep in touch with Austria-Hungary through the Morava Valley, and we further want for all time security. Finally, we demand the Dobrudja." Without regarding the demand for security "for all time"—a quest which all recorded history shows to be hopeless—it may be noticed that (a) there is no hint here of "no annexations," which will annoy the Russians, and (b) the desire to "keep in touch" with Austria does not show any signs of a response to the theory that Bulgaria is ready to desert the Central Powers if the Entente make a sufficiently tempting offer.

A terrible statement has been made regarding the conditions in Armenia. The women and children who have survived the wholesale massacre are now being gathered into homes at Baghdad, which are financed by the British Government, and they are receiving succour from others of their own community. But those who survived will never forget their awful experience: one child of ten recounted that the Turks issued a proclamation that the Armenians were to be sent away to a colony that was being prepared for them, where they would be given new land to cultivate; and that the journey would not be long. The first promise was too good to be true; the second was fulfilled. On the third day of the journey the men were separated from the women and killed, being either shot or cut down with a sword. After that came the turn of the women: some were pushed into rivers, others thrown over precipices. Of twelve hundred who left the Erzeroum district, only four hundred reached Ras-el-Ain. There was not a man among them, or a male child over the age of nine. Other accounts are to the same effect; there can be no doubt whatever that the Turks intended to exterminate the Armenian people, that they nearly succeeded in doing so, and that in any case it must take more than a generation for the Armenian race to lift its head again. As more details of the massacre are received month by month, it becomes clear that no comparison with anything short of the devastation of Ghenghis Khan or Tamerlane can describe its ferocity.

Very grave disquiet will be caused by the steadily increasing volume of evidence of Turkish neglect of the British prisoners of war. It is believed, from the account given by one who was near the camp in the Taurus, that more than half the prisoners who surrendered at Kut have succumbed to neglect or ill-treatment. Fifty prisoners who were sent to a hospital at Aleppo could hardly stand owing to physical weakness, and in any case the medical resources of Aleppo are primitive. That perhaps can hardly be imputed to active ill-will on the part of the enemy, but another instance quoted can only be ascribed to active and cowardly hostility. Thirty-seven British prisoners were sent to a hospital under European management; the doctor in charge was of opinion that with proper care he could save thirty-five of these, but he and his assistants were driven away from their own hospital, with the result that during the next fortnight twenty-two of the men died from sheer neglect. That kind of barbarism must be taught a lesson.

Sir Percy Sykes is now settled in Teheran and is entering into a contract with the Persian Government regarding the instruction of the new force of gendarmerie. At the beginning this force was discontented, hostile and almost mutinous, and apparently plots were afoot to assassinate Sir Percy and his assistants. These efforts have been so far frustrated, and it is to be earnestly hoped that he will succeed in his task of disciplining the 2,500 gendarmes who are supposed to maintain order in Persia. He has completed the scheme for the South Persia Rifles, but the actual work of restoring order in the distracted country must be a task of months, if not years. Fortunately the British advance in Mesopotamia—where again we are glad to notice that sickness is diminishing—has tended somewhat to ease the work of the pioneers.

President Wilson's latest speech contains a significant message to Russia. He comments on the eagerness for peace manifested by Berlin, and remarks that "a little of the talk has been public, but most of it has been private, through all sorts of channels. It has come to me in all sorts of guises, but never with the terms disclosed which the German Government would be willing to accept." It appears that the German Socialists and a representative of the Swiss Government are both being used to seduce the Russian people—fortunately, without success. The Swiss agent in Petrograd was ignominiously expelled—he was acting without the knowledge or authority of his Government, which has repudiated him, and M. Hoffmann, of the Swiss Council, who acted with him, has resigned. The episode was disquieting, but it is hardly likely to occur again, after the manner in which it has been received by the Entente. Certain Austrian agents, whose presence in Russia was denied by the Austrian Government, have been sent to Siberia, where they can meditate on their repudiation by Vienna at leisure. The German Socialists' manifesto deserves more notice.

These tame elephants from Berlin will hear nothing of the restoration of Alsace-Lorraine; at most a rectification of frontiers might be agreed to. They admit the independence of Belgium, but will not agree to any compensation for damage done by Germany. The German colonies are to be restored; Poland is to be granted independence, but only the Poland of the Congress of Vienna—Posen is still to remain German and Galicia Austrian, but the Polish language is to be permitted in Posen in order that the Poles of that province may "develop their cultural idiosyncrasies." There is also to be limitation of armaments, arbitration, and other agreements which Germany could break at the first convenient opportunity—these are the shop-window dressings. The territorial readjustments are apparently meant seriously, and for that reason they may be at once put in the waste-paper basket, since neither England nor France will agree to them, and Russia, while admittedly desirous of peace, has made it quite clear that she will not tolerate a separate peace. The treaties and agreements between the Allies are to be looked into by the desire of the Russian Government, with the exception of the Pact of London, which provides that none of the belligerents shall make a separate peace. The exception will be noted with disappointment in Berlin, where hopes of detaching Russia from the Alliance had run high.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, May 28.

The Sultan at Alexandria.

H.H. the Sultan has now definitely taken up his residence for the summer at Alexandria. He proceeded there on Thursday last direct from his estates at Gabares instead of, as originally arranged, returning first to Cairo, and then going down in State to Alexandria, as it was considered unnecessary for him to undergo the extra fatigue of the double journey. The Ministers, accompanied by the Acting Financial Adviser (Mr. Lindsay), General Sir George Macaulay, the senior railway staff, and the members of the Sultania Household, proceeded early in the morning by special train to Tel el Baroud, where his Highness and his personal Staff joined the train. The Sultan had an official reception on his arrival at Alexandria, and as he drove to Ras-el-Tin Palace received an ovation from the crowds which had assembled in the streets. Owing to the coincidence of the Sultan's arrival with Empire Day, Alexandria was profusely beflagged. From a purely private source I learn that a marked improvement has been noticeable in his Highness' health since his stay on his estates at Gabares.

Empire Day.

Empire Day was fittingly celebrated in Cairo by the entertainment of convalescent soldiers at the Residency, and in Alexandria by a children's fête at the Sporting Club. Their Excellencies the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate had made most elaborate arrangements for the thousand soldiers from the various hospitals whom they had invited as their guests. The Residency grounds were looking their very best, and the men thoroughly enjoyed their tea under the shadow of an ingeniously contrived sun-protector made of Egyptian tenting, which sheltered them from the glare the while it did not shut them off from the fresh air or from the interesting spectacle which the grounds presented. Music was provided by an Egyptian infantry band, and a series of cinematograph shows was given in the pavilion. At the conclusion of the entertainment Sir Reginald Wingate gave a stirring address to the men, who went back to their hospitals after singing the National Anthem and giving three cheers for their generous hosts and for those who had assisted them.

The children's fête at the Sporting Club at Alexandria was a great success. A very good programme of sports had been arranged, and the children spent a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. An admirable speech was made by Brigadier-General R. C. Boyle, and Mr. D. Cameron, who distributed the prizes, read a letter from the High Commissioner especially addressed to the children.

The Cairo Cathedral.

Bishop MacInnes, in a letter to the local English Press, announces that, thanks to the intervention of the High Commissioner and to the generosity of the Sultan and the Council of Ministers, a site for the new Cathedral has been secured for the Anglican community. The site is that of the old Ismailia Palace, which was for many years the residence of the Ottoman High Commissioner, and which was pulled down some little time before the war. It covers about eight acres, and, being situated at the corner of the road leading to the Kasr-el-Nil Bridge, is a very valuable site. Indeed it is one of the finest in the city, and is ideally situated for the erection of an important edifice such as the Anglican Cathedral is intended to be. The thanks of the community are certainly due to Sir Reginald Wingate, who since his arrival in Cairo has taken the deepest and most active interest in the discussion of the project; and also to the Sultan and the Egyptian Government for the generous gift, which will substantially reduce the amount required for the erection and endowment of the Cathedral.

The Behera Torture Case.

In this correspondence reference was recently made to a murder which had taken place in the Behera, and for which certain men had been condemned to penal servitude. It was subsequently reported that, owing to facts which had come to light in the course of an inquiry carried out in the district, and which showed that the local police had resorted to torture in order to obtain evidence, a retrial had been ordered by the Court of Cassation. The new trial took place last week, and has resulted in the acquittal of all the accused men. This case constitutes yet another illustration of the great necessity for the re-institution of a Court of Criminal Appeal, for, under present conditions, where appeals from Assize Court decisions can only be made on points of procedure and law, if the authorities had not considered the information which subsequently came to their knowledge as justifying an administrative inquiry, these men would have gone to prison for an offence which they had not committed.

The Carrying of Arms.

A new law has just been promulgated prohibiting the carriage of firearms, side-arms, and other analogous weapons. All local subjects possessing such arms must hand in their weapons within thirty days, and owners of old and decorative arms must make a declaration to this effect. In certain cases permits will be granted for the carrying of arms; but these cases will be very limited, for the new law is intended to be a disarmament law, and not a licensing one. Very heavy penalties will be inflicted for any contraventions, and domiciliary search will be resorted to whenever there is reason to suspect that anyone is concealing arms or carrying them without proper permission. This new law is an excellent one, and if properly carried out it should in the long run lead to a diminution of serious crime in the country. It is a pity that for the present it cannot be made applicable to foreigners.

Liquidation of Enemy Firms.

The Public Custodian of Enemy Property has been appointed receiver of the Egyptische Hypotheken Bank, with instructions to proceed with its liquidation. This establishment was founded in 1911 as an offshoot of the Deutsche Orient Bank, from which it took over various properties that the latter had acquired, or, rather, had been forced to accept in settlement of some of the unsecured advances it had granted to Nationalists and others in pursuance of the policy dictated to it by the Wilhelmstrasse. Both these institutions constituted important factors in the organisation for fastening the tentacles of the Teuton octopus on Egypt and for furthering the political ends of the German Government in the Valley of the Nile; and although commercially they could not be considered as successful, they certainly were on the road to realising the political hopes reposed in them by Berlin. Now that the daughter concern has been put into the hands of the Public Custodian, it is to be hoped that it will not be long before the same fate befalls its parent, though, of course, the business done by the D.O.B. was far too extended and involved for it to be made ready so quickly for final liquidation.

Anti-German Feeling.

In an account of the annual general meeting of the Upper Egypt Hotels Company, Limited, held here recently the chairman is reported to have said, in reply to a question with regard to the German influence in the company's management before the war and the necessity for eliminating Germans and German trade in Egypt, that "it would be in the interest of the company not to employ Germans more than would be strictly necessary." This reply has not passed without comment, and, in a letter addressed to the *Egyptian Mail*, Mr. E. J. Lovegrove points out that it has been possible successfully to carry out the management of one of the hotels by a reduced non-German staff, and very rightly asks why, if during the war perfectly satisfactory arrangements can be made with a non-German staff, the British chairman of a British hotel company should talk about the Germans it may be strictly necessary to employ after the war. It will, I think, be conceded that in the circumstances the above is an astounding statement for a British director to make, and one's first impression was that he had been incorrectly reported. So far, however, he has not seen fit to contradict it.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Locust Campaign.

That locusts would make their appearance was, of course, certain. Swarms which have hatched out in the lands of Avgora, a village between Larnaca and Famagusta, are said to have caused damage to crops and gardens; and others have injured properties in another group of villages. One of the Greek members of Council has presented a petition, asking that active measures may be taken. Again this year Government is being urged by villagers and some of the papers to adopt the system of purchasing locusts during the summer months, instead of employing other methods, such as spraying the insects at an early stage with a poisonous solution, which is considered by the authorities, after full trial, the most potent means of destruction.

The Legislative Council.

Sittings of the Council have been continued. A motion regarding the annual contribution towards the Ottoman Debt, which has so often been the occasion of orations by Greek members, was introduced by the Hon. M. Zannetos, a member for the Larnaca-Famagusta division. It was argued by him, by the Hon. M. Theodotou, and others, that since the Anglo-Turkish Convention had ceased to exist, so, too, had the obligation to pay this burdensome sum. In any case, Great Britain, it was urged, should pay the whole amount to be levied, and Cyprus should be released from an obligation which was a most unjust one. Towards this payment of £92,800 the British Government now contributes £50,000 a year. There is no prospect of any change in the existing arrangement, and the reply to the Greek arguments is the same as has been given in recent years, when similar objections have been raised. The Turkish member for Nicosia, Irfan Bey, remarked that if Greeks were not satisfied that the island should pay the stipulated contribution for the protection it enjoyed, the Mussulman community at all events gratefully recognised the benefits received, and he begged that the President would convey to the British Government the warm acknowledgment of the Turkish community. The votes of the Greek members being again equal to those of the British and Turkish members, the High Commissioner, Sir John Clauson, gave his casting vote against the resolution. A draft law to prevent the destruction of rural properties by fire was rejected. The Council was adjourned till May 29.

The Summer and Mt. Troodos.

Again the season is likely to be a very dull one, and the number of civilian camps is likely to be a diminished one. Only a few invalids, in charge of a single officer, will probably represent the military element. Native families, however, go in increasing numbers to the highest villages lying short of the camp, and many of the monasteries, situated in the most picturesque parts of the forests, have greatly increased their accommodation with a view to occupation by summer visitors.

Cypriots in Egypt.

Cypriot Greeks of the well-to-do classes, who are fond of coming over during the summer, hope that some arrangement may be made between the authorities in Egypt and Cyprus which will enable them to visit the island and return. Some families have been accustomed for many years to spend the summer in the hills, and have built or engaged houses on and near Troodos. They would greatly regret being cut off from this place of refuge. These visits also bring some small benefit to the island.

Greek Cypriots were invited recently to a meeting at the Continental Hotel, Cairo, and were addressed by Gen. Lapathiotes, who urged the need of help to Greece in her present crisis. A committee was formed, with M. Kyros Pilavaki as president, for the purpose of raising subscriptions and enrolling Volunteers. In spite of repeated warnings, a considerable number of Cyprus villagers, from Papho district have found their way to Egypt in hope of finding work. In this they have been mostly disappointed; and they are in a miserable condition, being reduced to begging. Their lot would not have been worse if they had remained in the island. There should apparently be an opening for many of them by enlisting as Volunteers.

Another Murder.

Yet another has been added to the long list of crimes that have been so common in the island. On a recent Sunday night a villager, Hajji Andreas Mezes, sold his flock at another village for over £40. He had also with him £100 besides. He was entertained by one Lukas Konstantes at the latter place, and towards night, left for his own village, being accompanied for a short distance by Lukas. A few minutes after they had parted company the latter heard, he says, cries for help, and on returning found his friend covered with blood, dying, and unable to speak. At the same time he saw, as he alleges, a man running away. Returning to his village, he informed the Mukhtar, and notice was given to the police, who with Lukas went to the spot. No money was found on the body. Lukas has been arrested, while police investigation proceeds.

Agricultural Prospects.

The cereal harvest promises to be better than was expected. The yield of barley should be abundant, and that of wheat fairly good. A moderate return of carobs (locust beans) is anticipated, though inferior to that of last year; but the critical midsummer period, during which hot, parching winds may blow, has still to be passed. Reports from vinelands indicate that the yield of grapes should be decidedly good, although the mildew (*oïdium Tuckeri*) in many areas has not been checked, as it should have been, by sulphuring. The supply of sulphur is now left to merchants, and complaints are made that they charge excessive prices, and so discourage villagers. In many places cultivators are consequently very anxious, either that Government should revert to the system of importing sulphur and selling at minimum prices from village depots, as was done for many years, or that prices should be controlled.

The olive crop, so important for Cyprus, should be a moderate one. There has been some rain and hailstorms, the former in time to do some good in places. The latter fortunately has done but little damage. May has been exceptionally cool.

A proclamation of the High Commissioner prohibits the sale, or exposure for sale, of bread or other articles of food containing more than 75 per cent. of wheaten flour. Any person contravening the order is liable, under martial law, to fine and imprisonment; and part of the fine may be paid to informants.

THE POWERS AND GREECE.

The following is the text of the proclamation issued by M. Jonnart last Saturday in Athens:—

"To the Hellenes:—France, Great Britain, and Russia desired the independence, the greatness, and the prosperity of Greece. They intend to defend the brave little land which they have liberated against the united efforts of the Turks, the Bulgarians, and the Germans. They are here to checkmate the manœuvres of the hereditary enemies of the kingdom. They will put an end to the repeated violations of the Constitution and of treaties, and to the deplorable intrigues which led up to the massacre of the soldiers of the Allies.

"Berlin gave the orders, and Athens gradually brought the people under the Bulgar-German yoke. We are resolved to re-establish the constitutional truce and unity of Greece. The protecting Powers, therefore, demanded the abdication of the King. They have no intention of tampering with the constitutional prerogative; they have other aims, namely, to assure the regular and constitutional progress of the country, to which the late King George, of glorious memory, had always been scrupulously faithful, but which King Constantine had ceased to respect.

"Hellenes, the hour of reconciliation has arrived. Your destinies are closely associated with those of the protecting Powers. Your ideal is the same as theirs. Your hopes are identical. We appeal to your good sense and your patriotism. To-day the blockade is raised. Any reprisals against Greeks, to whatever party they may belong, will be pitilessly repressed. No breach of the peace will be tolerated. The liberty and property of everyone will be safeguarded. This is the new era of peace and labour which is opening before you. Know that, respectful of the national sovereignty, the protecting Powers have no intention of forcing upon the Greek people a general mobilisation. Long live Greece, united, great, and free.

"In the name of France, Great Britain, and Russia, the High Commissioner of the Protecting Powers.—Jonnart."

A Greek café keeper, of Old Cairo, who recently accused two natives of having stolen fifty pounds from him, has proved to have done so from motives of revenge.

The Postmaster-General announces that a parcel mail for the Salonika Force containing parcels which reached the Army Parcel Office, London, for despatch between the morning of the 15th and the evening of the 18th of May has been lost at sea through enemy action.

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held (for business purposes only) at the Office of the Society, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W.1., on THURSDAY, JUNE 21, at 3.30 p.m. There will be no Special Address.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Our Captures of Guns and Men. June 14.

Mr. MACPHERSON, in reply to General PAGE CROFT, said that since the beginning of the war till the end of May the British armies have captured altogether 76,067 prisoners on the Western front, to which must be added at least 8,000 for the month of June. In Mesopotamia approximately 10,900 prisoners have been taken since July 1, 1916; 132 guns have been captured since the beginning of the war, exclusive of the guns lost at Kut and recaptured by us. The captures reported by the General Officer Commanding in Egypt since July 1, 1916, were approximately 8,739 prisoners and 18 guns. In a fortnight's time he hoped to give the exact figure up till the middle of June. About 600 square miles have been regained on the Western front since July 1, 1916, by British troops. This figure must be taken as approximate only, as the boundary between the French and British armies had varied constantly.

The Situation in Greece.

Lord R. CECIL informed Commander BELLAIRS that Russia was still one of the Powers which guaranteed the constitutional position and independence of Greece.

Mr. LEES SMITH asked whether, on October 5 last, the Italian Minister at Athens informed the Director-General of the Greek Foreign Office that the occupation of various towns in Northern Epirus by Italian troops had one exclusive object—namely, to secure the military safety of the Italian army of Valona, and that it was not in any way to be regarded as modifying the international status of North Epirus as laid down in official declarations; and whether the Italian Government still adhered to this policy.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: I understand that the assurance of the note referred to was given by the Italian Minister to the Greek Government on or about the date mentioned, and I feel sure the Italian Government have no intention of disregarding their undertaking in the matter.

The Greek "Royalists." June 18.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. R. M'Neill, said it was not the intention of the Protecting Powers to allow ex-King Constantine and his family to remain on Greek soil, and he believed steps were being taken to remove from Greece Herr Streit, M. Gounaris, Colonel Metaxas, General Dousmanis, and other notoriously pro-German intriguers.

Mr. WATT asked whether the ex-King and Queen had a free choice to go where they liked.

Lord R. CECIL: I think I had better explain that the actual arrangements were left very much in the hands of the High Commissioner whom we agreed with the French Government should be appointed. I have not yet received a full report from him as to exactly what took place.

A Suggested Plebiscite.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked the Foreign Secretary whether His Majesty's Government was now prepared to invite the Governments of the French and Russian Republics to consent to the abrogation of that part of the treaty of 1832 which guarantees a monarchical constitution to Greece; and whether, in accordance with the spirit of the preamble to the treaty of 1863, which stated that the arrangement establishing the present dynasty on the Throne of Greece was made in order to give effect to the wish of the Greek nation as declared by a plebiscite of all Greeks at home and abroad taken in the preceding year, it would be left to the Greek nation to determine by a similar plebiscite what form of Government should now be established in Greece.

Lord R. CECIL: The treaty of July, 1863, was concluded not only with the French and Russian Governments, but also with the Danish Government, whose consent will be necessary before any modification can be introduced. I am unable to trace the words in the preamble of the treaty to which my hon. friend refers, but as regards the general principle involved I can only say that at present it would be impracticable to hold a plebiscite of the Greek people, and in my judgment any such questions as are here raised should be postponed for the present and perhaps till the end of the war.

Mr. R. M'NEILL: Can the noble Lord say that no steps will be taken which will preclude the Greek people from eventually being consulted?

Lord R. CECIL: I cannot imagine what steps we could take to do so. Personally I cannot imagine the British Government, with all the traditions of the British Constitution behind them, desiring to take any steps to prevent a free expression of the opinion of the Greek people on any domestic affair.

Replying to a further question by Mr. Outhwaite, Lord R. CECIL said it was common knowledge that the appointment of M. Jonnart as High Commissioner of the two Allies was to enable him to act with decision and rapidity and without having to consult at every stage and on every detail the Home Governments.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Allies would oppose any movement which expressed the general will of the Greek people to establish a Republic; and, if so, upon what grounds.

Lord R. CECIL: I do not think that anything would be gained by discussing a hypothetical question of this kind.

Mr. LYNCH: Is it necessarily hypothetical that we should set up a Republic? Why should not Greece march in the way of progress?

Lord R. CECIL: There is nothing abusive in the epithet "hypothetical." Grammatically it is a statement of the effect of the hon. gentleman's question.

M. Venizelos's Influence.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in the event of M. Venizelos desiring to extend his influence over the whole of Greece, obstacles would be placed in his way.

Lord R. CECIL: If, as we hope, Greek unity is re-established by recent events in Greece this question will not arise.

Greek Irregular Troops.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any diplomatic correspondence had revealed any encouragement given at any time by the Greek Government to irregular Greek troops engaged in unfriendly acts towards the troops of the Allies.

Lord R. CECIL: No, sir. I cannot go as far as that, though a certain number of Greek officers of the Regular Army were concerned with the operations of irregular bands in Thessaly.

The British Killed in Athens.

Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. Lynch that the bodies of the British sailors and marines who lost their lives in Athens in December last were handed over to the British naval authorities for burial. The Greek Government tendered official apologies for the attack upon the Allied detachments, and representative Greek regiments were publicly paraded for the object of saluting the Allied flags.

America and Greece. June 19.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Mr. Lynch that the United States was not consulted as to the solution of the Balkan problem by the deposition of King Constantine and the nomination of his son as King.

Mr. LYNCH: Would it not be well to associate America in these acts, because it might have an influence on the course of the war itself?

No answer was given.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs had had his attention called to the statement of the Prime Minister to Greece, in his letter to M. Jonnart, that King Constantine, in abdicating, nominated his son Alexander as his successor; and, if the facts were as stated, whether he could indicate the constitutional authority under which King Constantine acted in his bestowal of the Throne.

Mr. BALFOUR: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. In the absence of full official accounts of these events, which we are still awaiting, any further answer on the subject would be necessarily speculative, and might be misleading.

Sir F. Elliot's Withdrawal. June 20.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Mr. King that the British Minister at Athens had been withdrawn. British and French diplomacy in Greece having been entrusted to a High Commissioner of the two Powers, it was undesirable for a Minister of Sir Francis Elliot's seniority to remain in a subordinate position.

Mr. KING: Has he not been there many years, and would not the vast experience he has accumulated be of great assistance to a stranger comparatively new to the duties?

Mr. BALFOUR: There is no reason why he should be kept in a subordinate position.

Mr. S. MACNEILL: Is there any precedent for the withdrawal of a British Minister in such a crisis as this? There is none so far as I know.

Mr. BALFOUR: I should think there are endless precedents.

The Changes in Greece.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Foreign Secretary whether the decision of the Allies to remove King Constantine from Greece involved any other persons, and whether any of the agents of King Constantine, now ascertained to be pro-German, would be allowed to remain in the entourage of King Alexander.

Mr. BALFOUR: This matter is now under discussion with the Greek Government.

Mr. LYNCH also asked whether the Government of Russia stipulated in regard to a solution of the Balkan question that no Republic should be set up in Greece.

Mr. BALFOUR: The answer is in the negative.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Among the ardent supporters of ex-King Constantine who have been placed under restraint by the Entente authorities is "the naturalised Greek Deputy Schlieman." Unless I am greatly mistaken, this person is a son of the excavator of Troy, though he appears to have dropped the final "n" in his name in the process of becoming naturalised. That he should be a Germanophile is, of course, perfectly natural—indeed, he would be a poor sort of creature if he were anything else, in the circumstances. But I hope that no exaggerated respect for his papa's memory will induce his captors to relax his bonds. For, as a matter of fact, Schliemann the elder was by way of being a bit of a humbug. I have no intention of opening up the old arguments that were set going by his theories about Troy and Mycenæ. Anyone is entitled to his own theories in the world of archæology, as far as I can make out. But Schliemann was a clumsy excavator. He cut clean through a magnificent bit of flooring in one place at least; and that is what even the youngest digger ought not to do. In fact, if he had not been a millionaire, it is doubtful whether he would ever have achieved such fame as he was actually able to secure.

***

When I was a small boy, a very small boy, Warwick the King-maker was for a long time one of my heroes. Looking backward, I suspect that the title had more to do with my hero worship than anything else; for it is indeed a title to appeal to a small boy—a very small boy. But what will the small boys of the future think of the title that our recaster of the universe will doubtless receive—"Wells (H. G.), the God-maker"? There is a title to tickle the fancy of the small boy, or the small-minded man, the very small-minded man. It is, perhaps, less heroic than Warwick's, but it is much more "modern" in sound, and, therefore, doubtless, after Mr. H. G. Wells's own heart. The worst of it is, of course, that the people who make gods for themselves—as certain uncivilised peoples still do—are apt to be regarded with some scorn by other folk; while those who make gods for other people, and sell them for their own profit, are not usually regarded as admirable types of humanity. But in all probability these people do not care, as long as they get their profit on each copy—of the god—they turn out.

***

With Mr. Wells's views on God, gods, kings, and princes I am not greatly concerned. But I do wish he would refrain from writing high-sounding "tosh" that may make harder the work of the men who are *doing* things instead of airing their views about them. Here, for instance, are a few sentences from a letter signed by him and published in the *Daily Chronicle*:—

> Finally, the time is drawing near when the Egyptian and the nations of India will ask us, "Are things going on for ever here as they go on now, or are we to look for the time when we, too, like the Africander, the Canadian and the Australian, will be your confessed and equal partners?" Would it not be wise to answer that question in the affirmative before the voice in which it is asked grows thick with anger?

Does it not strike Mr. H. G. Wells that quite a number of specialists know almost as much about Egypt and the nations of India as he does? And, if so, would it not be better to leave the specialists to put forward the suggestions at the right time *and in the right place?* The columns of a newspaper hardly offer the best place to ventilate such views, if the object is to do real good. If it is merely to show the writer's liberality of thought, of course, that is another matter. In any case, I doubt whether anyone who really knows Egypt and the Egyptians *would* "answer" Mr. Wells's "question in the affirmative." Of India I do not feel qualified to speak. The Egyptians have made progress no doubt; but before they can become the "confessed and equal partners" of the Africander, the Canadian, the Australian, and the Briton, they have still some distance to go.

***

There is—or was, for by now it has probably subsided—a storm in a teacup over the suppression by the Egyptian authorities of a certain book which is allowed to be sold quite freely in this country. One ha'penny evening paper concludes quite a long note on the subject with the remark: "The book can be purchased in England, but not in Egypt; what is immoral to the Anglo-Egyptian becomes wholesome in England." Well, well! I wonder whether the sapient author of this profound sentence paused to think before writing. I can hardly believe that he did. For, after all, is it not a plan fact that the expression of some views may do great harm in Egypt, while it would do little or no harm in England? And, that being so, are not the Egyptian authorities acting wisely in keeping their immature charges from tackling meat that is too strong for them?

CORSAIR.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

"THE GLORY THAT WAS GREECE."*

During the mid-Victorian era Professor Seely told his fellow-countrymen that all the elements of civilization—apart from Nature's blind forces—had come down to them from ancient Greece. His dictum was received with amused scepticism in a generation intoxicated by its apparent conquest of those forces, but its truth is now admitted on all sides. Thinking men are eager to learn more of that wondrous fifth century, so fertile in epoch-making thought and in works of art which are the admiration of posterity. Mr. Delisle Burns has done much to satisfy this laudable curiosity. In 272 pages he gives us a vivid picture of ancient Hellas—its political and religious ideals, its ceremonies, its philosophy and drama—in fact, all the data for a clear comprehension of its elusive atmosphere are outlined in masterly fashion.

The first point that strikes the reader is the extreme sociableness of the contemporaries of Plato and Socrates. They solved a problem which puzzles sociologists in this century of ours—how to reconcile complete scope for the individual's development with complete devotion to the common weal? Mr. Burns explains that religion was then the bond of union between man and man:—

> The leading characteristics of the social life of Athens were rather what we may call religious, for it was concerned chiefly with the relations of the group with certain human or superhuman realities within or behind the world of sense. This is the original influence which formed the Athenian ideals of life and character, and in this religious sphere the highest embodiment of social life was always found.

The immense power developed by authoritative religion has often been exemplified since the age of Pericles. It enabled a handful of Arabs to conquer half the civilized world, and endowed Europe with cathedrals. Religion was the life-blood of those mediœval guilds whose handiwork is still inimitable; it is perhaps destined to evolve order from the mad chaos in which the world is plunged to-day. But the creeds of ancient Greece were too nebulous and devoid of sanction to withstand the disruptive influence of animal instincts. Little City-States overspread the peninsula, each about the size of an average English county, and inhabited by, say, 100,000 human beings, nine-tenths of whom were slaves. They had indeed a common culture, a literature prized by all; periodical festivals in which every State took part kept alive a vague sentiment of unity; danger from without leagued them for a moment in efforts to repel the foe. Unlike the cantons of Switzerland, those groupings of ancient Hellas never reached the stage of federation, in which local autonomy co-exists with centralisation in all that concerns the nation as a whole. If the brilliant Athenians had grasped the life-giving truth that unity is strength, their city would have become the hub of an empire far finer and more enduring than that of Rome. *Dis aliter visum est.* A race which fails to obey the law of mutual help is governed by the archaic law of struggle. Greece fell a prey to civil war, which left her people too completely exhausted to withstand the impact of Roman might.

Political experience ranks first among the legacies which the short-lived efflorescence of her genius has bequeathed to mankind. Every problem that can arise from the interaction of human intelligence and environment was threshed out in those quarrelsome little City-States 2,500 years ago. The German Emperor has debauched the soul of a mighty race by compelling his subjects to absorb the lessons of perfidy, bloodthirstiness, and ovine submission to tyranny which are taught by the annals of Prussia. How different would be the plight of our war-distracted world had they acquired *σωφροσύνη*—sweet reasonableness—from Plato, and learnt from Thucydides the inevitable punishment that awaits *ὕβρις*—overweening pride!

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Soldier Men. By Yeo. (John Lane, The Bodley Head. 3s. 6d. net.)

Studies in Greek Scenery, Legend, and History. By Sir James George Frazer. (Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

The Spoken Arabic of Mesopotamia. By the Rev. John Van Ess, M.A., American Mission, Busreh. (Oxford: University Press. 4s. 6d. net.)

Jewish Emancipation: The Contract Myth. By H. Sacher; and *Achievements and Prospects in Palestine.* By S. Tolkowsky. (English Zionist Association. 4d. each.)

* "Greek Ideals: A Study of Social Life." By E. Delisle Burns. (London. G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., 1917. 5s. net.)

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THE LATE MR. G. B. ALLEN.

By L. J.

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Mr. George Berney Allen, at a nursing home, in London, on June 19. Mr. Allen sailed for India on his customary winter visit in the autumn of last year, and he has usually returned from these periodical visits to the East with a renewed store of health. He loved travel, he was not sorry to exchange the trying English winter for the glorious cold weather of Northern India, and, in addition to his business interests, the East had always a fascination for him. But on this occasion his health broke down, he had several severe attacks of asthma, which led to heart trouble and other complications, and on the return voyage his condition became so serious that by the time he reached England it was felt that there was very little hope.

Throughout Northern India there is no better-known name than that of "George Allen." Mr. Allen's father —the late Sir George Allen, K.C.I.E.—went to India before the Mutiny of 1857, and the main feature of his life's work may be said to have been the *Pioneer* of Allahabad, which he founded and raised to a position in India which might be compared to that of *The Times* in England in the days of Delane. But the *Pioneer* was not Sir George Allen's only enterprise. About the year 1880 Sir George, in conjunction with Sir William Cooper, founded the firm of Cooper, Allen and Co. at Cawnpore, which to-day is said to be supplying more boots to the Army than any factory in the world. These are instances of Sir George Allen's many activities, and when he died in 1900 he left behind him a tale of work and a name of which any man might well have been proud.

Mr. G. B. Allen, always called "G. B." by his familiar friends, was Sir George's eldest son. He was born at Addiscombe in 1862, educated at Clifton, and after a short training in the firm of Allen Brothers and Co., London, left for India in 1882 to take part in the management of the factory at Cawnpore. It is interesting to record that he travelled to India on the same ship as Mr. Rudyard Kipling, who was then on his way to join the staff of the *Civil and Military Gazette* at Lahore, another of Sir George Allen's papers, and the friendship which commenced with that meeting endured for life. Mr. Allen devoted himself for some years to the work of Cooper, Allen and Co., and to the last he was always keenly interested in the development of Indian commerce and manufactures. At the time of his death he was a director of the Rohilkhund and Kumaon Railway and a member of a Standing Committee of the Imperial Institute.

In many respects the resemblance of Mr. Allen to his father was very strong. They both had the same nervous energy; they were full of ideas and big conceptions; they were the stamp of men who think things and give their thoughts active shape; and they both possessed a shrewd working knowledge of the men with whom they had to deal and skill in dealing with them. In addition, they were men eminently to be trusted; in the course of their careers they were the recipients of many confidences, and people freely confided in them because they knew that their confidences would never be betrayed.

Like Sir George, too, Mr. Allen had a strong natural bent for the literary and business side of journalism. They both appreciated good literature, although they did not write much themselves, and in the supervision and guidance of papers, without caring for the show of power, and even avoiding it, they both enjoyed the consciousness of it. In 1911 Mr. Allen started THE NEAR EAST as a weekly paper. There had previously been a monthly paper of that name, dealing mainly with Turkey, and he bought its name and greatly extended its influence. He had always felt that there was a want for such an organ, dealing from the point of view of the Imperial interests of England with the affairs of the countries from Egypt and Eastern Europe to the Persian Gulf. But that was not enough, and in May, 1914, he floated, also as a weekly paper, the *Indiaman*, devoted entirely to the interests of India from the same political aspect. He had always a very genuine love for India, and was imbued by an earnest desire to work the paper in the best interests of her welfare.

In private life Mr. Allen's family affections were particularly close and tender, and very few men have ever possessed so many friends in the truest sense of the term. A friend once made was a friend always, for "G. B." was singularly free from prejudices and any narrowness of outlook. He was never brusque nor intolerant, he had no touch of the partisan or the doctrinaire in his composition, and he never resented opinions when they were contrary to his own. "He that hath friends must show himself friendly," and "G. B." was always friendly. His conversation was free from bitterness, criticism and dispraise, he hated scandal, and he never spoke a word that was not full of charity for the absent. It was one of his axioms of conduct that knowledge leads to sympathy, and the want of it to misunderstandings. He, therefore, always tried to get very near his friends. He liked to drop in upon them without formalities or conventions, and always ready to do things for others he was frank in asking them to do things for him, as if between friends there could be no sense of obligations.

His tastes were very catholic. He was happy in town with his wide range of friends and interests, and he loved the country, open air, and gardens, and the far-away places in the East that he visited with such unfailing regularity. In landscape gardening he took an intense delight, and the Allen *Bágh* at Cawnpore, once a forbidding spot, which is now a garden with a lake, is an example of his labours in this direction. But at all times he was very gregarious, and fond of the fellowship of men and women on a footing of friendly intimacy and quick give and take. He enjoyed big functions and crowds, seeing new people, and making new friends wherever he went; but there is no doubt that he was at his happiest and his best at dinners *en petit comité*, and the little house parties at his country residence, Free Chase, in Sussex, when for the time being life was free and untrammelled, a joke, a holiday, were invariably delightful. It is impossible to think of Free Chase without him; it seems as if he must still be there to welcome us when we come.

In spite of indifferent health, he was always occupied. His business and social interests, his gardening and farm at Free Chase, his immense correspondence, kept him always busy, and no man worked harder to keep his friendships undimmed by rust by constant use. If he could not see his friends frequently, he wrote to them. But though the sustaining power of a strong and restless energy kept him going every day and long hours, he was never what could be called physically robust. People used to say that he looked worried, as if the burden upon his shoulders was almost more than he could bear. But he was not really worried; on the contrary, few men have been so cheerful in discouraging circumstances and disappointments, or so optimistic and buoyant in breasting difficulties. If he looked worried, it was from the forest of his thoughts. His mind was of great fecundity, and to that fertility of ideas he added a practical grip of affairs, but he did not always see his way very clearly at first. He had to work it out like a foxhound on a lost scent, making casts here and there till he found himself on the sure track, and his face reflected the perplexities of his thoughts.

His friends who saw him leave England in October last little thought that they would never see him again. They had no reason for any misgivings; he was then in his usual health, and during the last twenty years he had only once missed his annual trip to India and the East. Nor had they any suspicion that his illness abroad was so serious from the letters they received. Mr. Allen, ill as he was, wrote his old chatty letters home, making light of what appeared to be only a temporary indisposition in his bright and cheerful way. And in that way, unchanged to the end, he died, one of the most kindly and companionable of men, and who, until the time he became unconscious in his last struggle with suffering, was warm and alert to all the varied interests of his full and active life.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. June.	1917. June.		1335. Ramadan	5677. Tamuz
22	9	Friday	2	2
23	10	Saturday.....	3	3
24	11	Sunday	4	4
25	12	Monday	5	5
26	13	Tuesday	6	6
27	14	Wednesday	7	7
28	15	Thursday	8	8

To-morrow is the birthday of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

Monday is the birthday of Prince George of Greece—the brother, not the son, of ex-King Constantine—who was born in Corfu in 1869.

Saturday is the birthday of the little Princess Cecilia of Greece, third daughter of Prince Andrew, who was born in 1911.

Monday was the birthday of the Shah of Persia, and, by command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, his Majesty's Master of the Ceremonies, called on the Persian Minister and conveyed his Majesty's good wishes.

Lady Wingate, wife of the High Commissioner for Egypt, has received the Royal authority to wear the Grand Cordon of the Order of El Kemal, conferred upon her by the Sultan of Egypt.

The Earl of Bessborough, who left London for Edinburgh last week, returned to town on Tuesday.

The *Morning Post's* Rome correspondent announces, in a message despatched on Tuesday, that Sir Francis Elliot has arrived in that city.

Reuter's Jassy correspondent reports, under date of May 25:—The Roumanian Minister in London has informed the Roumanian Government that Lord Rosebery has placed £5,000 at the disposal of the Queen of Roumania to be distributed among the population of Roumania who have suffered by the war.

Mr. James Brunyate, Secretary to the Foreign Department of India, who had been the guest of his brother, Sir William Brunyate, left Egypt for England at the beginning of this week.

Mme. Yovanovitch held a reception at the Serbian Legation on the 14th inst., which was attended by the members of the Diplomatic Corps and their wives.

Prince Soutzo, formerly Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in Paris, has left London for Jassy, to join his regiment.

Princess Soutzo has left London for France.

Captain Liteanu, of the Roumanian Military Commission, left London for France last week.

The Rev. H. G. Roberts, M.A., has settled in Alexandria after a term of several months in Cairo.

Mr. A. G. M. Dickson has reached London from Egypt to take up his duties as manager of the British Trade Corporation.

Referring to the departure from Egypt of the sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, the *Egyptian Gazette* understands that Mrs. Dickson and family are remaining in Egypt until the return of more normal times.

M. Guillemin, French Minister at Athens, arrived in Paris on Tuesday.

A Reuter's message from Cairo, received in London last Friday, but dated the previous Wednesday, reported:—"It is unofficially stated that General Sir E. H. Allenby is replacing General Sir Archibald Murray in the Egyptian command."

General Allenby, it will be remembered, was one of the officers promoted for distinguished service in the field, on the occasion of the King's birthday. He has been serving on the Western front with conspicuous success, and has been made a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour as well as a K.C.B.

The following Reuter's message, despatched from Ottawa on June 19, will be read with much interest and pleasure by General Sir Julian Byng's many friends and admirers in Egypt:—The Governor-General has addressed the following telegram to General Sir Julian Byng, hitherto in command of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France:—

"On behalf of the Government and people of Canada I desire to express my deep regret that your association with the Canadian Corps has come to a termination. During the year you have been in command you have gained the confidence and earned the gratitude of all, and I trust that the memories of this eventful period will be as gratifying to you as they are to Canada. I hope we shall have the pleasure of welcoming you at no distant date."

Sir Julian Byng replied:—

"Your kind cablegram just received is most sincerely appreciated. It was with the deepest feelings of regret that I severed my connection with that splendid corps whose record during the last year fills me with pride and admiration."

Lieutenant N. G. Paspati, of the Greek Navy, and attached to the Greek Provisional Government, returned to London last week from Washington, where he has been on a special mission.

The engagement is announced of Avola Denniss, daughter of the late General A. D. Denniss, R.A., of Arreton, Donnybrook, and Captain H. Veale, R.N., Chief of Staff, Malta.

The *Gazette* announces:—The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Archibald McCorquodale, Esq., formerly Director-General of the Central Gharbia Drainage Projects; Frank Ford Peregrin Walsh, Esq., formerly Inspector in the Irrigation Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works; and Arthur James Knowles, Esq., formerly Engineer in the Bridges Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred upon them by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them.

The *Gazette* also announces:—The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Reginald Humphrey Lee Pennell, Esq., of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred upon him by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by him in connection with the drainage works at Port Said

The King has been pleased to give and grant unto Arthur Torrens McKillop, Esq., Inspector-General, Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, his Majesty's Royal licence and authority to wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred upon him by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

A correspondent of *The Times* announces "the sale of the entire crop of yearlings from the famous Sledmere stud to an American buyer." After recalling the pride which the late Sir Tatton Sykes took in this stud, the writer adds: "Doubtless Mr. Cholmondeley would not have advised Sir Mark Sykes, the present owner of the stud, to dispose of these seventeen thoroughbred yearlings to a buyer from abroad had not the stoppage of racing forced him to accept the inevitable."

Next Wednesday afternoon (June 27), at a meeting of the Central Asian Society, Mr. A. Boddam Taylor, F.R.G.S., will read a paper on "The River Tigris from the Sea to Baghdad." Colonel Sir Henry Trotter will preside. At the same meeting the report of the council for 1916-17 will be presented, and the election of officers and members of council for the ensuing session will take place.

The London units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Serbian Society of Great Britain will hold a meeting at King's College on June 28, at which the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield will speak of her experiences in the Dobruja and during the Roumanian Retreat. Professor Gilbert Murray will be in the chair, and Mr. A. H. E. Taylor will speak on "The Present Situation in the Balkans."

The Serbian Relief Fund appeals for old flannel suits, other summer clothing, and shoes for the homeless Serbian boys in its charge. Old portmanteaus and Gladstone bags are also asked for. Address: Mrs. Carrington Wilde, Serbian Relief Fund, 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

M. Grégoire J. Michaesco has been appointed Assistant Commercial Agent to the Roumanian Legation in London.

The War Office has sent out an Army Chaplain from England, Rev. Mr. Semple, for the work among the British Garrison in the Sudan, says the *Egyptian Gazette*. He arrived on May 7 at Khartoum.

The following appointments and transfers are announced in the Sudan Government Gazette :—

Mr. C. E. Lyall, Governor, Halfa Province, to be Governor, Kassala Province.

Mr. S. A. Tippetts, 1st Inspector, Red Sea Province, to be Governor, Halfa Province.

Mr. H. Fraser, Assistant Director of Lands, to be Director of Lands.

Dr. V. S. Hodson, M.V.O., Senior Medical Inspector, to be Assistant Director, Medical Department.

Mr. J. G. Matthew, 1st Inspector, Sennar Province, transferred to Red Sea Province, and appointed Senior Inspector, Red Sea Province.

Mr. R. Wedd, Deputy Assistant Director of Lands, to be Assistant Director of Lands.

El Kaimakam C. S. Northcote Bey, 2nd Inspector, to be 1st Inspector, Bahr el Ghazal Province.

Mr. W. Nicholls, 2nd Inspector, Darfur Province, to be 1st Inspector, Sennar Province.

Mr. W. Nicholls, 1st Inspector, Sennar Province, to be Senior Inspector, Sennar Province.

El Bimbashi E. F. N. Burton transferred to the Sudan Government, appointed 2nd Inspector, Bahr el Ghazal Province.

The following appointments are announced in the Egyptian and Sudan papers to hand by the last mail :—

Bimbashi C. W. W. Sandes, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

Captain Robert C. Carlyle, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps, is seconded for service with the Egyptian Army.

Bimbashi W. St. J. F. MacCartney, Veterinary Department, has been transferred to Sudan Government.

Bimbashi P. E. Wylie, of the Egyptian Camel Corps, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

Bimbashi R. K. B. Walker, M.C., of the 13th Sudanese, has been transferred to the Camel Corps.

Lewa C. H. Townsend Pasha, Governor, Kassala Province, has been placed on pension.

Major M. J. Wheatley, Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor-General of the Sudan, has been appointed Secretary to the Governor-General's Council.

The reversion to the British Army of Miralai R.J. Rees-Mogg Bey, Military Secretary to the Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan, has been officially announced. He will be succeeded by Kaimakam C. A. Barker Bey.

Kaimakam Russel Bey, Vice-Commandant of the Cairo police, has been appointed Commandant of the Alexandria police.

A circular has been sent to all the officials of the Egyptian Ministry of Education to the effect that nobody will be allowed to go on leave this year except on medical grounds.

OBITUARY.

MR. W. G. ABBOTT.

Mr. William George Abbott, formerly Consul-General at Tabriz, died last week at the age of eighty years. Mr. Abbott had served forty years in the Consular service, for he was first employed in the Consulate in the Dardanelles in 1853. Thence he went on to Erzeroum, where, in 1856-57, he was Acting Consul. Subsequently he was appointed Secretary-Interpreter to the Commission for the settlement of the Turco-Russian boundary in Asia Minor, and during this time he served principally as interpreter to General Gordon, who was then a lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. After a year and a half as Acting-Consul at the Dardanelles, he was, in 1862, employed at the Constantinople Embassy as private secretary to Sir Henry Bulwer. Subsequently he was employed on special service on the shores of the Caspian and at the headquarters of the Persian army at Astrabad operating against the Turcoman tribes. In 1865 he was appointed Consul for the provinces of Ghilan, Mazanderan, and Astrabad, with residence at Resht; and ten years later was promoted to be Consul-General at Tabriz. In 1880 he was sent to Armenia to inquire into the condition of the Nestorian Christians, and he was present when the town was invested by Kurds. In 1889 he was transferred to Rio de Janeiro, and in 1895 he retired on a pension.

The death is announced as taking place on Monday at her residence, White Heather, Sunningdale, of Baroness Wentworth, granddaughter of the poet Lord Byron. A peeress in her own right, she was the only child of the second Earl of Lovelace and thirteenth Baron Wentworth, to which Barony she succeeded on the death of her father in 1906. The title devolves on her aunt, Lady Anne Isabella (daughter of the first Earl of Lovelace), who married in 1869 Mr. Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, and she has a daughter, Judith Anne Dorothea, who married in 1899 Major the Hon. Neville Stephen Bulwer-Lytton, brother of the Earl of Lytton.

Captain Cecil Aubrey Bradford, Yorkshire Regiment, attached Nigeria Regiment, who was lost at sea on April 24, was the second son of Colonel Bradford, of Welparke, Lustleigh, and was born in 1886. Educated at Wellington College, he passed into Sandhurst in June, 1905, was gazetted in November, 1906, to the Yorkshire Regiment, and joined the 2nd Battalion in South Africa in January, 1907. On the return of that battalion to England he joined another battalion in Egypt, where he was attached to the Camel Corps, and later went on with the same battalion to India. In October, 1913, he was attached to the Nigeria Regiment, and saw service in Cameroon in 1914-15. He was gazetted captain in 1915, and when home on sick leave that year he married the second daughter of the Rev. A. Hillyard, of Upton Pyne, Exeter, and leaves an infant daughter. Captain Bradford was a good athlete and keen at sport. He did some big-game shooting on the White and Blue Nile, procuring a quantity of good heads.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

NISBET GRANT—MCKINLAY.—On the 12th inst., at St. Martin's, Herne, by the Military Chaplain, Second Lieut. W. S. Nisbet Grant, the Buffs, youngest son of the late Major-General Charles Grant, Political Agent, Muscat, Persian Gulf, and grandson of the late Captain Edward Parry Nisbet, of Hollywood, South Kensington, to Elizabeth (Betty), daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William McKinlay, of Elm View, Strabane, Ireland, and Shedon Park, Kelso-on-Tweed.

DEATH.

ABBOTT.—On June 12, at 57, Chepstow Place, Pembridge Square, W., William George Abbott, late H.B.M. Consul at Resht, and Consul-General at Tabreez, Persia, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, aged 80.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1917.

GRECIA REDIVIVA.

There has been a tendency to imagine that the British and French Governments have been remiss in not securing from King Constantine a definite statement of abdication and from the Crown Prince a formal renunciation of his rights to the Greek throne. This criticism seems to be beside the point. The object of the Allied Powers was twofold: to put an end to the intrigues which menaced the safety of the Salonika Army and to restore to the Greek people constitutional control over their own destinies. With the expulsion of ex-King Constantine, his German consort and the Crown Prince, followed, as it has been, by the removal of the more conspicuous of Germany's henchmen among the Greeks, there is reason to suppose that any military movement contemplated against the Allies will collapse of its own accord in the absence of the motive power previously supplied by the Court party. In order, however, to eliminate all risks, Allied troops have occupied Thessaly, and General Sarrail now controls a substantial belt of territory in the rear as a protection for the Salonika position. The new King Alexander has taken the oath, and must be credited with the intention of respecting the Constitution until he chooses to break it. His first proclamation, it is true, cannot be regarded as happily worded. He would appear to have laid too much stress on the sacred mandate received from his august father, and on his own resolve to follow the lines of the latter's "brilliant reign." But this mild indiscretion on the part of the youthful sovereign entails no real embarrassment for the Allies or for the Greeks, even though it may be established that M. Zaimis, the Premier, who is essentially of an easy-going uncritical temperament, refrained from exercising his right to edit the text. Nor is it necessary to examine too meticulously the wording of the ex-King's farewell proclamation. He was allowed to be the author of it, and would naturally avoid the painful word—abdication. "Yielding to necessity, accomplishing my duty towards Greece, and having in view only the interests of the country, I am quitting my dear land with the Crown Prince, leaving my son Alexander on the throne." So ran the message. Fifty-five years previously Otho had sought to "save his face" in precisely the same way. He announced that he left Greece for a time in order to avoid plunging the country in civil war; he in no way abdicated his pretensions to the throne. But the decision in regard to that matter, as he soon found, did not rest with him; and to-day it does not rest with ex-King Constantine. Otho died five years later without revisiting Greece, and it will only be with the consent of the Greeks themselves that either the late Monarch or his eldest son George will be found in the future in occupation of the Greek throne.

What the Allies have endeavoured to do is to restore the sovereignty of the Greek people under the Constitution of 1865, which states that all power has its source in the nation. King Constantine violated the Constitution by usurping autocratic power, and his control over the army prevented the Greeks from reasserting their authority. The intervention of Great Britain and France has readjusted the balance between the King and the people, so that the direction of the national policy reverts once more into the latter's hands. The future of the country depends upon the use to which they put their present opportunities. There is much to be said in favour of hastening slowly. M. Zaimis can be under no illusion in regard to popular feeling; but he will be well advised to avoid any violent transitions. The ex-King's punishment may revive in some quarters just enough of the popularity which he had sacrificed by his more recent acts to harden opinion momentarily against M. Venizelos, the protagonist in the defence of the rights which the King assailed. The steps to be taken to restore unity to Greece should, therefore, be gradual and strictly in conformity with constitutional practice. It is to be supposed that M. Zaimis will do justice to the Liberal party by offering some of them portfolios in his Ministry. The summoning of the Chamber illegally dissolved by King Constantine in November, 1915, will re-establish the machinery of government, and will pave the way for the return of M. Venizelos to Athens. Before that can happen, however, delicate negotiations will have to be set on foot between the capital and Salonika. M. Venizelos, although occupying a unique position, no longer stands alone. Ranged with him is the Provisional Government which has been directing the national movement, and it is unlikely that he will seek to re-establish his own position in the country without arranging for adequate representation of the policy for which the national movement stands. In the course that these negotiations may take much will depend on the statesmanship of M. Zaimis and the good will of King Alexander. Greece will not have long to wait to be able to make up her mind regarding the new occupant of the throne. If he is really going to follow in the footsteps of his father and allow his personal sympathies and antipathies to overstep the limits of his constitutional authority, then he may find that those footsteps lead him also to Switzerland. If, on the other hand, he allows himself to be guided by M. Zaimis and by the representative of the two Powers who are anxious to restore the unity and prosperity of Greece, there is no outstanding reason why the dynasty should not endure.

The immediate steps taken by the British and French Governments to relieve the economic situation will, it is to be hoped, convince the Greeks that only the ex-King's hostility compelled the former measures of coercion. To the more thoughtful section of the people the critical position of affairs both for Greece and for the Near East as a whole ought to bring home the necessity for closing up the nation's ranks and ensuring for it the most capable leadership that it can command. The redrafting of the map of Eastern Europe and Asia Minor has still to take place. If Greece had to rely upon her case being presented by King Constantine or by any of those Greeks who have placed Germany's interests before those of their own country, she would be in a parlous plight indeed. There is only one man who can plead her cause with any authority, whether in regard to Macedonia, Epirus or the coast of Asia Minor; and if the Greeks set any great store on their future, they will see to it that at the earliest possible opportunity the direction of their affairs is placed once more in the hands of M. Venizelos. At one time some of them affected great disdain for him, because he was willing to surrender Kavalla and a strip of land in Macedonia in exchange for a wide extent of territory in Asia Minor. They pinned their faith on a Sovereign who not only bartered away Macedonian territory for nothing, but was at the last in danger of sacrificing a portion of Epirus as well. Greece, if she could discern the signs of the times, has much lost ground to make up. This fact alone should have a steadying effect on King and people alike, and make for unity and wisdom in their counsels.

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THE RED CROSS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

We are indebted to the Red Cross for permission to publish the following report, written by Major Moens. It covers the period from April, 1916, to January, 1917.

On April 13, 1916, the advance guard of the British Red Cross unit arrived in Mesopotamia, to be followed three days later by Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, British Red Cross Commissioner. On April 23 a further detachment landed, by which time large consignments of stores from London and Bombay were arriving and the work had begun in earnest.

Prior to this date Lieut.-Colonel Jay Gould, I.M.S., had for about a month been acting as Commissioner for the Indian branch of the St. John Ambulance Association and distributing comforts to the Hospital units, while three motor launches, sent out by the British Red Cross Society in 1915—the Wessex, Alouette and Olinda—had been doing most valuable work on the Shatt-el-Arab. With these exceptions no Red Cross work had previously been attempted in this country. So that it may fairly be said that May, 1916, was the real beginning of Red Cross activities in Mesopotamia.

The staff at the Busreh or Base Depot consisted of Lieut.-Colonel Jay Gould, I.M.S., Commissioner for the Indian St. John Ambulance Association; Mr. E. A. Ridsdale, British Red Cross Commissioner; Captain H. Gordon Holmes, financial adviser; and Lieuts. Salcombe, Weaver and, some time later, Lieut. Stone.

An advance depot had already been started under Major Moens at Amarah—about 150 miles up the Tigris from Busreh.

Mr. A. E. Ridsdale, after a very busy six weeks in Mesopotamia, had to leave for India, as he had been appointed a member of the Vincent Commission, and was obliged to sever his connection with Red Cross work in Mesopotamia. Shortly after Mr. Ridsdale's departure Colonel Jay Gould was made Red Cross Commissioner, representing the Joint War Committee of the Order of St. John and British Red Cross Society.

The total strength of the Red Cross unit in Mesopotamia is now eight officers and sixty-four men—not including nine soldiers temporarily attached for duty and a considerable number of native followers and coolies. The total number of men sent out is 104; so that 32, or 30 per cent. of the whole represents our "casualties," practically all of which were invalided home. But if the men who have arrived since the end of the last hot weather are eliminated the percentage of casualties is 57.

In spite of the difficulties experienced in the early stages on account of lack of accommodation and other facilities, it is worthy of note that on April 27 several large indents from hospitals were complied with, so that no time was lost in getting to work. Orders were at once given to a local contractor for the erection of huts for quarters and stores on a portion of the ground occupied by the barracks, about half a mile down a tidal creek known as Khandak Creek. These huts were not, however, completed until early in June, and the largo Stores hut not until the beginning of August. In the meantime Colonel Jay Gould provided quarters for the officers, and the officer commanding one of the Indian hospitals placed some huts at the disposal of the Red Cross for men's quarters. The stores had to be stacked in the open in their original cases—thus throwing an enormous amount of extra work on the staff, as every case had to be opened and re-secured for every requisition dealt with.

The area dealt with by the Base Depot extends down river to Mohammerah, where there are two large Convalescent Depots of 1,000 beds each, and thence 160 miles up the Karun river to Ahwaz, near to the Anglo-Persian Oil Fields. Up-river, at a distance of about forty miles, is Kurnah. Here there is a combined Stationary Hospital of 250 beds situated at the junction of the Euphrates and the Tigris—while some 200 miles up the main stream of the Euphrates is Nasiriyah—where are a Field Ambulance, a Stationary Hospital and a Casualty Clearing Station.

Not only has the base depot to comply with the requisitions made upon it by the hospital units in this large area—units with accommodation for over 14,000 patients—but it has also to keep the advanced depot at Amarah supplied with stores sufficient to cope with a still larger medical area. These stores are sent up to Amarah in large shallow-draught sailing boats or *mehalas*, which take from ten to eighteen days for the 150 miles journey, according to whether the winds are favourable or the reverse. A slow and cumbersome method of transport, but it has two distinct advantages:—(1) It throws no additional strain upon the now highly organised river steamer transport system; (2) these *mehalas*, with their Arab crews and their extremely shallow draught, can negotiate without much difficulty the numerous sand-banks and shallows of the Tigris in its low-water season.

A most regrettable incident connected with the Stores Department was the fire which took place on June 23, 1916. The cause has never been ascertained, though there seems to be some likelihood that it was due to spontaneous combustion under an intense sun heat. As a result of the fire, over £11,000 worth of stores were destroyed—a loss which would undoubtedly have been far greater had not the men stationed at the time in the barracks coped with the situation so promptly and efficiently. Another fire took place on the night of October 1-2, 1916, at the building occupied by the Base Medical Stores Depot, where the Red Cross officers had their quarters and offices. Although considerable office material was burnt, the loss was mainly one of personal kit and property, and all the really essential books and papers were saved.

The following figures taken at random from the list of Red Cross gifts issued from the base depot may prove of interest:—

Quantities issued.	Goods.	Quantities issued.	Goods.
1,756	Blankets	261	Primus stoves
203 Cases	Books	34,356	Pyjamas
8,270	Cardigans	3,699	Razors
2,159 lbs.	Chocolate	6,178	Sheets
3,225,150	Cigarettes	33,034	Shirts
1,039 lge. bots.	Calves' foot jelly	12,048	Slippers
8,788 lbs.	Ext. of meat	34,591	Tablets soap
49,234	Fans	32,985 pairs	Socks
9,263	Goggles	22,106 lbs.	Sweets
24,569 bots.	Horlick's milk	5,130 lbs.	Tobacco, Ind.
70,548 tins	Milk	1,214 lbs.	,, British
12,761	Mosquito nets	11,021	Tooth brushes
8,112 yards	,, netting	75 cases	Tooth sticks
3,478	Pillows	10,596	Towels
10,006	Pipes	20,172	Vests
		8,193 yards	Wat'rpf. sh'tng

The Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau has been conducted by Lieut. E. V. Salcombe, who had carried out the same work for some time in Malta, and had therefore the necessary experience to help him in this branch of Red Cross work in Mesopotamia. During the last two months Viscount Tamworth has also assisted in this department, thus allowing Lieut. Salcombe to devote a considerable part of his time to other Red Cross work.

The Amarah Depot was started in the beginning of May, 1916. Amarah is a town of 20,000 inhabitants, composed of Arabs, Jews, Christians, Chaldæans, Kurds and Sabbæans, of whom Arabs are in the vast majority. It is situated at the junction of the Tigris and the Chehala Canal, about 150 miles above Busreh, and has hospital accommodation for 7,800 beds. The Red Cross secured for its Depot a large house on the left bank of the Tigris, with a river frontage—admirably situated for the loading, unloading and distribution of its goods. As the demands on the Depot increased, additional storing room had to be found which—owing to the ready assistance given by the Military Commandant on every occasion asked for—was obtained close at hand.

The Depot soon had to cope with very large demands upon its resources. It had to supply the many wants not only of the hospitals in Amarah itself—both British and Indian—but of all the hospital units along the long lines of communication from Amarah to the front—a distance of about 200 miles by river. First, there are the three permanent defence posts, with post hospitals, of Mudelil. Filai Filah and Ali Gherbi; and, in addition, six other smaller marching posts with medical detention tents and personnel. These are all between Amarah and Sheikh Saad. At Sheikh Saad—140 miles above Amarah and the river head of the "P" boats—there are two Stationary Hospitals, four Casualty Clearing Stations, and one large Convalescent Camp—4,000 beds in all—not inclusive of

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DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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smaller units, such as Sanitary Sections, etc. Between Sheikh Saad and the Sanna-i-yat position on the left bank and the Es Sinn position on the right bank there are nineteen Field Ambulances—British, Indian, and combined—each one of which has 400 beds. The medical area thus covered by the work of the Amarah Depot has accommodation in all for 20,920 patients.

Lastly, and on the whole the unit most in need of Red Cross comforts, is the River Sick Convoy Unit, which, exclusive of the H.S. Sikkim presented, staffed and provided for by the Madras Presidency, has twenty "P" boats under its control. All the evacuation of sick or wounded is by river in these "P" boats, or paddle steamers.

The medical officers in charge can obtain their Red Cross comforts of clothing or of food from the Red Cross "dump" at river head or from the Amarah and Busreh Depots. They seldom fail to make a call at one or more of these sources of supply for the increased comfort and well-being of their patients during the long river journey.

The staff at Amarah consisted of Major Moens, Assistant Commissioner; Lieuts. Reed and Crewe and Sergeant Brittain, with two sergeants and four privates classed as "P.B." men—that is, medically unfit for field service and attached for duty to the Red Cross.

During the hot weather from June to September the staff was much reduced by sickness, and at one time it looked as if it would vanish altogether. Brittain was the first to go. He died of cholera after a few hours only of illness. He was an indefatigable worker whose loss was irreparable. Lieut. Reed stayed long enough with the Red Cross to make his transference to the Intelligence Staff very keenly felt. He had an intimate knowledge of the country, its customs and its languages, and Intelligence gained where Red Cross lost. Both sergeants of the Regular Army were invalided to India at about this time, and the four "P.B." men spent more time in hospital than out. The timely arrival of Mr. Vigo in early September was most welcome; but after six weeks' valuable work at Amarah he too was invalided to India after a long sojourn in hospital. Towards the end of October, 1916, the Red Cross lost another valuable worker in Engineer Travers, who was accidentally drowned.

But all requisitions made upon the Red Cross were complied with, and as soon as the hot weather became a memory only the staff was considerably strengthened, and is now as strong, or stronger, than ever it was.

(To be continued.)

THE IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK AND THE WAR.

The roll of honour of the Imperial Ottoman Bank shows that no less than sixty-two members of the staff in London and Manchester have joined for active service, besides five of the British staff in Egypt, and another five of the British staff in Turkey. Chief of all is, of course, Lieut.-Gen. the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B. Viscount Goschen was colonel of the Buffs (East Kent Regiment) T.F., but relinquished his commission because of ill-health in April of this year. Among the others are one major, one captain and adjutant, two captains, five lieutenants, twenty-two second lieutenants, one sub-lieutenant of the R.N.V.R., and four temporary assistant paymasters. Two members of the English staff have joined the French infantry, one having the rank of *aspirant* and the other that of lance-corporal; but this, of course, is not the total contribution that the I.O.B. has made to the French army. Many others have gone from the branches in Paris, Constantinople, and elsewhere.

If we turn to the list to see what losses the staff of the I.O.B. has sustained we see that the toll has been a very heavy one—much worse than decimation. Besides Viscount Goschen, two others have left the service because of ill health. Nine have been killed in action, one has died of injuries, and another, missing since May, 1915, is presumed also to be dead. Nine others have been wounded. The most recent case is that of Capt. and Adjutant Frank Fisher, M.C., K.R.R. Corps. The *Gazette* of the 18th inst. contains the official announcement that his Majesty has been pleased to award the bar of the Military Cross to this gallant officer. It says, "As Adjutant he ably carried out his duties under exceptionally arduous conditions. Later he went forward and took command of two companies at a critical period, and led them until he was wounded. He displayed great courage and leadership throughout."

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FLIGHT OF JEWS FROM JAFFA.

The *Bulletin Juif* (Lausanne) has received from a trustworthy source a message concerning the expulsion of the civil population from Jaffa, which was effected upon the pretext of military necessity early in April.

The order for the evacuation, published on March 28, bore chiefly (says the message referred to) on the Jewish population; even German, Austrian, Hungarian, and Bulgarian Jews were forced to go. Moslems and Christians might remain on individual permission, but such permission was systematically denied to Jews. On April 1 an order was issued for all Jews to leave Jaffa within forty-eight hours, without any means of transport being provided for them, and such transport being unobtainable. Carriage hire went up to fabulous rates; one had to pay between 100 and 200 francs for a carriage from Jaffa to Petash Tikvah—the ordinary charge being from 15 to 25 francs. Native drivers refused all money except gold, or would only accept Turkish 100-piastre notes at the value of 17 piastres.

Already, by the end of March, 300 Jews had been deported from Jerusalem in the cruellest possible way. At Jaffa Jemal Pasha explained cynically to the Jews that they were being driven out for their own good. Those who were unable to get away by April 1 were authorised to stay in Jaffa until April 9, on account of the Passover.

Eight thousand Jews were driven from their homes without permission to take any baggage or provisions; their houses were pillaged even before they left them; bands of plunderers, especially Bedouin women, with donkeys, camels, and so forth, flocked to the scene like birds of prey, carrying off valuables and furniture. The Jewish quarters were utterly pillaged under the paternal eye of the authorities. Two Jews of the Yemen were hanged at the entrance to the Tel Aviv suburb, as a warning of the fate that awaited any Jew who might oppose the looters.

The roads leading towards the Jewish colonies in the north (the message continues) are black with famished Jewish refugees. Trustworthy eyewitnesses report scenes of incredible cruelty and plundering. Dozens of rich Jews have been found dead in the dunes around Tel Aviv. To keep off bands of robbers who attacked the refugees on the road, the youths of the Jewish villages organized guards to patrol the roads; but these guards were arrested and maltreated by the authorities.

Recently the Moslem population has also left Jaffa, but permission has been granted to them to camp in the gardens and suburbs of the town, and to visit the town daily to look after their property. Not a single Jew, however, is allowed to return to Jaffa.

Jemal Pasha is too wary to order massacres. His *modus operandi* is to decimate the population by hunger, thirst, and disease. Those who know his methods would not be at all surprised if, after some little time, he should punish those who have sacked and plundered by his orders, or at least with his consent.

RUSSIANS IN ROUMANIA.

An undated Reuter's message from Jassy reports that a committee of the soldiers of the 9th Russian Army on the Roumanian front has issued an appeal, saying:—

"Comrades, soldiers. Our liberty is threatened. We betray our duty towards our country by fraternising with the soldiers of the Emperor William, the great enemy of liberty. From the West will come disciplined enemy troops, not to fraternise, but to fight us.

"Any man who enters into relations with the enemy is a traitor to the Fatherland and the Allies. Any man who refuses to obey a war order is a traitor. If our enemy sincerely desires our welfare he must liberate our territory and that of Roumania. Then we will help to overthrow his Government, the enemy of all liberty. Then only shall we have a durable peace.

The Sultan of Egypt recently authorised a European cinematographer to take the scenes of Abdin Palace, in Cairo, including the Harem gardens and a parade of the Sultan's bodyguard, under the command of Hassan Bey Tewfik Badr.

A *Reuter's* message from Buenos Ayres, dated June 8, reports:—It is announced from Colon, in the Argentine province of Entre Rios, that an enormous quantity of preserved meat has been destroyed at the Liebig establishment by a criminal plot. The damage is estimated at two million pesos. The authors of the outrage are Turks.

The anniversary of the death of El Idrisi, the founder of the Mohamedan sect which bears his name, and the ancestor of the Imam of Assir, was celebrated on May 20 at Omdurman by Seyid Idris el Shereef El Idrissi, another descendant of the great teacher. The celebration was attended by an immense crowd of people of all ranks and classes of the population of Omdurman.

News has reached the Red Cross headquarters that the river hospital ship Nabha has reached Busreh ready for service with the British forces during the hot weather. She made the passage from Bombay under her own power. This shallow draught vessel was specially built for service on the Tigris by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Societies, the cost of building and fitting being met from a donation sent to the United Provinces India Fund by the Maharajah of Nabha, whose name she bears. The fleet of Red Cross motor launches is now working right up the 550 miles of the Tigris as far as Baghdad, where the advance Red Cross Stores Depot was established within a few days of the British occupation.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Turco-German "Friends."

In the tenth of the deeply interesting series of articles, "Berlin To-day," that is now appearing in *The Times*, the writer, Mr. F. Sefton Delmer, refers to the relations between Turks and Germans in the latter's capital. First he records an incident that serves to show the Germans' window-dressing methods:—

I was greatly astonished at the beginning of last month suddenly to find the guard again on duty at the Brandenburger Tor. For the past year and a half no guard had stood there; spiders were the only denizens of the deserted guard-room, and the rifle-stands outside were rusty. But, all at once, at the beginning of spring, soldiers, like new-born flowers, were there again, and the usual two sentries, looking right and left, ready to turn out the guard to salute, should any high officer heave in sight. On the farther side of the Pariser Platz one saw the reason why. Above the Hotel Adlon a red flag with a white crescent was floating. A Turkish mission on its way to the Kaiser was staying there for a day or two, and for the special benefit of these gentlemen this little comedy had been staged. . . . A sentry-box, with a sentry in front of it, had also been placed at the entrance to the hotel. . . . In spite of this official outward show of respect for Turkey, the Germans in conversation do not scruple to express their contempt for their Turkish ally. "Die Türkei würden wir billig abgeben!" ("We'd let Turkey go cheap!" is the opinion even in Government circles).

That Turkey will be allowed to "go cheap"—very cheap—is not to be doubted. But Mr. Delmer tells us of a different state of affairs earlier in the war:—

Anyone who has lived in Berlin for the past two years could not but be vastly entertained to see the eager advances Germany at first made to Turkey. At the Oriental Seminary and at the Humboldt Academy, which is a sort of institute for university extension lectures, and has branches in all parts of the town, the courses for Turkish were simply thronged with students, and in the bookshops Turkish grammars were sold in thousands. . . . . So ardent, indeed, was this sudden affection that the Turk grew a little alarmed. He felt it to be uncomfortably like the love of the gourmand for the oyster, and quite recently he has passed various laws making it very plain to the Germans that Turkey is for the Turks. Nobody is to be allowed, for example, to open a place of business in Turkey who cannot read, *write*, and speak the Turkish language. I remember the inclination the German newspapers showed to shriek when they felt the shock of this cold douche, but they shiveringly smiled instead, determined to reach their goal notwithstanding.

In about ten Berlin schools groups of twenty or thirty Turkish youths of about 15 or 16 years of age have, at the instance of the Government, been admitted to study German. The Government have given instructions that they are to be treated with the utmost consideration, but schoolmasters have told me that these Orientals, many of whom are already married, are a nuisance, and that their presence amongst much younger boys is undesirable, both for pedagogic and other reasons. Much the same is said of the large number of Turkish youths introduced as apprentices in various trades in Berlin and other towns. The alliance, it seems, is not without its drawbacks!

Greece's Opportunity.

In the course of a short article entitled "Greece and Serbia," the *Observer* expresses the wish that King Constantine's entire dynasty could have been expelled with him, but assumes that his successor understands the risk of interfering with the Constitution and its working. It believes that parliamentary government under M. Venizelos will be restored; and it continues:—

The question of the future attitude of Greece towards the war must then be seriously raised. With high admiration for M. Venizelos and solicitude for the Greek people as a whole, the Allies, after three years' war, cannot be guided by sentiment alone. The disatser of King Constantine's policy cannot be wholly repaired, but, as we read the situation, there is still a plain issue to be decided in one sense or another. The present struggle, arising directly out of the previous Balkan war, has destroyed the whole reason and basis of the settlement of 1913. Unless Greece is prepared with her whole force to take up arms in defence of her share in that settlement she could have no claim to retain a considerable part of the territorial advantages it conferred. But if the Greeks, with M. Venizelos at their head, should resolve to fulfil their original obligations to Serbia, the effect on the Salonica enterprise and the whole Balkan situation may yet be large enough to deserve equal recognition. We heartily hope that this may now be the solution.

Greece and its Future.

The departure of King Constantine and the future of Greece still continue to exercise public interest very strongly; and some further extracts may be added to those we published last week on these topics. The first is from the *Daily Graphic* (June 14):—

A fool is ever the worst occupant of a throne. To spare the susceptibilities of the living, we will go to the remote past for an example. King Ahab was an excellent soldier, who trembled before his wife She, being a strong-willed and meddlesome shrew, pushed him along the path which led to destruction. That the Ahab of to-day is named Constantine makes no matter. The type is exactly the same. And there is Michaiah, whose modern name is Venizelos, and Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah, horns of iron and all, known as Gounaris. Only for Ahab-Constantine is reserved a more ignoble fate than to fall in battle at Ramoth-Gilead. It has taken the Allies a very long time to make up their minds to a step for which there has been ample justification for nearly two years past. Now that they have taken drastic action, we hope that their method will be thorough. The besom must sweep out the nest of sycophants and plotters Gounaris, Streit, Dousmanis and the rest of them must follow their master if there is to be salvation for modern Hellas. . . . He has nominated his successor; but the word is with the Greek Chamber, illegally dismissed in the autumn of 1915, and with M. Venizelos, its lawful leader. The Greeks may decide that they have had enough of the House of Ahab and of foreign-born kinglets generally. That is their affair. What concerns us is that the Salonica army is at last free from the menace in its rear, and that the prestige of the Kaiser in the Balkans has received a shock which will have consequences both in Turkey and Bulgaria.

The *Birmingham Post* thinks that in the humiliation of Constantine, "Tsar" Ferdinand of Bulgaria and the rulers of Turkey should be able to discern the beginning of the end of their own hopes. It adds:—

Meanwhile, his successor, Prince Alexander, commands our sympathy, for the task which awaits him is heavy. He has to re-establish, if he can, the unity of a divided country; he has to rule constitutionally through Ministers responsible to a Chamber which, at present, is thoroughly unrepresentative of national sentiment; and he has to reconcile the fact that Ministers and Chamber may declare for honest neutrality with the fact that at least 40,000 of his subjects are already actively at war. He is not to be envied.

Last Futile Kicks.

The Athens correspondent of *The Times* begins a picturesque message (published last Saturday) describing the closing scenes of Constantine's sojourn in Athens, by saying:—"M. Jonnart was perfectly courteous but perfectly plain and unswerving in the course of all the negotiations—if they can be called negotiations—which have taken place. He knew his mission was a military one, and he took it like a cavalry charge." The message continues:—

M. Jonnart encountered great obstacles. A perfervid flood of frightened telegrams poured into the Allied capitals from well-intentioned but ill-informed sources, declaring that if an attempt was made to remove King Constantine war and civil war would begin side by side, and Athens be irrigated with blood. Efforts were made to restrict our action to the occupation of Thessaly; a suggestion was made to offer us merely M. Gounaris, General Dousmanis, and Colonel John Metaxas, who would have been handed over to us in a group—a sort of evil parody of the Burghers of Calais. Everything was tried in one way or another to persuade us to agree again to one of the usual compromises which have all along restricted M. Venizelos—one does not know why—in order to uphold the King—one knows why still less.

"The Modern Crusade."

Under the above title the *Westminster Gazette* (June 13) prints an article forwarded by a correspondent who describes himself as being "now on the threshold of the Holy Land." "The ever-blue skies of Egypt are behind us," he writes. "Here there are always masses of white fleecy clouds, the same in the middle of the day when the sun scorches us as before. On our left, just a few miles away, the deep blue Mediterranean is still with us. . . . Every inch of the country is brimful of interest to any thinker, and fascinatingly so to a Christian." After referring to the capture of "a village, where, it is said, Delilah was born," and the imminent capture of a town "which it is said was never captured," he continues:—

I cannot help but marvel at all I see around me, a mixture of wonders and desolation. It is so strange there should be such things, here in this of all lands, and that the earliest known battlefields should once again become soaked with the blood of human sacrifices. There is every modern weapon of warfare here—aeroplanes, tanks, enormous guns, gas, etc.—and just off the coast warships. There is plenty of mechanical and horse transport, yet the far greater part of the carrying is done as it was by the ancients, with long strings of silent-footed camels led by almost naked, dusky-faced natives.

But in spite of all its interesting associations the region does not fire the writer's enthusiasm. Says he:—

Life here is far from a joy, and a Kampsin has been blowing in from off the Syrian desert, and made things almost unbearable. It is a hot, scorching wind, that nearly stifles you. The whole atmosphere is filled with sand dust. You can see nothing but it whichever way you turn, and even the heavens are veiled in it. In the ordinary way sand dust and flies are two awful scourges here, and are further aggravated by the heavy military traffic, but during the Kampsin no words can describe what a pest they are.

The worst trouble of all, and especially during the time I have just described, is the great scarcity of water. I don't think people at home, who have only to turn on a tap, could ever realise the value of water. All the water we get, as well as the men in the trenches, is brought up on camels in zinc tanks called "Fantasses." The average Londoner, if he saw it, would turn up his nose and not even think of giving it to a dog. It is horrid green slimy stuff, with a thick sediment of brown mud. During the day it is always tepid, and if brought up during the heat of the day is steaming hot, sufficiently so to be able to make tea without any additional heat.

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The Patchwork Empire.

As its title promises, "Turkey—A Past and a Future," in the *Round Table*, is an article of strong interest. It is not, however, an easy one to quote from in such a way as to give a correct impression of its character. The writer first sets before us a brilliant picture of the various elements that go to make up "Turkey" as it exists to-day. The cities of Turkey, he says truly, "are as various as its climes; and he brings out well a fact that one is apt to forget. He has been giving us, in a few words, the characteristics of some of the chief cities, and he adds:—

These, and besides them almost all the holy cities of mankind: Kerbella, between the Euphrates and the desert, where, under Sunni rule, the Shias of Persia and India have still visited the tombs of their saints and buried their dead; Jerusalem, where Jew and Christian, Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant, Armenian and Abyssinian, have their common shrines and separate quarters; Mekka and Medina, in the heart of the desert, beyond which their fame would never have passed but for a well and a mart and a precinct of idols and the Prophet who overthrew them; and there are the cities on the Pilgrim Road (linked now by railway with Medina, the nearer of the *Haramein*): Beyrout the port, with its electric trains and newspapers, the Smyrna of the Arab lands; and Damascus the oasis, looking out over the desert instead of the sea, and the harbour not of ships but of camel-caravans.

As to the population, we read:—

There were less than twenty million people in Turkey before the war, and during it the Government has caused a million or so to perish by massacre, starvation or disease. Yet in spite of this dœmoniac effort after uniformity, they are still the strangest congeries of racial and social types that has ever been placed at a single Government's mercy.

The Ottoman Empire derives its name from the Osmanli, but the Osmanlis are few and far between to-day.

These Osmanlis are a governing class, indigenous only in Constantinople and a few neighbouring towns, but planted here and there, as officers and officials, over the Ottoman territories. They come of a clan of Turkish nomads, recruited since the thirteenth century by converts, forced or voluntary, from most of Christendom, and crossed with the blood of slave-women from all the world. They are hardly a race. Tradition fortified by inertia makes them what they are, and also their Turkish language, which serves them for business of state and for a literature.

Turkey, the writer says well, "is not a unity, climatic, geographical, racial or economic; it is a pretension, enforced by bloodshed and violence whenever and wherever the Osmanli Government has power."

Articles to Note.

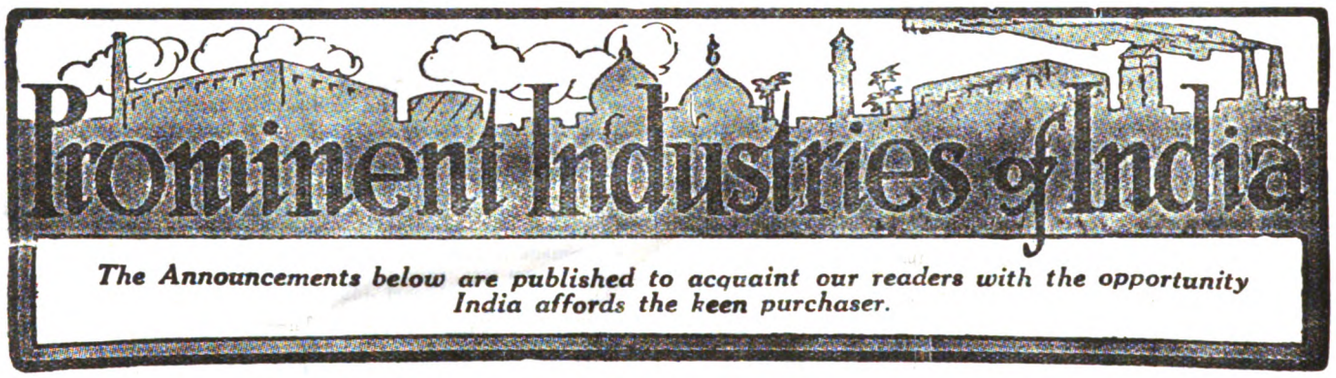
"Problem of the Adriatic: The Rival Claims," by W. B. Foster Bovill; and "Greece Restored," by John Mavrogordato, in the *Sunday Times* (June 17).

"How Turkey Fares To-Day," in the *Daily News* (June 19).

"The Cease of Majesty"; and "Italy and Albania," by E. Ginishelli, in the *Saturday Review* (June 16).

"Greece after Constantine," in the *New Statesman* (June 16).

"An Eastern Holiday from Macedonia," by "C.F.," in the *Church Times* (June 15).



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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The Admiralty returns showing the toll exacted by enemy submarines in the week ended on last Sunday afternoon is published elsewhere to-day, and from the point of view of vessels actually lost it was, with twenty-eight, the worst week since that which ended on May 28. The people of this country were prepared for the increase, because during the last few days the losses were indicated in a speech by Captain Bathurst, in a statement by the chairman of the (United States) Federal Shipping Board, and in a reference made in the House of Commons by Sir L. C. Money to "the ever diminishing supply of tonnage." No evil was ever scotched in a day, and the British people, at home and overseas, must be prepared to wait patiently for a solution of this very grave problem. Indeed, it may never be solved thoroughly while the war lasts; it may well be, as I have pointed out before, that the only way of salvation will lie in the direction of providing more ships and growing more food in this country while the fight against the enemy under sea is proceeded with.

***

There is, nevertheless, some comfort to be gained from the returns now under notice. It will be remarked that the number of unsuccessful enemy attacks on ships increased in the week to twenty-nine. That is the best return which has been made this year, and it indicates, I think, that not only are more merchantmen armed for defence, but also that the guns on board of them are used to greater purpose. Equally important is the fact that the movements of British vessels in and out of United Kingdom ports have also increased. The total for the week was 5,890—2,897 arrivals and 2,993 departures—the highest in any week since the returns have been issued. On the whole, therefore, there is a great deal to be grateful for; bad as the submarine situation is, it is not nearly bad enough to justify the faith which the Germans reposed in the efficacy of this phase of the war, nor the fears, which seemed well founded at one time, that our military progress would be hampered. In the meantime, all that remains for the people to do is, by calmness and confidence, to hold up the arms of those on whom rests the grave burden of responsibility and to continue to help to win the war by loyal and faithful service.

***

Investors in Greek securities have not had to wait long for the result of the improved situation consequent on the departure of Constantine. An appreciation of bonds followed the abdication almost immediately, advances of a point being marked at the week-end in respect of several issues. The fact that the blockade has been raised, too, had a strong effect in the City. The rise in value in Greek stocks is the more noteworthy because they have never really been out of demand; if business in them has been restricted in London it was because there were no sellers, so that in the recent advance in value it has not been a question of arresting the tottering fall of discredited securities.

***

The first official result of the improved situation in Greece is to be seen in the announcement made on Tuesday that it is now permissible to remit money there from the United Kingdom without the previous authority of the Finance Section of the Ministry of Blockade. It must be borne in mind, however, that certain restrictions with regard to financial relations with Greece continue in force, and these have been communicated to the banks, which are alone affected. The new order is printed elsewhere in this issue.

***

Last week I remarked on the certainty that the Balkan countries would not lose much time in attempting to reconstruct their agricultural industry. During the past week evidence has reached me that in Roumania the attempt has actually begun, and that the landowners are already in the market in search of agricultural plant and machinery. I cannot say if British manufacturers have been approached, but, according to a report submitted by the United States Legation at Jassy a request has been received for American catalogues and price lists, which, I have no doubt, will be forthcoming.

***

It is pointed out that the great majority of the large landowners of the country will be confronted by the problem of re-equipping their estates when possession of them is resumed after the war. Much of their land lies in the occupied portion of the country, and it is there that the soil is richest. Most of the oxen, formerly used for agricultural purposes, have been removed or killed, and these will have to be replaced mainly by machinery. It may be remembered, too, that buyers will require easy terms of payment. In this connection I would suggest to merchants and manufacturers that the newly-formed London Roumanian Chamber of Commerce would be able to furnish all the necessary information to those of its members who are interested, and that firms in the trade who have not yet joined the Chamber have everything to gain by doing so.

***

The decision of the Government of India to proceed without loss of time with the economic development of Mesopotamia will be welcomed in commercial circles. Transport conditions are to be improved, irrigation is to be extended, a work in which Sir William Willcocks' survey will play a considerable part, and other matters of importance to trade are to be attended to. Shipbuilding for river traffic is already well advanced in Indian yards, and it may be anticipated that, before long, Busreh will become a busy centre for British trade. There is even now great activity in the one-time Turkish port, but when conditions have been levelled this will be multiplied.

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Considerable feeling appears to have been aroused by the action of the Egyptian State Railways in raising the fares to the level of 50 per cent. above the rates before the war and in reducing further the number of trains. The native Press, in particular, takes exception to the changes, and points out that the people are not in a position to meet the extra demands, and that many of them will have to abandon suburban residences at Cairo, and so on. Two grievances do not make one grain of happiness, of course; but I should like to point out to the Egyptians that in this country the travelling public have endured restrictions on railway travelling and paid largely increased fares for many months. It is not possible to say, perhaps, that the British public have taken the changes uncomplainingly; but they have realised that war means hardship, and they have gradually settled down to wait patiently for better days.

***

In Egypt the causes underlying the changes are different. "It will be remembered," wrote the *Egyptian Gazette* recently, "that when the war broke out a considerable reduction in the railway traffic was at once made, and the passenger rates were increased by 10 per cent. on the grounds that the prices of coal had gone up and that it had become more difficult to import it on account of the shipping difficulties. The prices of coal continued to rise subsequently, though the railway authorities maintained the old rates plus the 10 per cent. increase, and did not raise them again until now. This increase, however, is 40 per cent. above the present rates, though it is 50 per cent. above the pre-war rates. As regards the prices of other railway materials, they have also gone up considerably, and owing to the war great difficulty is being experienced in obtaining them, and the amounts earmarked for them in the Budget are not being generally totally expended. In order to obtain an idea of what the increase in the price of coal represents, it will be sufficient to state that the Budgetary provision for coal in the 1917-18 Budget amounts to £E1,000,000 more than that provided before the war and £E650,000 more than that provided in 1916-17." That seems to me to be a complete answer to the objectors.

***

I wonder whether I may make a brief appeal to readers of THE NEAR EAST on behalf of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society. The secretary wrote recently:—"The civilised world was recently horror-stricken to hear of the loss of the great wonder-ship Britannic in the Mediterranean. News has now come to hand of the loss of a thirty-ton Italian sailing ship (Maria I.), sunk by a German submarine. The Malta home of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society has now had the privilege of receiving into its care the crews of the largest and smallest ships sunk in the Mediterranean." So many of us rely on the brave devotion to duty of our sailormen that an institution designed to help them when trouble overclouds their path deserves all the support that can be given to it. We are so accustomed to regard the services rendered by the mercantile marine as a matter of course that, I fear, seamen do not always receive the consideration which is certainly their due.

COMMENTATOR.

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COTTON PRICES.

Analysis and Review for Four Years from 1913-14.

(By Professor J. A. Todd.)

In The Near East of November 3 the writer gave some figures showing the comparative movement of the prices of Egyptian and American cotton for the previous three seasons, which brought out the striking fact that for some time previous the price of Egyptian had been, relatively speaking, too low compared with that of American. The course of events since then has shown such a remarkable contrast to that state of affairs that it is worth while to repeat the statistics then given, bringing them down to date, as is done in the larger table printed below :—

It will be seen from this table that the situation began to change sharply from the very month in which that article was written. At the end of November the premium of Egyptian over American jumped from 52 to 85 per cent., and since then it has been as high as 110 per cent., which establishes a new record, for till this year the highest premium recorded was in April, 1910, when it touched 102 per cent. That was under the entirely abnormal conditions of the 1909-10 season, when, though the American crop was short, the Egyptian crop was still shorter, and the very high price of Egyptian was mainly due to the fact that the Alexandria speculators were caught hopelessly oversold and could not deliver when the crop failed.

A Striking Parallel.

The parallel of this year's conditions is very striking, and probably it is not necessary to go much further to seek for causes of the recent movement of Egyptian prices. It may be noticed, however, that recently the tide has apparently turned, and the premium of Egyptian has fallen very markedly again, especially during the past week, when American has once more been monopolising the limelight by another spectacular rise. On Wednesday, June 13, when American Middling created a new record of 17.35d., Egyptian was only 27.85d., which, though the highest price recorded since the sixties, is only 60 per cent. above the price of American Middling. It would be dangerous to assume, however, that this will continue.

The facts of last year's season are now sufficiently well ascertained to make consideration of the results feasible. On June 9, 1916, the writer gave in these columns a statement of the position of the crop as at May 26 in each season since 1907-08, with a view to forecasting the final result of the 1915 crop. As the result is of some importance in its bearing on the prospects of the subsequent season, the attempt may be repeated as follows :—

Egyptian Area, Crop, and Average Yield, 1907-17.

Season	Area.	Crop (adjusted total).	Average Yield per Feddan.	Arrivals to May 26.	Total Arrivals.
	Fed'ns*	Kantars*	Kantars	Kantars*	Kantars*
1907-08	1.603	7.235	4.51	7.038	7.172
1908-09	1.640	6.751	4.12	6.639	6.678
1909-10	1.597	5.001	3.13	4.889	4.912
1910-11	1.643	7.574	4.57	7.518	7.579
1911-12	1.711	7.424	4.33	7.223	7.273
1912-13	1.722	7.533	4.37	7.438	7.474
1913-14	1.723	7.684	4.46	7.567	7.612
1914-15	1.755	6.464	3.69	6.222	6.367
1915-16	1.186	4.727	3.98	4.538	4.616
1916-17	1.656	5.200†	3.14†	4.974	5.100*†

* 000's omitted. † Estimated.

The arrivals up to May 25 this year were 4,974,424 kantars, which indicates a probable crop of not more than 5,200,000 kantars. This, on the official acreage of 1,655,512 feddans, gives an average yield of only 3.14 kantars per feddan, which is within one point of the lowest recorded—namely, that of 1909. How long is this state of affairs in Egypt to go on unchecked, and without raising the outcry against the policy and methods of the Egyptian Government which such a state of affairs would have caused under any other conditions. The Egyptian Government may have some justification for adopting what some of us consider a very doubtful policy in regard to the restriction of the acreage under cotton. But is there any reason why the average yield per acre should be allowed to fall to practically the lowest on record, the record of a year which has been known ever since as the "disastrous failure" of 1909, without an effective protest being raised?

The Future.

In the meantime it remains to apply this result to the prospects for the coming year. There is no information yet available as to the prospects of this year's area, nor would I be inclined to put much faith in advance estimates after the fiasco of last year's forecast of a record acreage of 2,000,000 feddans, which dwindled to a reality of 1,656,000. But assuming that the acreage is *no less* than last year, which, in view of the American parallel, is perhaps the best we can hope for, what crop may we expect? It would, in the writer's opinion, be over sanguine to look for more than the average yield of the last three years, *i.e.*, since the pink boll worm began to do its serious damage. That means 3.60 kantars per feddan, or a crop of only about 6,000,000 kantars. Is this to be recognised for the future as the normal figure of the Egyptian crop? If so, there is very serious trouble ahead for the fine-spinning section of the Lancashire cotton industry when things become anything like normal again. Are we to adopt our usual policy of waiting till the trouble comes before we do anything to meet it? That is a peculiarly dangerous policy to adopt with a crop which takes half the year to grow, and only grows once a year. If the trouble happens to come, say, just after the sowing season in spring, it will be nearly eighteen months before anything can be done to remedy it.

What Will America Do?

And what is America going to do in the meantime to replace the Egyptian cotton which she had recently been importing in very large quantities, and which she is now forbidden to import from England? She can use Sea Island, of course, to a very large extent, but that will not be much consolation for the fine spinners in Lancashire. But there is another thing she can do. She can push on the development of those new areas in the West, Arizona and California, which are already growing considerable quantities of cotton of Egyptian character and quality. It will be rather a shock to Egypt when she wants to come back to cotton after the war if she finds that a new rival has arisen who can produce cotton quite equal to hers in quality, and in quantities which will seriously challenge the virtual monopoly she has enjoyed for so many years of the bulk of the fine cotton supply. Egypt had better wake up if she wishes to maintain her position as the finest cotton-growing country in the world.

Prices of American and Egyptian Cotton on the Last Friday of Each Month, 1913-17—With Percentages.

—	1913-14.			1914-15.			1915-16.			1916-17.		
	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.	American.	Egyptian.	Premium.
	d.	d.	%	d.	d.	%	d.	d.	%	d.	d.	%
August	7·00	9·76	41	6·20	8·15	31	5·63	7·75	38	9·42	12·10	28
September	7·85	10·30	31	5·55	7·85	42	6·59	9·10	38	9·47	14·10	49
October	7·63	10·25	34	4·80	7·00	46	7·02	9·50	36	11·14	17·00	52
November	7·22	10·10	40	4·46	7·05	58	7·28	9·70	33	*11·90*	*21·85*	*85*
December	7·06	9·90	41	4·62	6·30	36	7·75	10·05	30	*10.63*	*19·55*	*85*
January	7·09	9·55	35	5·02	6·50	30	7·93	11·35	43	*10·91*	*20·95*	*92*
February	7·08	9·15	29	4·97	6·80	36	7·72	11·75	52	*11·33*	*22·65*	*100*
March	7·11	8·85	24	5·52	7·85	42	7·77	10·74	38	*12·77*	*24·25*	*90*
April	7·36	9·05	23	8·66	8·20	45	7·94	10·77	36	*12·86*	*27·00*	*110*
May	7·75	9·35	20	5·24	7·60	45	8·47	11·39	35	*13·90*	*26·50*	*90*
June	7·58	9·10	20	5·20	7·40	42	8·21	11·65	42	June 13. *17·35*	*27·85*	*60*
July	6·86	8·70	27	5·30	7·30	38	8·15	11·90	46			
Season's Average	7·27	9·45	30	5·22	7·34	40	7·51	10·42	39			

TRADE OPENINGS IN PERSIA.

It is satisfactory to learn that, in some parts of Persia, there is a growing tendency in the bazaars to appreciate British goods; the cause of this is that, while the retailers of fancy "sundries" used almost exclusively to stock articles of German and Austrian origin, now out of the running owing to the war, it has been possible in the last year or two to give a fair trial to British goods, and it will not surprise manufacturers to learn that they have come out of the ordeal with success. This is particularly the case in Kazvin, the British Vice-Consul in which town has recently submitted an interesting report on the subject. Mr. Goodwin adds to his report that he feels sure that the fact that British goods have given satisfaction will be proved as soon as the postal service is more certain, and the parcels post service *via* Russia is again available.

He writes :—

"The chief trade of Kazvin and district is the export of raisins and cotton, but a considerable amount of business is also done in general exports and imports. Goods from Russia—sugar, tea, textiles, hardware and sundry goods of every description—are dealt with by commission agents and distributed from Kazvin to other parts of Persia; while raisins, almonds, pistachios and dried fruit, produced locally, cotton from Kashan, Isfahan, and other districts, and opium, henna, etc., from Yezd, are purchased for export to Europe. The bulk of imports are Russian, but when the Baghdad-Kermanshah-Hamadan road is open, a large quantity of Manchester cotton goods and Indian spices come into the town.

"Cotton piece goods come mostly from Russia, but during the last two years supplies from that country have greatly decreased. Whenever possible the bazaars are well stocked with Manchester goods, but this, as stated above, depends upon the condition of the Baghdad-Hamadan road, which is closed at present. Russian cotton piece goods imported into Kazvin usually amount to about £175,400 annually.

"Boots, shoes, sandals, etc., for the natives are made locally and in Teheran from native leather. A great quantity of boots and shoes of European styles are worn by the Persians, the parts being imported from Russia and put together in Persia."

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EGYPT'S TRADE.

Recovery in Customs Revenue in April.

CAIRO, May 27.

The Customs statistics for April show that trade has recovered again the slight leeway it had lost the preceding month. Imports amounted to £E2,565,282, as against £E2,348,274 in April, 1916, and exports to £E3,227,617, as compared with £E1,482,860 a year ago. Total imports for the four months come to £E9.170,814, and exports to £E15,536,546, respectively £E402,936 and £E2,792,558 in excess of the figures up to the end of April, 1916.

The principal imports during the month were:—Preserved meat, £E87,652; flour, £E54,221; coffee, £E33,000; liqueurs, £E21,073; petroleum, £E80,420; stationery, £E38,063; coal, £E370,747; chemical manures, £E194,927 (none came in during April, 1916); textiles, £E1,026,750 (of which cotton tissues accounted for £E741,455 and wool tissues for £E68,095); and worked iron and steel, £E77,721.

The chief exports were:—Eggs, £E13,119 (the quantity fell off by thirty-one millions and the value by £E61,700); skins and tanned goods, £E32,680; maize, £E30,072; cotton seed, £E252,172 (137.060 ardebs more); cotton cake, £E67,213; onions £E110,821; sugar, £E49,597; wool, £E40,773; and cotton, £E2,473,179 (137.675 cantars more than last year, when the value of this export was £E1,750,924 less).

Leaf tobacco, valued at £E140,696 and weighing 279 tons—£E76,985 more but 303 tons less than in April, 1916—was imported, whilst cigarettes worth £E31,977 and weighing 22,841 kilos—£E13,035 more and 837 kilos less than a year ago—were exported.

Great Britain greatly improved her position. Her share of both imports and exports rose from 50 per cent. a year ago to 60 per cent. Chief imports from Great Britain were:—Textiles, £E878.519, all the barley and coal, and 90 per cent. of the worked iron and steel. Australia improved owing to the meat imports, which all came from that country; Chili reappeared in the statistics, thanks to the resumption of chemical manure imports; Greece improved slightly on account of tobacco; the United States were again responsible for all the petroleum, and so increased somewhat; but France, Brazil, and Italy all fell off considerably. Under exports, Great Britain, as usual, took all the eggs, cotton seed, cotton cake, and wool, 80 per cent. of the onions, and 56 per cent. of the cotton. India made a great improvement due to sugar, as also did the United States, which took 12 per cent. of the cotton. Russia and Switzerland returned to six figures with £E272,039 and £E222.241 respectively; in each case this was due to cotton, of which the former took 11 per cent. and the latter 9 per cent.

Trade with the Sudan flourished during April. Imports into Egypt rose from £E65,799 to £E224,396, and exports to the Sudan from £E85.872 to £E117,588. The principal imports into Egypt were:—Live-stock, £E22,693; skins, £E4.608; maize, £E61,771; sesame, £E20,120; ground nuts, £E12,121; gum, £E3.485; charcoal, £E7,384; and cotton, £E70.265. The main traffic in the opposite direction was:—Sugar, £E27,515; tobacco, £E16,698; and cotton tissues, £E27,895.

MESOPOTAMIA NEWS.

Government of India and Economic Development.

The following extract from the report of the Federation of Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the United Kingdom bearing on the economical development of Mesopotamia will be read with interest:—

"It is the intention of the Indian Government to proceed promptly and vigorously with the economic development of Mesopotamia, and especially to improve transport conditions. The irrigation of the country, which is essentially an agricultural one, will also be taken in hand. Already a comprehensive survey was made by Sir William Willcocks shortly after the change of régime in 1908 for the irrigation of large tracts of land which have lain waste for centuries, but which bear evidence of having been artificially irrigated in ancient times. Sir William projected a vast scheme, the first portion of which has been in course of execution by the firm of Sir John Jackson, Limited. The realisation of the scheme has been much hampered by lack of fuel, but one section was completed by the inauguration of the Hindie Barrage in December, 1913."

Considerable development is being witnessed in India in the building of small motor craft, particularly launches for commercial use. As an example (writes the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce*) it may be mentioned that Messrs. George Brunton and Sons, Cochin, completed recently for the Asiatic Petroleum Co., Limited, a fine example of the serviceable river launch. She is 32 ft. in length by 6 ft. 6 ins. beam, and has a load draught of 2 ft. 6 ins. The machinery consists of a four-cylinder 14-b.h.p. Kelvin petrol set. On trials a speed of twelve miles per hour was attained.

This launch, it may be mentioned, is now on Government service in Mesopotamia. Five of these boats have of late been built in Cochin and sent to Mesopotamia, also one 40 ft. cabin launch, equipped with a four-cylinder 26-b.h.p heavy type Kelvin paraffin set, and a small 20 ft. tug. The tug is also fitted with a Kelvin paraffin motor of 26 b.h.p. These boats have all proved themselves successful under very severe conditions, and Messrs. Brunton's yard is very busy at the moment on the construction of a number of smaller paraffin and petrol-engined launches.

TOLL OF THE SUBMARINE.

The Admiralty return of arrivals, sailings (of vessels of more than 100 tons net), war losses, and unsuccessful attacks for the week ended at 3 p.m. on June 17 was issued on Wednesday night, and is as follows:—

Arrivals	2,897
Sailings	2,993
Lost (vessels of more than 1,600 tons gross)	24
Less than 1,600 tons gross	4
Fishing vessels	—
Unsuccessfully attacked	29

The above figures are net, after deducting vessels lost in previous weeks and only reported in the week under review.

Mr. H. Blake Thomas has been appointed Agent at the newly established British Consular Agency at Bougie, Algeria.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

Business in the market has been more disorganised than ever by the raw cotton situation, and the further advance in prices of 2d. per lb. has brought trade in yarn and cloth on ordinary lines practically to a standstill.

Rates in Egyptian cotton are affected by the rise in American. The advices from Egypt relating to the new crop do not show much change. A good deal depends upon the extent of the damage done to the plant by pests. Egyptian yarns have not been at all active, but rather more inquiry has been forced out as a result of the hardening prices. A large part of the business under consideration in cloth for Egypt has been rendered futile by the higher figures required by sellers. In certain fabrics, however, buyers have shown confidence in the situation and paid very stiff rates especially where quick delivery can be guaranteed.

The outlook for shirtings for India remains very poor, and more makers are turning their attention to other goods. The offers put forward in dhooties and jaconets have been generally too low. Occasional sales have been mentioned in bleaching cloths for China. There are still cheap stocks about and some merchants have again had a fairly busy week in arranging business of this kind. Coarse numbers continue to do much better than medium and fine counts. It has been extremely difficult to arrange transactions in bundle yarns for export purposes. An important feature of the week has been the closing of the Liverpool futures market and further action on the part of the Government is awaited with much interest.

BULGARIA'S DEBT.

On Saturday Mr. Roland Burrows, Special Commissioner appointed under the Great Seal, and a special jury, again sat in the King's Bench Division to determine whether owing to a state of war existing between this country and Bulgaria the sum of £46,061, due by the Crédit Lyonnais, of London and Paris, to the National Bank of Bulgaria, was a debt due to the Kingdom of Bulgaria, and therefore liable to forfeiture to the Crown.

Mr. Douglas Hogg, who appeared for the French Bank, said he had an affidavit in which it was stated that the bank were proprietors and holders of thirty bonds issued on September 5, 1913, at Sofia by the Bulgarian Minister of Finance for 50,000 frs. each of which fell due on December 8, 1913, making a total of 1,500,000 frs. (£60,000). That sum, said counsel, the French bank was entitled to set off against the amount due by it to the National Bank of Bulgaria and as it exceeded that amount there was nothing to be forfeited to the Crown.

The Solicitor-General, in reply to the Commissioner, said he did not intend to urge on behalf of the Crown that there could be no set off by the Crédit Lyonnais. From the outset the Crown had treated the National Bank of Bulgaria as being in fact a State Department of Bulgaria.

The jury found that there was no debt due from the Crédit Lyonnais to the National Bank of Bulgaria, and therefore there was nothing to forfeit to the Crown.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Gas-propelled Cars.

Some months ago attention was drawn in these notes to the experiments conducted by a Midland firm in the utilisation of town gas for automobile propulsion. It was at the time when restricted supplies, high prices of petrol and the official ruling that all petrol substitutes come under the same category as petrol, were acting as a stimulant to the inventive abilities of automobile engineers and manufacturers. The position with regard to petrol has certainly not improved since, while most of its substitutes and mechanical contrivances are still in an experimental stage; but it is pleasant to learn that the perseverance of the Midland firm has been rewarded with success, and that their cars are now running with ordinary town gas; although the gas reservoir, or gas bag, attached to the roof of the car gives to the latter an appearance which justified, in a way, the objectionable caption placed under a picture of a car in a daily illustrated paper this week, "The 'Zeppelin' Motor 'Bus!"

The Gas Car.

In the new gas-propelled car the gas is stored in a bag which is attached to the roof of the vehicle, and is led to the carburettor air intake by means of a rubber insertion hose about ¾ in. internal diameter. There is a tap in this pipe placed within convenient reach of the driver, who can turn the gas off when it is required to run on petrol. This combination of gas and petrol suggests possibilities that there are means, if necessary, of enriching the gas during its passage to the engine in the event of the gas being of too poor a quality. There are already several such vehicles of seven to eight tons gross weight which travel from ten to fifteen miles on one filling of about 400 cubic feet. The comparatively short distance that can be covered on a single charge would appear to be a serious inconvenience, but as the re-charging only occupies about three minutes this is, after all, a small matter, especially in the case of public service vehicles, for which re-charging facilities can easily be provided. The gas costs, at the place where the cars run, only 1s. 4d. per 1,000 cubic feet, and this allows the vehicle to run thirty miles. To compete with gas under these conditions, petrol would have to be obtainable at fourpence a gallon; and even at the highest prices which have to be paid for gas, petrol, in order to secure the same economy, would have to be less than eightpence per gallon.

Busy Japan.

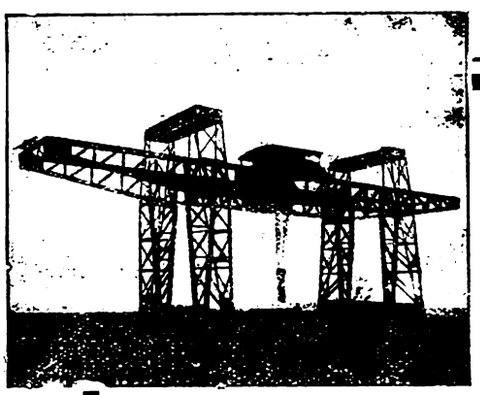
India and Australia are now taking from Japan various descriptions of hardware which were formerly supplied from Germany. Prominent among these is brass founding, in which the Japanese are establishing for themselves quite a firm footing. It is stated that they turn out extremely cheap brass goods that have a finish, which readily gains them access to the markets mentioned. Machine tools also are ready to be supplied. According to recent reports, as a result of the very heavy demand for machine tools in England, the Indian market is said to be very short at present of lathes. It is therefore, interesting to learn that Japan is making a great effort to make good the deficit.

Farm Tractors in the East.

One of the principal causes of the apparent unwillingness, or hesitation, on the part of landowners in the East to adopt farm tractors for the cultivation of land is the prevailing idea among the more indifferent of them that the machines are too heavy for ploughing, harrowing, etc., especially on heavy land. In fact, some believe that a tractor running over a cultivated field would affect the soil in the same way as a road-roller would do. No efforts were made by manufacturers or local authorities to show the error of this attitude, and the land proprietor thus listens to the farmer's uninformed and prejudiced opinion, with the inevitable result. It must be admitted, however, that even in this country there are farmers who share the prejudices and bias of the Oriental with regard to tractors. Nevertheless, the work being done with tractors in Lincolnshire under the auspices of the Machinery and Implement Section of the Food Production Department has attracted considerable attention among farmers. The results were so striking that, according to reports, the work of the tractors has converted indifferent farmers into the most enthusiastic advocates of the motor system of cultivation, and they have prepared for sowing a large tract of land which, in the present scarcity of agricultural labour, would probably have had to go out of cultivation until the end of the war.

The Tractor's Work.

The Lincolnshire soil is very similar to that of many important agricultural districts in the Near East, and some particulars of the tractor's work in the county may interest Near Eastern landowners. We mention here the work of one tractor of British design and construction. This machine is of 75 horse-power and weighs thirteen tons, but the equitable distribution of the load is so well carried out that nowhere is there a greater pressure on the land than seven pounds to the square inch, which is considerably less than the tread of a horse's hoof. On the occasion re-



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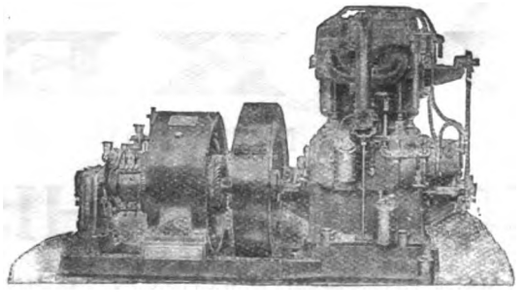

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ferred to there were four men in charge of the tractor, which drew two four-furrow ploughs over a piece of the strongest land in Lincolnshire. On a lighter soil it can as easily take three four-furrow ploughs or a sixteen-feet drag cultivator. It does the work of twenty-four horses and twelve men, and does it as well, and, of course, much quicker than the most expert ploughman. No wonder, therefore, that despite its weight—thirteen tons—its indisputable efficiency has converted indifferent farmers. It is said that the War Agricultural Committee of the district where the work is being done ordered a considerable number of tractors, and farmers are being urged to give them a trial. According to reports in that district alone some 90,000 acres will have to be ploughed up this summer season in readiness for the harvest of 1918.

Sun Power from Sahara.

In his recent address at Cardiff on the coal resources of the United Kingdom, Professor Arnold Lupton referred to the utilisation of the power of the sun in Africa. He said that, although steam had already been generated by this means at a speed of equivalent to 200 brake horse-power per acre, and although if there were a large demand for sun-power boilers would be greatly improved, he has taken the average power all the year round in the country between Cairo and Khartoum as being, say, 50 brake horse-power per acre. At that rate, 1,000,000,000 brake horse-power could be generated from 20,000,000 acres, or, say, 30,000 square miles. But, he asked, if the sun power is in the Sahara Desert, of what use can it be to the people of the United Kingdom? The answer was that the power could be transmitted electrically at a very moderate cost, say, 0.36d. per kilowatt hour. The cable carrying the power would deliver current in Spain and France on the way, and this would reduce the average length of the circuit. On the question of sun power and the experimental plants now in use in Egypt, we have written previously in these notes.

Aided Purchase.

The Italian Ministry of Agriculture has initiated a scheme under which agricultural bodies and societies may obtain a Government contribution towards the cost of acquiring tractors for mechanical ploughing. The grant will amount to a maximum of 30 per cent. of the total cost. This figure may be increased to 40 per cent. in the event of not fewer than five tractors being employed in any one province. In the case of private persons the grant will not exceed 20 per cent. Agrarian credit institutions are asked to facilitate the acquisition of tractors by means of credit operations.

COMPANY REPORT.

Egyptian Agricultural Co., Ltd.

The report of the Egyptian Agricultural Company for the year ended March 31, 1917, states that the capital outlay on the Atfeh estate was £E1,142, against £E1,271 the previous year, and the estate now stands at a cost of £E104,992, or an average of £E49 per feddan. The capital outlay on the Chaba estate was £E2,028, against £E2,388. This estate now stands at a cost of £E116,369, or an average of £E39 per feddan. The capital outlay on the Dekerness estate was £E2,552, against £E2,677. This estate now stands at a cost of £E81,873, or an average of just over £E20 per feddan. The prospects for the current year are reported to be favourable, and indicate the probability of an appreciable increase in the net revenue. The profit and loss account shows a clear, if small, profit this year (£1,260) in place of continuous deficits in the past. But for the ravages of the insect pests, which seriously injured the cotton crop in the later stages of development, the results would have far exceeded those actually obtained.

COMPANY MEETING.

The Bank of Abyssinia.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Abyssinia was held at Cairo on May 31, the president (F. T. Rowlatt, Esq.) presiding. The directors presented the balance-sheet, which was as follows:—

Balance-sheet at December 31, 1916.

Liabilities.			
Capital subscribed, £500,000 (in 100,000 shares to bearer of £5) £500,000			
Capital paid up, £125,000, viz., £1 5s. per share	£125,000	0	0
Current and deposit accounts	142,250	8	10
Bankers (including the National Bank of Egypt)	121,203	0	3
Sundry creditor and other accounts	27,606	3	11
Statutory reserve	613	8	0
Bank notes in circulation....$214,765			
	£416,673	1	0
Assets.			
Cash	£159,128	16	4
Securities (deposited in guarantee)	17,637	3	1
Guaranteed advances	61,640	7	2
Advances on merchandise, etc.	39,577	17	6
Advances on securities	6,320	15	11
Other advances	40,101	18	7
Foreign bills	2,877	9	3
Local bills	2,014	16	7
Bankers	24,316	9	6
Dollars deposited in guarantee	30,000	0	0
Sundry debtors and other accounts	4,028	0	2
Furniture (less depreciation)	620	4	0
Buildings (less depreciation)	18,103	3	8
Preliminary expenses (less amount written off)	1,522	19	6
Profit and loss account	8,782	19	9
Dollars set aside in guarantee for notes issued $214,765			
	£416,673	1	0

Profit and Loss Account for the year ending December 31, 1915.

Credit.					
Gross profit	£15,214	2	0	£15,214	2 0
Balance brought down				2,868	4 1
Profit on valuation of dollars and foreign currency at December 31, 1916				21,494	3 11
Balance at December 31, 1916				8,782	19 9
				£33,145	7 9
Debit.					
Ordinary expenses—					
Salaries	6,743	0	2		
Rent	567	3	10		
General expenses	4,835	13	11		
Directors' remuneration £1,000					
Less amount refunded 800					
	200	0	0		
				12,345	17 11
Balance carried down				2,868	4 1
				15,214	2 0
Depreciation, etc., written off—					
Preliminary expenses	507	12	6		
Buildings	1,500	0	0		
Sundries	187	16	6		
				2,195	9 0
Balance brought forward from 1915				30,949	18 9
				£33,145	7 9

AUDITORS' REPORT.

We have compared the above balance-sheet with the returns received from the head office at Addis-Abeba and the various agencies in Abyssinia, and are of the opinion that the balance sheet is correctly drawn up and represents the position of the Bank of Abyssinia at December 31, 1916, according to the above-mentioned returns.

RUSSELL, HARRIS, AND CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

Cairo, May 24, 1917.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—In the first place, we beg to tender our respectful greetings to her Majesty the Empress Zaou Ditou and to the Regent his Royal Highness Ras Taffari, offering them our sincere sympathy on the death, announced in 1916, of his Majesty the late Emperor Menelik, under whose gracious patronage the bank was founded and who was its honorary president.

Our ordinary gross profits, as against £13,615 for 1915, amount for 1916 to £15,214 2s. Deducting from this sum for ordinary expenses £12,345 17s. 11d., there remains a balance of £2,868 4s. 1d. We have debited the profit and loss account with the usual depreciation, amounting to £2,195 9s leaving £672 15s. 1d. The valuation of our net assets in dollars and foreign currencies on December 31, 1916, shows an appreciation of £21,494 3s. 11d., making a total profit for 1916 of £22,166 19s.

You will remember that on December 31, 1915, the profit and loss account showed an adverse balance of £30,949 18s. 9d., which is now reduced by the above net profits to a debit balance of £8,782 19s. 9d.

The exchange value in Abyssinia of the silver dollar, which accounts for our abnormal results this year, improved during 1916 by about 15 per cent., in sympathy, to a certain extent, with the bar silver market abroad. For the valuation of our net dollar assets on December 31, 1916, we have adopted the current exchange rate on that date of $10 to the £1 sterling, which is considerably below the intrinsic value of the dollar. This anomaly is due to the embargo on the export of dollars, instituted on the ground that the future supply of dollars was uncertain and the stock limited. It was considered to be necessary in the public interest. This severe measure obliged the bank to keep large sums of dollars, exceeding its local requirements, lying idle, and it has been prevented from realising them abroad at the enhanced value of silver.

We are pleased to say, however, that this burden was partially relieved at the end of the year by the present Government, which has already shown itself favourable to our interests, authorising the bank to export a part of its surplus dollars.

In spite of the present difficulties, it is satisfactory to note that our ordinary working profits have more than covered our expenses this year, and we look forward to a time when an improvement in trade and currency regulation will enable us to make more profits by avoiding the loss entailed in having to hold such large unproductive balances of cash in Abyssinia.

As last year, the amount of notes issued by the bank is $214,765, which is fully secured by a corresponding amount of dollars. Of this sum, $132,250 are circulating in the hands of the public, and the balance—$82,515—forms part of the cash balance.

In 1916 our sale of exchange was $3,152,543, against $3,458,322 in 1915; in 1916 our purchase of exchange was $3,149,774, against $3,335,158 in 1915.

The National Bank of Egypt has continued during 1916 to hold at the disposal of the Bank of Abyssinia £40,000 free of interest, and your directors in Egypt have again decided not to take the £800 of fees due to them under Article No. 25 of the statutes.

The directors retiring this year are Mr. M. C. Salvago and Mr. L. Suares, who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

COMPANY NOTES.

The directors of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company have declared an interim dividend of 3s. a share, payable on July 14.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce the numbers of Three per Cent. Bonds of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway drawn for repayment at par on July 15.

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 686 bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two and a Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898 which have been purchased for the Sinking Fund and cancelled.

The directors of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company announce an interim dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, less tax at 5s. in the £, in respect of year ending June 30.

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st March, 1917, published in Conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)	1,298,069
Special Reserve	78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	7,521,650
Mixed Tribunals	1,751,709
Egyptian Government	5,061,207
Bankers Accounts	275,872
Cheques and Bills payable	286,018
Sundry other Accounts	451,126
	£E.19,648,651

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	8,654,824
Sundry Securities	271,556
Advances on Merchandise	1,257,875
Advances on Securities	1,325,892
Advances otherwise Secured	760,756
Sundry other Advances	287,678
Bills of Exchange	1,798,649
Local Bills Discounted	121,001
Buildings and Furniture	226,164
Money at call and at short notice	682,500
Bankers Accounts	2,543,358
Sudan Government	286,507
Sundry other Accounts	157,110
Cash—	
Notes	1,104,396
Gold	81,871
Silver, Nickel, etc.	88,514
	1,274,781
	£E.19,648,681

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes issued	19,850,000
Gold	5,451,634
* British Treasury Bills	4,473,366
	9,925,000
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	6,493,239
	9,925,000
	£E.19,950,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journel Officiel" of October 30, 1916.)

P. AND O. NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING FUSION.

A meeting of stockholders of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company will be held on June 27 for the purpose of passing two resolutions relating to the acquisition of the undertaking of the Union Steamship of New Zealand. The motions are as follows:—

"That the offer made to the ordinary shareholders of the Union Steamship of New Zealand, Ltd., in consideration of 10s. of P. and O. deferred stock, and 30s. cash for each ordinary share, be approved and confirmed.

"That the capital of the P. and O. Company be increased from £2,704,353 deferred stock to £3,204,853 deferred stock by the creation of £500,000 additional deferred stock, this bringing the total capital of the company up to £6,244,853."

In a memorandum to the shareholders it is pointed out that the 10s. of P. and O. deferred stock is worth in the market something over 30s., so that, together with 30s. each, the ordinary shareholders of the New Zealand Company will obtain something over 60s. for each ordinary share. The property of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand includes a fleet of seventy-six steamers of 252,146 tons gross. The consent of the Treasury is required to the issue of deferred stock.

RICE FOR GREECE.

Some Greek merchants have purchased large quantities of rice and have shipped the same to Greece, writes the *Ahaly*. According to some qualified merchants, the total shipments amounted to about 15,000 ardebs. This has brought about a considerable rise in the price of rice in Alexandria, where the oke is being sold at the rate of P.T. 3.5 instead of P.T. 2, which was the regular price some days ago. It is evident that rice is one of the necessary commodities, and the excessive rise in its price will therefore be felt very keenly.

ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR CITY CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.

THURSDAY EVENING.

There has been rather more business passing this week, and in most cases prices, where altered, are rather better. Both Unified and 3½ per cent. pref. have continued in demand, but business has been restricted owing to the scarcity of sellers. National Banks have again been a feature of strength, improving ¼ to 15. Agricultural Banks, which were at one time somewhat easier at 5 1-16, have since been in strong demand, and are closing 1-16 better at 5 5-32, after business covering about 1,500 shares. Allotments have also been in strong demand for Egypt at a rise of ⅛ to 2⅞, at which price 500 shares were done. Behéras have been somewhat quieter, with some small business round 9⅜, further small buyers at this price, and sellers round 10. A few Behéra prefs. have changed hands at 4. In Delta Land some local buying has been going on round about 10s. 6d. to 11s. New Egyptian have been done at about 11s. for several hundred shares. Union Foncières are wanted at 26s. 6d., and United Lands at about 1s., but there has been scarcely any business doing. In Alexandria Water some small transactions have taken place at about 12⅜, and in Salts and Sodas there has been a fair amount doing in the neighbourhood of 23s. 3d. Khedivial Mails which were looking a weaker market some few days ago at 35s., have firmed up again to 35s. 9d. on the declaration of an interim dividend of 2s.

Greek stocks are higher all along the line, the recent developments in Greece being looked upon very favourably on this side. The 1881 and 1884 loans are two points up round 56. In 1890 a largish business has been done round 54½ and 55 xd. Monopolies are also two points up at 50, and Rentes, after temporarily dropping to 39½, are one point better at 41. The 1902 loan is ½ higher at 63, and the 5 per cent. Currant Bonds have improved to 93. Bank of Athens shares have been done at 2⅝, and look an improving market in view of the much more satisfactory results of last year's working and the fact that this bank, which has all along supported the Venizelist cause, is likely to derive substantial benefit from the re-establishment of the constitutional régime in Greece.

GREEK SECURITIES.

A supplement to the *London Gazette* published on Wednesday contains an Order of the Treasury under Regulation 41c of the Defence of the Realm Regulations preventing the withdrawal, except under the authority of the Minister of Blockade, of any Greek funds or securities in the United Kingdom which the Minister directs are not to be withdrawn.

The Minister of Blockade gives notice that the following restrictions will apply and will remain in force until further notice, notwithstanding the raising of the blockade of Greece:—"In respect of accounts kept in the United Kingdom on behalf of offices in Athens or the Piræus of banking institutions, no payment shall be made, without the authority of the Controller of the Finance Section of the Ministry of Blockade, out of any such account which would reduce the balance on such account to an amount smaller than 75 per cent. of the amount of the balance as on June2, 1917. No overdraft or loan, or increase in existing overdraft or loan, may be granted on any such account, without the authority of the Controller of the Finance Section of the Ministry of Blockade."

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended May 20, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E
May 11-May 20	4,390	4,883
April 1-May 20	22,941	27,415

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week June 15.	1917. Week June 14.
Cattle markets	407	407
General markets	362	422
Cattle markets closed	44	115
Receipts (£)	769	829
Total for year	27,376	32,537

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price June 15.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83¼	83¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72	72
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	54	56
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	54	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	48	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	40	41
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	54	55xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52	52
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	72	72
Do. 5 % Currant	—	90	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75½	75½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69	68
Do. 4% Unified	79	52	56
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5 3/32	5 5/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7½	7½
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12	12
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅜	2⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	5½	5½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	14½	15
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	25/32	25/32
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2½	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	9⅞	9 15/16
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/10½	10/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/3	6/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	22/6	22/6
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	11/-	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	3/16	3/16
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1 1/16	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	11 7/32xd
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	23/3	23/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	3/16	35/9	35/9
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3¼	3¼

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
June 12	140,000	160,000
June 13 / June 14 / June 15 / June 16	660,000	760,000
June 17	260,000	130,000
June 19	170,000	110,000

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H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

Alexandria, Egypt,
June 8, 1917.

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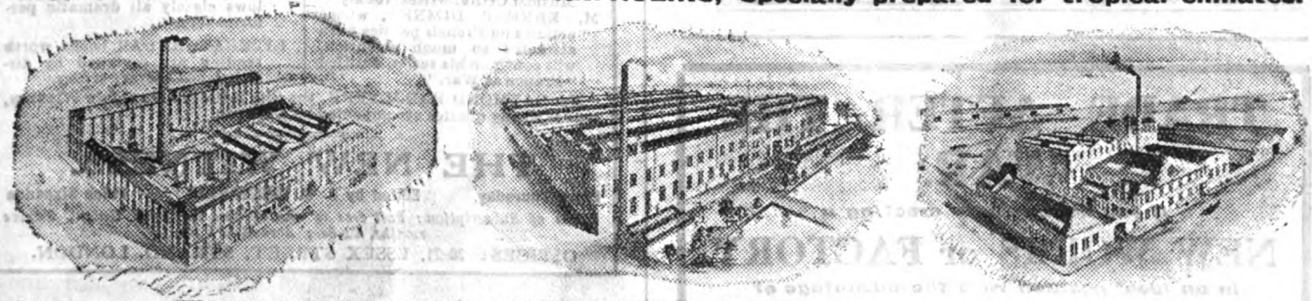

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 321.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Events have moved more rapidly in Greece than it seemed possible to anticipate a week ago. The acquiescence of the people in the new order is a measure of the artificial nature of the Constantine régime, which the Allies had so long permitted to continue, in despite of the best interests both of Greece and the Entente. It is now announced that King Alexander has accepted M. Venizelos as Prime Minister, and that that great leader has already formed his Cabinet. After taking the oath, they were acclaimed by large and enthusiastic crowds, and it would therefore appear that the fears expressed in some quarters that M. Venizelos might desire a postponement of the inevitable responsibility which he alone could bear was incorrect. On the whole, it was well that what was done was done quickly.

Allied troops, although not actually in Athens, are now guarding the approaches; and the purge of the Constantine faction continues. The ringleaders in an anti-Venizelist demonstration that took place on Sunday might well be arrested and sent to Salonika; judicial proceedings are to be instituted against those who were responsible for the rising of last December; and other members of the late King's family, including Prince Nicholas, are leaving for Switzerland. These precautions were plainly necessary. Apart from this, it is now anticipated that the Chamber of 1915 will be convoked—the assembly which was unconstitutionally dismissed by King Constantine. It is, in fact, the only practicable course, since the new King has taken the oath as a constitutional sovereign, and it is impossible to hold an election for a new Chamber at this time or for some weeks ahead.

The new Greek Cabinet, whose composition is announced, consists, as was to be expected, of those devoted Venizelists who followed M. Venizelos into exile. The fact that they risked their whole political careers, and possibly their lives, in his cause is a guarantee that they are strong men, whose sincerity to the Prime Minister and his cause has been proved by a test which no other leader in European politics has been able to apply to his subordinates. Those who have suffered together in adversity are likely to pull together when the tide turns in their favour. Among the names of the Ministers are, as was expected, that of Admiral Condouriotis, whose resignation of his post in the Greek Navy last year was a severe shock to King Constantine and the Royalist party; M. Repoulis, Minister of the Interior; M. Politis in charge of Foreign Affairs; and M. Negropontes, the Minister of Finance. It is to be hoped that the new Cabinet will announce their general policy as soon as it is at all possible to do so, since the intriguers are not inactive, and it is true of Greece, as of other countries, that a Cabinet begins to die from the moment it is born. Fortunately, M. Venizelos is not the man to procrastinate, and now that he is fairly in the saddle he will soon show the world that his grip is as firm as ever.

M. Zaimis, the late Greek Prime Minister, has retired into private life. In no circumstances could the step have been long deferred, but it was no doubt hastened when it became known that not only had M. Zaimis acquiesced in the proclamation which made the young King refer to the brilliant reign of his father, but had virtually drafted it. Indeed, it was quite clear that M. Zaimis would have been a drag on the wheel at Athens, and he might, in certain contingencies, have become a focus of Royalist intrigue and a danger. It is evident that the banishment of a few pro-Germans has not altogether eliminated pro-Germanism from the capital, and there are many agents, both paid and voluntary, of Berlin still working in Greece. Probably they will work unobtrusively to create a more favourable atmosphere, by suggesting that King Constantine will soon return, that things will not mend until he is recalled, and that M. Venizelos will endanger the very existence of Greece by his partiality for the Entente.

The world will await with some interest the attitude of M. Venizelos towards Bulgaria. The attitude of Bulgaria towards him has already been defined: M. Radoslavoff has announced that, "whether M. Venizelos becomes Prime Minister of Greece, or even, perhaps, President of a Greek Republic, Bulgaria will hold fast to the Greek territories which she has occupied with the ex-King Constantine's consent." That declaration is so intentionally provocative that the Greek Prime Minister can hardly ignore it when he makes his general policy clear to the reassembled Greek Chamber.

The Italian Press shows a restrained satisfaction over the return of M. Venizelos to power. Italy was not one of the Protecting Powers, and consequently could have no official share in the dethronement of King Constantine, but she has accepted the new régime as an earnest that Greece in future will not work against the Allies. It

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is probable that some readjustment, if not of Italian policy in the Levant, at any rate of certain recent phases of it which were rendered necessary by the division of authority in Greece, will be required; but it is satisfactory to notice that the principal Italian journals express themselves in friendly fashion to their neighbours, and the *Messaggero* states its conviction that M. Venizelos will lose no opportunity of strengthening Italy's belief in the need for a cordial and lasting rapprochement between the two countries. It may be expected that the feeling will be reciprocal; it would be a gain to both parties if the secular controversies which have so long persisted were removed by a thorough appreciation of the interests of the two monarchies.

The Mesopotamia Report, on which we comment elsewhere, has made a profound sensation on the public, following as it does on the Dardanelles Report a few weeks ago. It is clear that the Government will be compelled to give time for its discussion in the House of Commons, and it is understood that Lord Hardinge will make a statement as to his action in the House of Lords. There is a rule against personal officials who are peers speaking in the Lords, but in this case the rule will probably be suspended. It would be unwise, however, to let the discussion go too far; if Lord Hardinge and Mr. Austen Chamberlain can defend themselves, there is no logical reason why Sir Beauchamp Duff and Sir John Nixon should not put their case before the public, and then the impugned medical officers, and so *ad infinitum*. On the whole it is probable that the statements and exculpations which will be made will do as little to modify the general public view in regard to the fairness of the Report's judgment and condemnation as in the case of the Dardanelles.

The most painful feature of the Report, on the whole, is its medical section. The revelations as to the condition of the wounded in Mesopotamia would be almost incredible were it not that they have been substantiated by a mass of private evidence from those who themselves suffered in this purgatory of neglect. No condemnation could be too strong for those who permitted this state of things to occur, and the fact that it was not merely permitted, but that those who attempted to expose and remedy the evil were bullied into acquiescence by threats, makes the case worse.

While the Roumanian Parliament is considering the question of internal reform in the sense of improving the position of the peasantry—a boon which has been too long delayed, and whose repeated postponement has not tended to strengthen the country—and the removal of the disabilities of the Jews, it is to be noted that recent disastrous events have not dimmed the enthusiasm of the Roumane population of Austria-Hungary for reunion with their co-nationals. Those of the latter who are serving as volunteers in the Roumanian Army have issued a declaration which states that the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary would merely be the "repairing, in a democratic sense, of a cruel historic injustice," and they proclaim that the grant of autonomy to the Roumanes (and presumably other minority nationalities) in the Dual Monarchy would be entirely illusory. This frank declaration, whose truth cannot be denied, needed making once again, since the public mind of Europe has been somewhat clouded by the recent proceedings in the Austrian Parliament.

The past week has shown that the crisis both in Austria and in Hungary, which arises directly out of the question of the position of the non-German nationalities, is not to be resolved so easily as the young Emperor at one time seemed to hope. The Roumane declaration above quoted is but one sign out of many; the Southern Slavs have not been appeased by the appearance of concession, and from the Viennese standpoint things appear to be going from bad to worse in Poland; while the Czechs are openly irreconcilable. The renewed attempt at Trialism, which was always suspect and opposed by the Germans both in Prussia and Austria, appears to have once again failed.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister seems determined to offer a bold front to those who believe that Bulgaria can be detached from the Central Powers. To the statement by M. Radoslavoff, which we quoted a week ago, may now be added his remark to the *Neue Freie Presse* that "he leaves Vienna very satisfied with his visit, and that Bulgaria and Austria-Hungary are firmly bound together by the Morava Valley, a link which is indispensable to them." Clearly there is no intention either in Vienna or in Sofia of restoring Serbian territory, unless and until compulsion is applied by the Entente.

The news from Russia has been as profuse and as contradictory as usual. While there is some evidence to show that desertions from the front are becoming fewer, a mutiny has occurred in part of the Black Sea Fleet, and there has been a serious anarchist outbreak in Petrograd, a kind of Fort Chabrol on a large scale. Politically the position is as tangled as ever, and the dominant note continues to be separatist. Finland has demanded full independence—a demand that was inevitable in view not merely of the present, but of the past ten years; Georgia, of all places in the world, has followed suit in insisting on autonomy, according to a published resolution of a Congress of National Democrats, and the separatist movement in the Ukraine appears to have attained rather serious proportions.

The Ukraine question in its present form dates from the last decade. It is about ten years ago that the Austrian Government realised that it would once again be sound centralist policy to encourage the Ruthenians. (The last time they were of use was when they were called in to suppress the Polish insurrection sixty years since; from that time until recently they had been treated as contemptuously as Croats or Serbs, or any other "inferior" race by Vienna.) But by encouraging Ruthenian Nationalism it became possible not only to lessen the relative importance of the Galician Poles, but also to stir up trouble in Southern Russia from the Black Sea to Rovno. The Austrian Government must have spent considerable sums of money on this propaganda, since they employed a large number of agents at this work, founded a magazine in Vienna to advocate Ruthenian Nationalism and obviously subsidised it, and even branched out with more remote activities, which included hiring persons to write and lecture on the Ukraine in English a year or so before the war.

However little interest England took in the art or the national ideals of the Ukraine, the Austrian activities were successful up to a certain point, and their fruition is seen in the present separatist movement. The Ruthenes in Russia have had their grievances, the most serious of which has been the banning of their language, which is regarded by the Russians as a mere dialect, and by the Ruthenes as a separate tongue—a dispute in which outsiders are best silent; and Austrian agents have made the most of these things, apparently with the idea of eventually extending Austrian influence through from Lemberg, the western centre of Ruthene culture, to Odessa, its extreme eastern limit. In normal times it should be sufficient to point out to the Ruthenes that their interests are more nearly akin to those of Russia than of Germany or German-Austria; that Vienna is never sincere in her favours to Slavonic races, but only grants them in order to depress the activities of another non-German people, and that as soon as that end is sufficiently obtained the policy is reversed and the privileges withdrawn. But times are anything but normal in Southern Russia, and it is unlikely that the present serious situation will be resolved by calm reasoning, since if that had been applied it would never have arisen at all.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 4.

The King's Birthday.

Yesterday was another Government holiday, this time in celebration of the King's Birthday. Cairo was very much *en fête* throughout the day owing to the fact that it was also the anniversary of the Italian Statuto; and in honour of the double occasion the city was profusely beflagged. During the morning there was a continual stream of callers at the Residency, and amongst the more prominent who were personally received by the High Commissioner were H.E. Said Pasha Zulfikar, who had been sent specially from Alexandria by H.H. the Sultan to convey his august master's good wishes, and the Ministers, with H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha at their head. Congratulatory telegrams were addressed by the Sultan, the High Commissioner, and General Murray to his Majesty.

H.H. The Sultan.

I find that a slight inaccuracy crept into the paragraph in my last week's letter concerning the Sultan's arrival in Alexandria. His Highness has officially taken up his residence there for the summer, but he will, I understand, spend but a comparatively small portion of the time in that city. He will merely go down there at certain intervals whenever his presence is officially required, and will remain most of the summer on his estates at Gabares, whither he proceeded the day after his arrival at Alexandria.

An Arab Anniversary.

The King of the Hejaz having ordered the 9th of the month of Shaaban to be kept as a national holiday, in commemoration of the Arab revolt against the Turkish rule in the Hejaz, which was declared on that day last year, his Agent in Cairo held a reception on the 30th ult., the Gregorian equivalent to the Arabic date. Major Cornwallis, representing the High Commissioner, the French and Italian Diplomatic Agents, and the leading Arab notables resident here were amongst the callers, and on this occasion the Shereef's flag was hoisted for the first time in Cairo. The flag consists of three parallel horizontal stripes of black, green, and white, representing the Abbasside, the Rashidite, and the Ommayide Caliphs respectively, with a triangular dark red stripe superimposed next to the flagstaff to represent the Shereefian family.

A Japanese Consul in Egypt.

The Japanese Government has just appointed Mr. A. J. Lowe as its Consul at Alexandria, and for the first time in history the Mikado will have a representative in Egypt. The reason this has never taken place before is that no diplomatic relations have ever existed between the Turkish and Japanese Governments, and that as long as this country remained a vassal state of Turkey it could only recognise representatives of the countries having accredited Agents at Constantinople. It is related that Sultan Abdul Hamid endeavoured many years ago to establish diplomatic relations with the Mikado's Government, but the negotiations fell through, and were never resumed. The appointment of a Japanese Consul in the circumstances indicates that Tokio recognises the changed status of this country, and, moreover, may be taken as an indication of the importance which it attaches to its commercial relations with Egypt. There is, indeed, no doubt that the Land of the Rising Sun is steadily pushing its trade with this country. In 1913, the first year when separate statistics were recorded for Japan in the Egyptian Customs Yearbook, that country's imports into Egypt only totalled £E70,704, whereas in 1916 they had increased to the figure of £E332,632, her purchases in the meantime having progressed from £E716,077 to £E929,562. The Egyptian Post Office Report for 1916 calls attention to the remarkable expansion of the parcel post traffic with Japan, whence no less than 27,168 parcels were received during the year, as compared with only 877 in 1915. Borton Pasha, the Postmaster-General, who, one is glad to see, has at last received recognition in the shape of a C.M.G. for the signal services he has rendered during the war, writes as follows anent this feature:—"The packing, addressing, and date stamping of these parcels is done in a model manner, and points to the fact that the Japanese Post Office takes great care of the parcels it sends abroad, and succeeds in impressing its public with the necessity of making up parcels properly. The contents usually replace articles formerly obtainable from enemy countries, and also point to the accuracy and promptitude of the agents employed in this country in communicating its wants to their principals in Japan."

Educational Reforms.

For some time now there has been a demand for more universal education than has been available hitherto, and H.H. the Sultan has on more than one occasion in his public utterances referred to this great need and to the possibility of introducing free compulsory elementary education. The Ministry of Education, under the very able direction of H.E. Adly Pasha Yeghen, the Minister, and Dr. Douglas Dunlop, the Adviser, has been studying the question; and, being of the opinion that the time has come for the initiation of a more systematic and sustained effort for the improvement and extension of the scope of education of the masses, it has elaborated a scheme by which the whole country might be supplied with efficient schools for the whole juvenile population of both sexes within an interval, which is tentatively fixed at thirty years. A Commission, under the presidency of H.E. Ismail Hassanein Pasha, Under-Secretary for Education, has been appointed for the purpose of examining this scheme and submitting a report thereon, either amending it where it considers necessary or substituting a scheme of its own, if it is of opinion that one based on different lines is preferable. It is very satisfactory that the Ministry should have decided to consider, with a view to its early introduction, an educational extension, which many hold should have been carried into effect long ago. Naturally, nothing is known as to the exact nature of the scheme provisionally drafted by the Ministry and submitted to the Commission; but the constitution of the latter is such as to guarantee that whatever is finally decided upon will be a thoroughly practicable proposition. The labours of the Commission are bound to be of fairly long duration, and it is to be hoped that once it has arrived at a definite conclusion as to the lines along which development may proceed with the greatest prospect of success nothing will be permitted to delay putting the scheme into execution.

The cost of the extension will certainly be heavy; for elementary education, if made compulsory, will have to be to a very great extent, if not entirely, free. It should be possible, however, considerably to increase the revenue of the Ministry of Education, and thus to supply

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an appreciable portion of the cost of this universal elementary education by raising all the scholastic fees for secondary, professional, and technical education. Some of the fees have recently been increased, but the majority of them are extremely low compared with other countries. There is no reason why, for example, the Bar and the medical profession should be flooded at the expense of the State with graduates, who must find it exceedingly difficult, and as time goes on increasingly so, to earn an honest living. If young Egyptians insist on having higher education and on taking up liberal and other professions, then they should be made to pay the full cost of the training they receive, and not be permitted—in fact, encouraged—to be such a burden to the State that their less happily situated fellow-countrymen, who by their labours contribute more than any other element of the population to the prosperity of the country, have to be stinted of the purely elementary instruction of which it is generally admitted they are lamentably in need. Social considerations, indeed, demand that a readjustment along the lines mentioned should be introduced at the earliest possible moment.

Sir M. Macdonald's Mission.

Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Colonel E. E. Bernard have just proceeded to London, where they will meet Mr. Bonham Carter, who has already arrived there. The object of their journey is to discuss irrigation developments in Egypt and the Sudan with the authorities at home. Mr. P. M. Tottenham will act for Sir Murdoch Macdonald during his absence.

CAIRO, June 11.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner proceeded to Alexandria for the summer on Thursday last. His Excellency, who was accompanied by Lady Wingate and his staff, travelled down from Cairo by special train, and was accorded an official reception at Alexandria station. A large number of guests were assembled on the platform, the distinguished crowd including H.E. Said Zulfikar Pasha (representing H.H. the Sultan), T.H. Princes Kamal ed-Din and Omar Toussoun, the Ministers, the members of the Municipality, the Judges, and the leading British residents and Egyptian notables. A guard of honour was stationed within and one outside the station, and on the arrival of the train a salute was fired from Kom el-Dik fort. Sir Reginald held an informal reception on the platform, shaking hands with everyone, a proceeding which took the best part of an hour, and then drove off in his car to Ramleh, where the Residency has, as last year, rented the palatial residence of Mme. Emmanuel Zervudachi.

On the King's Birthday the High Commissioner handed to Sir Charles de Rocca Serra the insignia of an Honorary Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and to Mr. L. G. Roussin and Drs. J. Warnock and W A. Betts that of Companion of the same Order, which were recently conferred on them. The ceremony was attended by the Ministers and H.E. Said Zulfikar Pasha, who had called to convey their congratulations to his Majesty's representative.

Sir Reginald Wingate has been asked by the Committee of the French Red Cross in England to ask the people of Egypt to contribute to its funds on the national fête day, and he has addressed to them through the local Press an eloquent appeal to support this most excellent cause. Egypt has ever contributed generously to all charitable objects which have been brought to the attention of her people, both prior to and since the war, and there is every reason to expect that the present call will meet with a ready response.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Aims of the Greek Community.

Yet another memorial is to be launched on the "ethnic" question. After the close of the session, or perhaps sooner, the Greek members of the Legislative Council, with the Archbishop and the three Bishops, propose to visit the High Commissioner and to request him to transmit to the British Government a memorial putting forward once more the claims of the Greek community. This document will no doubt contain the arguments which the new situation in Cyprus is held to furnish, and on which so much rhetoric has been expended recently. But the situation appears to render its dispatch decidedly inopportune.

The Legislative Council has continued to sit. Mr. Cade, Commissioner of Nicosia, will introduce a draft Bill which is intended to alter in important respects the existing Field Watchman Laws, and would bring into existence a new body of watchmen belonging to the police. The choice and supervision of the men would be under the Chief Commandant, and they would be paid by the Government. There is a very strong desire for such a change in many parts of the island. At present all the guards are chosen by the villagers, and there are endless disputes and abuses. It is proposed that there should be local option, and that the law should only be applied in villages where a majority of the inhabitants petition the High Commissioner that it may be brought into force. To provide for the payment of the guards, inhabitants of the villages affected would pay ½ per cent. on all produce liable to tithe, 1 piastre for every goat, and ½ piastre for every sheep, and 1 per cent. on property tax. One of the Greek members, Hon. M. Severis, will introduce a resolution to the effect that the Agricultural Department should be thoroughly reorganised and strengthened, on a scientific basis, and in such a manner as to satisfy the manifest needs of a country which depends essentially on its agricultural resources. Motions relating to the Forests and Education will also be proposed by Greek members.

Cypriot Volunteers in the Greek Army.

Lists of Cypriot volunteers of the colony in Egypt who have joined the Venizelist Army of Defence are sent by a committee in Alexandria, of which M. Michel Sinadino is president. Funds are remitted regularly by him for the families of the volunteers resident in Cyprus, and are distributed through the Archbishop and Bishops in the different districts. These lists show that about fifty Cypriots are serving.

General News.

By proclamation of the High Commissioner, all mules and carts are to be requisitioned whenever required, and must be delivered to Mr. P. M. McLaughlan either on hire or sale, the terms to be agreed upon by Mr. McLaughlan. Should agreement not be arrived at, the prices will be fixed by a committee presided over by Mr. J. H. Holmes, president of the District Court of Nicosia.

The leaders of the Greek Church continue their activities. The Holy Synod will probably sit for a week at Larnaca early in June, at the residence of the Bishop of Kition. The Festival of St. Barnabas, founder of the Church in Cyprus, will probably be celebrated this year with much greater ceremony than in the past. The Synod in a body will attend. The Festival is kept annually on June 11.

Abundant rain fell in many parts, including Nicosia, on May 25. Some damage was done by the storms of last week, bridges and culverts being swept away on one of the roads in the north-west of the island.

The new Chief Secretary, Mr. Stevenson, with his family, has arrived at Nicosia.

BRITISH JEWS AND PALESTINE.

A conference of Jews, held in Glasgow on Sunday under the auspices of the Federated Zionist Societies of the city, expressed approval of the steps taken by the Zionist organisation to realise Jewish national aspirations with regard to Palestine. It was agreed that a conference of Jews in the United Kingdom should be forthwith convened to urge upon the British Government the Jewish historic and inalienable claim to Palestine, to deal with general Jewish problems which will arise after the war, and to organise the Jewish community in the United Kingdom upon a representative basis. A public meeting was held in the Palace Theatre in the evening, when letters were read from Lord Rothschild and several other prominent Jews, and resolutions were unanimously adopted protesting against the anti-Zionist manifesto issued by the presidents of the Board of Deputies of the Anglo-Jewish Association, repudiating their authority to speak in the name of Anglo-Jewry and expressing confidence in the Zionist leaders.

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THE "YOUNG TURKS" AND THE JEWS.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 6, 1917.

The Young Turks, as a shrewd observer once remarked, are determined to squeeze the Empire like a lemon, and hand it over to their successors, bitter and dry. Actual facts have proved this. The life of a country consists of its men, money, and property, and the Young Turks have fully exploited these elements. Such of the former as were deemed unfit for loyal service in the ranks, or as a potential source of trouble, were done away with by massacre, exile, or starvation. But the chief desire of the Young Turks was money. Even when they first entered the war, and could rely more or less on German financial aid, they lusted after money, and the writer remembers with what avidity they conducted the collection of the exoneration tax, and how they permitted the most disgraceful abuse in the requisitioning of stuffs supposed to be needed for the Army. Since then, as German aid has become less free and less reliable, their money-making devices have become more impudent. They have collected the exoneration tax from the same person three or even four times, and have seized private property, after involving the owners in trumped-up charges of treason. In the case of the Armenians they finally discarded the mask of civilised procedure, and let loose the soldiery on what remained of these poor people, so as to appease their demands for arrears of pay. This is an old method of the Turkish Ministry of War for settling soldiers' accounts. Armenians, Greeks, and Syrians have had to pay the toll in life and property. And now the turn of the Jew has come.

The Young Turks, ungrateful as they are, could not but have a soft spot for the Jews. They owed a great deal of their initial success to Jewish aid at Salonika, and some of their leaders are commonly reported to have Jewish blood in their veins. But the German law of necessity overruled such qualms at last; and now the last foreign element in the Empire of the Turk has to feed the Turanian Moloch. A correspondent, who appears to be a Jew himself, and to have a long experience of Palestine under the Turk, even after the latter chose to plunge in the vortex of the world-war, endeavoured to prove that the chief motive of the recent persecution of the Jews was the Turks' need of money, as the Jewish colonies were the last unexploited corners of the country—having thus far received, in addition to protection from the capital, the benevolent attentions of Jemal Pasha. This correspondent relates how the Young Turks, after dispossessing the Christians of all their available gold, turned to the Allied subjects, who are mostly Jews from Russia, and called upon them to waive their nationality, and be honoured with the Ottoman nationality. When these had no other alternative but to consent to this "honour," the Government imposed upon each, even old men and children, the payment of £3 Turkish. With some, even threats were of no avail, and to these the authorities said: "Leave our country, since you are our enemies." But they were not allowed to depart until they had been made to pay the tribute threefold; and as a final remembrance, the authorities allowed the boatmen to charge them 10 frcs. per head, when the recognised tariff is only one franc.

To a great extent this correspondent's diagnosis of this fresh outbreak of Turkish savagery is true; but money is certainly not the only consideration; otherwise, how could we account for the fact that the Bedouin Arabs in the neighbourhood were let loose on the deserted houses of the Jews to loot and plunder? This may be part of a plan to satisfy the Bédawi and win him over at the expense of the Jews; for since the consolidation of the Shereef's kingdom, the majority of the Bedouin Arabs of Syria have been going over to him, and they are only waiting for the fall of Medina to give open expression to their adhesion to the King of the Hejaz, and the other great Emirs of Arabia, such as the powerful Ibn Saoud.

In spite of German denials, and the challenge to appoint a neutral committee to verify matters on the spot, private reports, just to hand, reveal a most revolting state of things. The Turks seem to have been vying with their masters the Huns, and, indeed, to have surpassed them in the systematic devastation of the territories they have to evacuate. It is said that they have laid waste the whole country lying south of the river El A'waj, and within a line running three miles north of Jaffa to the Judean Hills, and that they have driven such of the population, as have escaped massacre and famine, to Galilee. All the archives of the districts along the coast have been transferred to Damascus and Nablus.

Jaffa is said to be now absolutely deserted, and as still as the tomb. Some of the public buildings are said to have been destroyed by fire or dynamite, and all the neighbouring hamlets and villages within a radius of about twelve miles have been reduced to mounds of ashes and ruin.

THE RIVER TIGRIS FROM THE SEA TO BAGHDAD.

At a meeting of the Central Asian Society last Wednesday, Mr. A. Boddam Taylor, F.R.G.S., in an interesting paper, described the River Tigris from the sea to Baghdad. He said that twenty miles outside the entrance to the Shatt el-Arab there was a bar the passage across which in old days was marked by a buoy with a pole bearing a cage. This bar was about four miles across, and the channel was marked by other smaller buoys. To-day, he understood, there was a lightship at the outer buoy, and a better channel had been marked out; but in the old days a captain unfamiliar with the navigation might spend several hours searching for the outer buoy. Once across the bar low flats soon became visible on both sides, and these gave place to banks and cultivation where low embankments kept out the tide. Further still, the banks became more definite, and innumerable creeks ran inland on both sides. From these main creeks others branched off, so that the whole ground was a network of ditches. This was the date-growing region, and the Arabs had a proverb that the date palm could only exist with its roots in the water and its head in the fire—*i.e.*, the sun heat. The limit of ocean navigation was at Busreh. Here transhipment must be made into flat-bottomed river steamers and barges. From Busreh to Kurnah, a poor place at the junction with the Euphrates, the river differed little from what it was below Busreh, except that it was narrower and the banks more pronounced. At Kurnah the river was about 300 yards wide and still fairly deep. Beyond Kurnah the date groves ceased and the marsh region was entered. Here the river narrowed considerably, being in many places not more than 100 yards wide. On both sides vast marshes extended for many miles inland. The district was inhabited by Ma'dan Arabs, who lived by fishing and keeping buffaloes. In habits and appearance they were different from the Bedouin Arabs, and were considered somewhat low down in the social scale, but they were an industrious people. Kalat-Saleh was forty miles from Kurnah and twenty miles further still was Amarah. Hereabouts began the region of the Bedouin Arab. In the desert he was not a cultivator, but lived by his herds, but on the river banks he had gone in for cultivation, his women doing most of the work. He seldom fished or used a boat. His character had been greatly overrated, but he had some good points, such as fondness for his children and extreme respect for his parents.

On nearing Kut-el-Amarah the navigation became more difficult, the river being obstructed by sandbanks, which were constantly altering in shape and position, causing a shifting of the channel. In the upper reaches the river was more winding, and passengers could sometimes walk across the neck of a bend in much less time than it took the steamer to get round. The Ctesiphon bend was a good example; on the voyage up European passengers often landed at the bottom of the bend, and, after a three-mile walk across, had an hour to spare to examine the arch built by Chosroes in A.D. 550. The Dialah River, the scene of severe fighting when the British troops took Baghdad, entered the Tigris about eight miles above Ctesiphon, and about seven miles further, at Gerara, the gardens of Baghdad began. A Baghdad garden was rather an orchard than a garden, abounding in fruit trees, among which, of course, the date palms were most plentiful. The gardens were all watered by irrigation. In old days this was done by means of a churd, but nowadays oil engines and pumps were more used. The population of Baghdad was a very mixed one, consisting of Mohammedans, Jews, Christians, Indians, and Europeans. The Mohammedans consisted partly of Arabs, who were mostly landowners, merchants, shopkeepers, artisans, and labourers, with a percentage of desert Arabs from the outlying districts, and a large proportion of moolahs and seyyids. Then there were Persians, who were mostly merchants, shopkeepers, artisans, and labourers; and Kurds, who were all working people. Of the Turks proper there were not a very large number, but they filled all the important Government posts. There were some 5,000 Jews, all engaged in trade as merchants, shopkeepers, and pedlars, or in certain industries, such as metal-working, embroidery, and tailoring. The Christian population was composed of Tel-kaifis from the Mosul district and Syrians. The Tel-kaifis were a very fine sturdy race of men, devoting themselves largely to work on the river steamers and barges; the Syrians were a mixture from many countries. To these were to be added Armenians and Greeks and also British, French, Germans, and Italians; but the Europeans all told did not number more than 100.

Of the Turkish Government's method of ruling, Mr. Taylor said that it consisted in pitting one tribe against another. The method of collecting taxes was itself calculated to bring about trouble. Suppose that a tax of, say, £100 was to be collected from some sheikh, an official would be sent for it with a guard of soldiers. These would billet themselves upon the tribe until the money was paid. The amount to be recovered would not be merely the £100 tax, but that with an additional 20 per cent. for the Government officials, 10 per cent. for the collector, and presents for the soldiers, who must be fed and kept quiet. Meantime, any small article that the collector might fancy, such as a young colt or a rifle, would have to be given to prevent strained relations. Only when everything had been settled to the satisfaction of the official would he depart with his soldiers.

Mr. Taylor thought it was inconceivable that the country should go back to Turkish misgovernment, but it was impossible also to put it under an Arab, whether from the Hejaz or elsewhere. He thought the inhabitants of the country would one and all accept British rule, and he could see no better solution of the difficulty than for us to administer the country much in the same way as we now do with India.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The young kingdom of The Hejaz, having already won the admiration of Englishmen by its plucky and successful fight against the forces of the Turkish oppressor, has more recently interested us in its issue of postage stamps and the design for its new flag. As for the stamps, I observe that "complete sets, postally used," are advertised quite steadily for sale in the papers; which looks as if the Hejaz Post Office would soon become a revenue-earning department. And Egyptian papers to hand by the last mail describe the new Hejaz flag, which was hoisted in Cairo (apparently for the first time) on May 30, the anniversary of the Arab Revolution. It contained four colours: red, green, black and white. Just how these are disposed I find it a little difficult to understand from the descriptions given; but I think the red (symbolising the Shereef of Mecca) is in a perpendicular stripe, next to the flagstaff; while the three others are horizontal, the black being the uppermost and the white the lowest. Presumably the Abbassides and the Ommeyades are both honoured in this colour scheme.

***

Professor Holland Rose writes to *The Times*:—"Among the questions asked me in the Y.M.C.A. huts none is more common than this—'Is our conduct towards Greece any more justifiable than that of Germany towards Belgium?'" He adds that the answer is, of course, "complete for all who know the facts," and he briefly recapitulates those facts. But he concludes his letter by asking whether it is not time that some steps were taken to set forth the Allied case in a simple and cogent way, so as to refute such slanders. It certainly seems to me that there is still a lot for us to do in the way of presenting our case to the world. But I am not quite sure that a "special course" in the History of the Balkans and the Near East is not called for for the benefit of our own countrymen. Professor Holland Rose's questioners are, I take it, mostly British; and the plain fact is that the Balkans have never had much interest for the average Briton. A few faddists and cranks used to busy themselves with particular aspects of the "Balkan Question," but it took the war to wake the typical Briton up to the fact that the Balkans are *not* a negligible quantity in European politics. In future it is to be hoped the lesson will be borne in mind.

***

A little while ago the *Pall Mall Gazette* published the translation of a letter written by a Turkish officer to his wife, but "captured" on the battlefield in Palestine by a British officer, who has sent it home. The poor, diverted epistle makes rather pitiful reading. The writer appears to be a Turk of the "old" school, for he mentions that he prays daily, and he requests his wife to "call in Meher the magician and see from him what my future holds." The "Young" Turks, we have been informed recently, neglect religion entirely, and I am sure they are all far too "modern" to consult any magician even by deputy. But what interested me chiefly in the letter was the captain's—for he was a "captain in the 13th Turkish Infantry" it seems—estimate of our countrymen. He dreads the destruction of "our lovely Constantinople," and anticipates the houses being burned and "our wives and children put to the sword." And apparently it is the English who are to adopt these Turco-German methods of war—and massacre!

***

For the poor soul writes:—"Nothing but some favour from Allah can prevent it. These English are very persistent, and there is no fear of death for them. They are very cruel. They watch us like wolves in the night, and are upon us like the devil in the day. Oh, why did we join this wicked war? England was very partial to us in the past, and we may therefore expect no mercy from one who is so badly injured." Very cruel! The English soldier cruel? What German has been lying to the anxious captain? But he shows sense in asking why his country joined in the war; and in his recognition of the fact—obliquely expressed—that British patience with the Turk is almost used up.

***

Three weeks ago I referred to the Reuter's message from Petrograd about the "unimportant difference of opinion due to a misunderstanding" that had arisen between Admiral Koltchak and his jolly tars. Now I see that the Commander of the Black Sea Fleet has resigned his command, and that his men have "finally decided" not to arrest him, but to be satisfied with his resignation. Apparently that "difference of opinion" was not quite so "unimportant" after all. And meanwhile the Breslau has been out again. What do the sailors of the Black Sea Fleet think about *that?* It almost looks to me as if there were room for a Duty and Discipline movement in Russia just now. I am not surprised that Admiral Koltchak preferred to throw his sword into the sea rather than surrender it to the mutineers.

***

I hope the new Earl of Medina will never get into trouble with the Arabs over his title. But I should not be surprised if the Germans tried to make capital out of it. They are experts at twisting everything, great or small, to suit their own ends; and here they have at least a name to play with. What do they care that the English title is derived—unless I am greatly mistaken—from a stream, the stream which divides the Isle of Wight into two more or less equal portions?

***

Before the War one could quite safely mention the Mosquito even in the presence of ladies, and the Sandfly was not *tabu*, if anybody desired to speak of such a horrible pest. But I doubt whether it will be safe to talk of these small foes after the War, any more than it will be to speak favourably of the Prussians. In the past comparatively few people really knew what the Mosquito and the Sandfly *could* do when they tried. Now several hundreds of thousands of our soldiers, and not a few of our nurses, have a personal knowlege of the facts, so to say; and the mention of the pests will be sure to evoke an outburst. Mr. Ward Price, I observe, reports that "the most troublesome enemies" of our troops in Thessaly are—not the *Komitajis*—but "the gnats and mosquitoes." That is not at all hard to believe!

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESENT CONDITION OF PAL ESTINE

The annual meeting of the Palestine Exploration Fund was held last week at its office, 2, Hinde Street, Manchester Square, W. The chairman, Mr. Leonard W. King, gave an account of the society's activities during the past year, which have naturally continued to be restricted because of the war, and Mr. Walter Morrison, treasurer of the fund, seconded the resolution adopting the report and accounts. Speaking of the present condition of Palestine, he said that reports from that country told us that the distress there was terrible. On three occasions the Turkish Army had marched through the country to attack Egypt, and that army had no commissariat. There was no telling what would be the result of the war, whether the Jews would go back to Palestine or not. The people now in the country would be extremely glad if we would undertake its rule in the same way as we had done that of Egypt.

The report and accounts were adopted. At a later stage of the meeting the chairman read the following extracts from a letter by Mr. T. H. Baxter, the society's organising secretary:—"I am glad we are receiving a warm response to our appeal, and with definite promises and gifts received the amount of our fund is about £18,000. . . . We have a strong administration committee in Cairo, and we have recently appointed Colonel Phillott, a distinguished British Consul and linguist, to be the managing director of relief work in Palestine and Syria, which work he is taking up in an honorary capacity. There are also other relief funds, which it is hoped, sooner or later, will amalgamate with us. We are taking every precaution to avoid overlapping. You will be interested to hear that the first consignment of clothing and medicine has been sent into the country, and relief is now being given to a large camp of refugees behind our own lines. We realise that when we get into the country there is an enormous work to be faced, the whole population of Syria and Palestine is practically destitute. The latest news reveals an appalling condition of things."

NEW GREEK CABINET.

Under date of June 27, Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that M. Venizelos has formed the following Cabinet:—

M. VENIZELOS.—Prime Minister and Minister of War.
M. REPOULIS.—Interior.
M. TSIRITMOKOS.—Justice.
M. POLITIS.—Foreign Affairs.
ADMIRAL CONDOURIOTIS.—Marine.
M. MICHALACOPOULOS.—Finance.
M. NEGROPONTES.—Agriculture.
M. PAPANASTASIOU.—Communications.
M. DINGAS.—Education.
M. EMBIRKOS.—Food Supplies.
M. SIMOS.—Relief of Refugees.

This list is not yet officially confirmed.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GREEK PAPYRI FROM EGYPT.*

Notwithstanding the difficulty in war-time of producing a volume containing some 300 pages of Greek text, the Director of the British Museum has succeeded in publishing Volume V. of the Catalogue of the Greek Papyri in that institution. The editor is Mr. H. J. Bell, M.A., assistant in the Manuscript Department, and it is solely owing to his time being much occupied with Government work that this part of the catalogue is smaller than was Volume IV., for which also he was responsible. The latter volume contained only manuscripts relating to the Early Arabic *régime* in Egypt; the new one gives us a number of documents dating during the Byzantine era. These form part of the great find of papyri at the Mound of Kom-Ishgau. Most of these documents were claimed for the Cairo Museum, but a few may now be found at Florence. All the papers of this series are of the sixth century, and belonged to a resident at Aphrodito named Dioscorus. A full account of his career, as set forth by his family papers, was given by the late M. Jean Maspero in his series of the Byzantine papyri at Cairo. Dioscorus was for a time a notary public at Antinöopolis, and consequently some of the records preserved in the ruins of his house at Kom-Ishgau are of administrative and public character relating to fiscal affairs, especially the collection of the vast variety of taxes which crushed the people under the rule of Constantinople.

When at his home at Aphrodito, also, Dioscorus' documents often concern the revenue officials; for he was continually appealing on behalf of his neighbours, and sometimes of himself, against the unjust demands of the collectors, and of the Pagarchs, the Praeses, and sundry officials who supervised the revenue of the district. The papyri in this volume give valuable information on this subject; but readers who are interested in it must turn to the book itself. Dioscorus appears to have been also a lawyer, and he was selected as arbitrator in several cases of litigation. One of his decisions, and that a lengthy one, is preserved in full, and is interesting for the light it throws upon the legal mind as limited by rules and enactments of Roman law. Leases and deeds, marriage settlements, and contracts, especially the collection of dues, and petitions to the authorities, form the bulk of Dioscorus's *dossier*, which throws a clear light upon the state of civilisation and manners in the Nile Valley at that period.

The catalogue contains another series of papyri, also all derived from the contents of a single muniment room, at Syene or Assouan, in Upper Egypt. This collection is only about a moiety of the manuscripts, the other half having been acquired for Munich. They concern a certain Patermuthuis and his wife Kako. The papyri are fairly well preserved and lengthy, and give us a good idea of affairs within this town upon the Nubian frontier during the latter part of the sixth century. Patermuthuis was an owner of house property, and many of his papers reproduce contracts for sale, or leases, mortgages, and loans. Many of the personages concerned are Jews, and it is probable that Patermuthuis was partly of Hebrew extraction, because many of his countrymen, for family reasons, adopted Egyptian or Greco-Egyptian names. Some of the tenants, or owners, referred to in the papers were also, although Jews, soldiers of the garrison.

Mr. Bell adds to this volume other papyri, from various parts of Egypt, of the Byzantine era. These are mostly of what may be termed the domestic type: letters, receipts, acknowledgment of debt, contracts of partnership, and apprenticing, and accounts of all kinds. These possess no literary interest, but for any future historian or student of the manners, customs and morals of the people of Egypt shortly before the Mohammedan conquest, they will be a mine of wealth.

J. O.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., has written an introduction to M. Bogumil Vosniak's forthcoming work, "A Dying Empire." In this book the author sets out the case for the partitioning of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

"The Immortal Gamble, and the Part Played in it by H.M.S. Cornwallis" is announced for immediate publication by Messrs. F. and C. Black. The authors are A. T. Stewart, Acting Commander, and C. J. E. Peshall, Chaplain of the gallant ship that fired the first shot in the Dardanelles bombardment.

*"Greek Papyri in the British Museum. Catalogue with Texts. Vol. V." (Price 42s. Sold at the British Museum, and by Longmans, Green, and Co., 39, Paternoster Row, and the Oxford University Press.)

GEORGE ALLEN.

IN MEMORIAM.

By a Friend.

The untimely removal of this thinker and man of affairs from his tireless activities will create a noticeable void. Few men can have been endowed with human interest in greater variety, and probably he has not left a single enemy.

The purpose of the writer is to inquire what were the inborn influences which moulded George Allen's life to the form in which it appeared to the friends of his youth rather than to attempt a study of his achievements or any survey of his influence as a publicist or captain of industry.

It is early yet to form a true appraisement, but to certain characteristic traits it is easy to refer with confidence. In the forefront might perhaps be placed the tenacity he evinced in the maintenance of friendships once established, his finished taste in literature (readily attested by his bookshelves and his exceptional power of quotation), his love of the Poets, his complete detachment from any share in the artificial contentions known as "politics," the almost uncanny spell which lake and landscape in every clime cast over his being; and his habitual breadth of contemplation. A yearning for distance and again more distance seemed to be in his bones, and it dominated not only his treatment of Imperial or national subjects, but even the common exigencies of domestic policy. Everywhere one could detect the influence of this "first cause." The things that were near at hand were faithfully dealt with, but the horizon was the magnet that always drew him on in the increasing quest for a clear view, on a wide perimeter, of final Truth in every form. This typical quality gave both strength and weakness, as may be realised, but, on the whole, it served him well as traveller, student and journalist. Yet, looking back as one may do now, perhaps it is permissible to say that it was apparent—as always in the case of men so endowed—that many ideals thus formed would be incapable of realisation by reason of the passing years; and that as time went on the Soul unconsciously and pathetically pined more and more for a twin-brother with whom all the inevitable ambitions of the life-scheme could be shared and consummated.

When in somewhat failing health George Allen left for India last autumn, the débâcle in Roumania was at hand, for she had just entered the War. Fortunately he lived to witness the turn of the war-tide and our striking successes in the Far and Central East. But he did not live to see his beautiful home again, because by the inscrutable decree of Providence he was pre-destined, just at the time of travail preceding the birth of a new world, to join the great band of those, beloved of the gods, whose deaths in full intellectual prime may perhaps be said to constitute the outstanding civilian tragedy of these dark days.

Friends who would embalm the memory of a lost comrade and fain write the epitaph which best recalls his presence as they knew it, freed from the shackles of environment, are necessarily guided by their own varying estimates of type, character and Soul—the three inter-connected trunk lines of social understanding. And no fair judgment is possible without sympathy, the ripened fruit of knowledge. But with this qualification in view, the writer humbly selects as the epitaph which embodies his own conception, just the one poignant word "Alastor!" If the prototype were supposed to have died young, what after all is fifty-four in these times, and is it necessary to conclude that disillusionment arrives at the same age with all such mortals?

During the last enjoyable ramble amidst sunlit cascades and dancing water-meadows alive with the tumultuous greetings of feathered friends, past "Wild Flowers Dell," then by "Winter Pool" margin and leafy banks, through "Fairy Ring" and beyond to a glade which at a stroke of the diviner's rod was presently to become a new lagoon, the conversation as usual turned upon plans past, plans in being and future projects; and some foreboding that "the night cometh" may well have prompted the sudden inquiry: "I often wonder," he said, "whether I shall live to see these things grow up?" Perhaps at that instant,

> "When on the threshold of the green recess
> The wanderer's footsteps fell, he knew that Death
> Was on him. Yet a little, ere it fled,
> Did he resign his high and holy Soul
> To images of the majestic past
> That paused within his passive being now
> Like winds that bear sweet music, when they breathe
> Through some dim latticed chamber."

Everywhere in those enchanted dells, now in their glory, his Spirit will seem to linger, smiling upon Nature in her constant, changing loveliness, fresh and green for all the winds that blow; until in the fulness of time they with whom he lived and moved pass also to the Great Beyond.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. June.	1917. June.		1335. Ramadan	5677. Tamuz
29	16	Friday	9	9
30	17	Saturday.....	10	10
July.				
1	18	Sunday	11	11
2	19	Monday	12	12
3	20	Tuesday	13	13
4	21	Wednesday	14	14
5	22	Thursday	15	15

To-morrow is the birthday of Prince Danilo of Montenegro, who was born in 1871 at Cettinge. The Prince is the third child of King Nicholas, Princess Militza and Princess Anastasia having been born before him.

Monday is the birthday of Princess George of Greece, who before her marriage was Princess Marie of the Bonaparte family, and who was born at St. Cloud in 1882.

Monday is also the birthday of Prince Olaf of Norway.

Mr. Abram I. Elkus, formerly United States Ambassador in Constantinople, left London for Paris last week.

Colonel Sir Murdoch Macdonald, K.C.M.G., C.B., Adviser of Public Works to the Egyptian and Sudan Governments, was entertained to a complimentary dinner in the Hotel Russell, London, on Wednesday night, by a gathering of gentlemen from his native county, Inverness-shire. Mr. Ian Macpherson, Under-Secretary for War, presided, and the company included also Sir Arthur Webb, K.C.M.G., Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., Mr. D. P. Macgillivray, Mr. T. O. Belshaw, and others with whom the guest of the evening has been associated in Egypt.

Sir William Lindley, M.Inst.C.E., is to be presented with the Freedom of the City of Baku, in recognition of his work in designing and carrying out the city's water supply. Recently finished, these works bring water to Baku from a place in the mountains of the Caucasus about 112 miles distant.

Colonel A. Mola, who has been appointed Italian Military Attaché in London, has been through the Italian campaign in the Trentino and in Albania.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Major Cecil Hunter Little, D.S.O., the Somerset Light Infantry, attached Egyptian Army, only son of Colonel W. Hunter Little, of Harestock Lodge, Winchester, and Mrs. Hunter Little, and Dorothea Katharine, second daughter of Samuel Henry Romilly, of Huntington Park, Herefordshire, and 56, Eccleston Square, and the late Lady Arabella Romilly.

Our Cairo Correspondent writes (June 4): Cable advices have been received to the effect that Major C. E. G. Blunt, D.S.O., retired pay, Reserve of Officers, known to Anglo-Egyptians as Lewa E. G. Blunt Pasha, has been promoted Colonel in the British Army. Blunt Pasha has been for many years Director of Supplies to the Egyptian Army, and since the war he has assumed also the duties of Acting Director of Stores; in addition, he was, first, member, and subsequently became—and is still—President of the Egyptian Government Supplies Commission, which has been looking after the supplies of the country during the war. In each of these capacities he has rendered yeoman service to the British and Egyptian Governments, and his promotion, following his recent decoration with the D.S.O., has given real pleasure to his many friends, who regard it as richly merited.

The Countess of Bessborough spoke at a meeting at Bath Guildhall on Monday afternoon in support of the war work of the Y.M.C.A.

Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia has been presented by the Jugo-Slav Committee with a shield designed by M. Joam Mestrovitch. In reporting the presentation, Reuter's Corfu correspondent states that Dr. Trumlitch, president of the committee, said:—"We earnestly beg your Royal Highness to accept our modest gift and keep it as a testimony of the inflexible will of the whole Jugo-Slav people to be liberated during this war from all foreign domination so as to be able to greet your Royal Highness one day as Constitutional King of all the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes."

"Sir Henry McMahon, K.C.I.E., who until recently held the post of High Commissioner for Egypt, has already paid several visits to the Foreign Office since his return to London," says a writer in the *Pall Mall Gazette*. "I believe that he is destined to become the Permanent Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office if and when Lord Hardinge succeeds Lord Bertie at the Paris Embassy. Practically the whole of Sir Henry's career has been spent in India, where his last public appointment was as British Plenipotentiary for the Treaty regarding Tibet between England, China, and the Hermit Country."

In a message despatched from Jassy on May 28 *The Times* correspondent with the Roumanian Army reports:—General Ballard, the new representative of the British Army in Roumania, arrived last night to take the place of Brigadier-General Thomson. The departure of General Thomson is unanimously regretted, as he had won the sympathy of all circles during the two years in which he acted as military attaché. General Pool, who has been on a special mission to the Roumanian front, has received from King Ferdinand the Order of the Star of Roumania.

A Reuter's message from Tunis reports that on June 20, at the Beylical Palace at La Marsa, near Tunis, the British Consul-General, Mr. Berkeley, on behalf of the King, invested the Bey, Mohammed en Nasir Pasha, with the Insignia of the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. The ceremony, which was a brilliant affair, took place in the presence of the whole Beylical Family, the French Plenipotentiary, and many native dignitaries. The British representative and the Vice-Consul, Mr. Charles Goodwin, who carried the Insignia, were conveyed in State from the Consulate to the Palace in a Beylical coach, accompanied by a guard of native troops. The Bey expressed his intense appreciation of the solidarity of those bonds of friendship and union existing between France and England to which the Order bestowed on him testified significantly, and he desired his profound gratitude to be conveyed to King George.

The following Army Order has been published, says the *Egyptian Gazette*:—On the reversion of El Lewa P. J. V. Kelly Pasha, D.S.O., Officer Commanding District, and Governor of Darfur, to the British Army, his Excellency the Sirdar wishes to place on record his sincere appreciation of the excellent services rendered by him during his ten years in the Egyptian Army.

Kelly Pasha took part in the Jebel Nyima operations in 1908, the operations in Southern Kordofan in 1910, and has held the important post of Officer Commanding Cavalry and Mounted Infantry since April, 1913, with conspicuous success.

In 1916 Kelly Pasha commanded with complete success the Sudan Western Frontier Force operating against the late Sultan Ali Dinar of Darfur, and his capable leadership resulted in the re-occupation of that province. On behalf of all ranks, his Excellency wishes El Lewa Kelly Pasha every success in his future career.

The King has been pleased to grant permission to Temporary Sec. Lieutenant David Halyburton Low, General List, to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of Saint Sava, conferred upon him by the King of Serbia, in recognition of services rendered by him as Lecturer in English Language and Literature at the University of Belgrade.

It is announced that H.M. the King of Roumania has conferred the following decorations. The King has given unrestricted permission in all cases to wear the decorations mentioned:—

ORDER OF THE STAR OF ROUMANIA (WITH SWORDS).

COMMANDER.

Bt. Col. B. R. James, Genl. Stff., War Office.
Bt. Col. B. T. Buckley, Genl. Stff., War Office.
Temp. Lt.-Col. Sir M. Sykes, Bt., M.P., Genl. Stff., War Office.
Bt. Lt.-Col. A. H. H. Wilson, D.S.O., Genl. Hdqrs., France.

OFFICER.

Maj. R. G. T. Baker-Carr, M.V.O., Genl. Stff., War Office.
Bt. Maj. G. P. Tharp, Genl. Stff., War Office.
Maj. J. K. N. Versturme-Bunbury, Genl. Stff., War Office.

ORDER OF THE CROWN OF ROUMANIA (WITH SWORDS).

OFFICER.

Capt. H. G. Comber, Unattd. List (T.F.).
Lt. (temp. Capt.) H. W. V. Temperley, Genl. Stff., War Office.
Capt. W. Ll. Jones, D.S.O., Genl. Stff., War Office.
Lt. (temp. Capt.) B. H. Robertson, Genl. Stff., War Office.

KNIGHT.

Temp. Capt. C. E. Montague, Spec. List.
Temp. Lt. R. E. de Trafford, Spec. List.

The following decorations have been conferred by the King of Serbia:—

ORDER OF SAINT SAVA.

OFFICER.

Capt. Hubert Stansbury, R.N.

ORDER OF KARA GEORGE.

4TH CLASS (WITH SWORDS).

Lieut. Edward H. Young, M.P., R.N.V.R.

The King has given unrestricted permission to the officers concerned to wear the decorations in question.

Before a meeting of the Royal Asiatic Society, to be held on Tuesday, July 3, at four o'clock, Mr. F. Legge, F.S.A., will read a paper on "The Most Ancient Goddess Cybele." Lord Reay will preside.

Owing to the difficulty of getting parcels and goods to the Indian prisoners of war interned in Asia Minor, the Indian Soldiers' Fund in the course of the last month has sent £2,200 through the Comité International de la Croix Rouge at Geneva and the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople for distribution amongst the Indian prisoners in the different camps in Asia Minor.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Percy Z. Cox, Indian Army, has been granted the rank of Hon. Major-General while specially employed.

Miralai A. W. Jennings Bramly Bey, D.S.O., of the Intelligence Staff, has been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army and transferred to the Ministry of the Interior. Bramly Bey, it will be recalled, has been appointed as Director of the Egyptian School of Police in succession to Miralai A. C. Parker Bey, who has been appointed as Governor of the Eastern Frontier Province.

Bimbashi C. W. W. Sandes, Deputy Assistant Adjutant General, Egyptian Army, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

Bimbashi W. St. J. F. McCartenay, of the Veterinary Corps, has been transferred to the Sudan Veterinary Department. Bimbashi McCartenay recently passed the Intermediate Examination in Arabic successfully.

Captain Robert C. Carlyle, M.B., of the Royal Army Medical Corps, has been seconded for service with the Egyptian Army Medical Corps and granted the rank of Bimbashi.

OBITUARY.

GENERAL R. G. BROADWOOD.

Lieutenant-General Robert George Broadwood, C.B., died on June 21 of wounds received in action. He was youngest son of the late Thomas Broadwood, of Holmbush, Sussex, and was fifty-five years of age. He retired in 1913, but on the outbreak of war was re-employed, and in September, 1914, was gazetted to the command of a division. He was colonel of the 12th Lancers (1909) and a graduate of the Staff College, and was in the special list of cavalry officers selected for reward for distinguished and meritorious service. He entered the 12th Lancers in January, 1881, and his rank of lieutenant-general was gazetted in March, 1912. General Broadwood saw service with the Expedition to Dongola in 1896 (mention in despatches, brevet of lieutenant-colonel, and the two medals with clasps), and with the Nile Expeditions of 1897 and 1898. In 1897 he fought in the action of Abu Hamed and took part in the occupation of Berber, and in 1898 he was present at the battle of the Atbara and Omdurman. For his services on those occasions he had four clasps to the Egyptian medal, the British medal, and the 4th Class Osmanieh, and in addition was twice mentioned in despatches. He also received the brevet of colonel. In the South African War he commanded the 2nd Regiment, South African Light Horse, and took part in all the earlier operations, including the affair at Sanna's Post, where he was held, perhaps unduly, responsible for an unfortunate surprise. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and in 1900 was made a Commander of the Bath. Later, he commanded troops in Natal and in South China, and for two years was Brigadier-General Commanding the Orange River Colony District.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has received notice of the death in action, on June 7, of Private W. J. Kick, attached to the Royal Fusiliers. He was a messenger in the London office.

The funeral of the late Mr. George B. Allen took place on Friday, June 22. The first part of the service, which was marked by impressive simplicity, was held at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square. Psalm xc. ("Lord, Thou hast been our refuge") was chanted, and after the lesson from the fifteenth chapter of the First Epistle to the Corinthians had been read, the hymn, "There is a land of pure delight," was sung. The service concluded with the singing of the hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning."

Among those who were present at the church were Lady Allen, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Sturdy, Mrs. Mervyn Williams, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Edward Sturdy, Mr. W. A. Sturdy, Miss Kate Allen, Mr. H. Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Allen, Sir Montagu and Lady Turner, Mrs. Arthur Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Alweyne Turner, Colonel F. Cooper-Turner, Mrs. Fordham, Mr. George Berney, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Jones, Mrs. Probst, Miss L. Deacon, Colonel Sir James Dunlop-Smith (representing the Secretary of State for India), Sir Thomas Holderness, Sir Sidney and Lady Colvin, Sir George Sutherland, Sir Hugh Barnes, Major-General Bond, Sir John O. Miller, Colonel Sir John Ottley, General Sir Alfred Gaselee, Sir James and Lady Walker, Sir Lionel and Lady Jacob, Sir Henry and Lady Ledgard, Sir William Cooper, Sir Alexander McRobert, Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Sir Stephen and Lady Finney and Captain Finney, the Hon. Mrs. Holland-Hibbert, Sir Lionel Abrahams, Lady Newmarch, Lady Grogan, Mr. and Mrs. Rudyard Kipling, Mr. and Mrs. George Chesney, Mr. and Mrs. George Ross, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Skrine, Mr. and Mrs. H. V. Geere, Mrs. John Campbell, Mrs. Henry Rattigan, Mrs. Leonard Messel, Messrs. Lindsey Eric Smith, Herbert Baker, E. R. Davson, C. W. Dawson, G. E. Cockell, E. A. Neville, J. M. Bee, Montague Bell, O. G. Herford, J. Peters, A. Brown, C. S. Corfield, R. Gray, A. Parkyn, G. H. Ebbs, C. Gill, W. Coldstream, P. S. Taylor, F. E. Roe, and C. P. Roberts. Sir Henry Burt and Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson were unavoidably prevented from being present at the service. After the service, the relatives and many friends and the Free Chase household were present at the burial in Shirley Cemetery.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGES.

ROSKILL—ZAMFTOVA.—On the 21st inst., at the Mairie, Marseilles, Wilfrid, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Roskill, of Alderley Edge, Cheshire, to Vera, youngest daughter of the late Dr. Zamftova, of Nish, Serbia, and of Mme. Zamftova.

MONTAGU—SANDERSON.—On June 24, at Mustapha Garrison Church, Alexandria, Captain Cuthbert Montagu, Topographical Section, G.H.Q., Egypt, third son of Robert Cromie Montagu, J.P., of Cromore, Co. Londonderry, to Rosa Benedicta Sanderson, V.A.D., youngest daughter of the late Rev. John Sanderson, rector of Winchfield, Hants.

DEATH.

STRETCH.—On May 26, at Corfu, after a short illness, John Henry Stretch, aged fifty years.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1917.

MESOPOTAMIA.

When, after the initial successes, disaster overtook the Mesopotamia Expedition, it was evident that there had been culpable mismanagement of the campaign, and the lifting of the veil to a slight extent on the complete inadequacy of the medical arrangements suggested that the responsibility reached back to the initial conception as well as to the conduct of the operations. In the face, therefore, of the actual course of events the Commission appointed to inquire into the campaign was bound to have a distressing task to fulfil. It has performed it impartially and thoroughly, with the result that its report in some respects provides even sadder reading than the first report of the Dardanelles Commission. As in the case of the latter document, the public learns that the real cause of failure was the existence in the Government of the country of a state of affairs more radically unsound than would have been credited without the damning evidence of the Commissioners' findings. It was not so much the shortcomings of this or that military officer as the ineptitude of those in charge of the destinies of the nation at the time, who were unable to rise to the level of their responsibilities or even to recognize that the system to which they clung so tenaciously was inadequate to the demands made upon it. With small men it is impossible to achieve great things, and the nation has gradually been forced to the conclusion that the men who kept in their hands the conduct of the war in its earlier stages were wholly unequal to the task of directing the affairs of the British Empire in a time of stress. It calls for no high qualities of statesmanship to realize that unity of direction is essential for the successful waging of war; but the Prime Minister of the day and those immediately associated with him in the War Committee of the Cabinet were content to initiate a campaign for which they made the India Government responsible against its will, while reserving to themselves the right to dictate political considerations as a determining factor for the military authorities on the spot; at the same time they took no steps to inquire whether the India Government had so far overcome its reluctance as to throw itself whole-heartedly into the conduct of the campaign. The Commission enters minutely into the degrees of responsibility attaching to the various authorities; but in the opinion of the public at large the crime of which all those named were collectively and individually guilty was undisguisable ignorance and undisguised indifference where the lives of British troops were at stake. It is a crime for which none of them ought to be forgiven. Disciplinary measures can be and have been enforced against military offenders; and the people of Great Britain ought to see to it that equal punishment is meted out to offending politicians by the termination not only of their Ministerial but also of their Parliamentary careers.

As with the Gallipoli Expedition, the initial blunder of the British Government was the policy of leaving the war to run itself or to be run by any individual Minister or official who took sufficient interest in it to make a suggestion. A War Cabinet worthy of the name would have envisaged the struggle as a whole, and would not have had to wait for proposals to be sprung upon it. In this instance the idea of a Mesopotamia campaign originated with Sir Edmund Barrow, Military Secretary of the India Office, who was clear-sighted enough to see the striking advantages that would accrue from the occupation of Busreh. The Commission holds that "the expedition to Mesopotamia was a justifiable military enterprise," and if we were tempted to cavil with any of its findings it would be with the prominence given to General Barrow's name in the enumeration setting forth the order and sequence of responsibility. He is cited as making the eminently sound recommendation that the expedition should "sit tight" at Kut and consolidate its control of the Busreh Vilayet—a piece of advice which if followed would have obviated the horrors that accompanied its rejection—and it is not apparent from the evidence adduced that his position at the India Office enabled him to exercise any practical influence over the details of the campaign. He was, however, part of a system in which no one was expected to have the courage of his convictions, and an official's value was assessed according to his readiness to follow the line of least resistance. Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Lord Hardinge, even Sir Beauchamp Duff showed at one time or another an instinctive appreciation of the right course to adopt; but in turn they allowed themselves to be overruled by a man who seems to have subordinated his military judgment to the glamour of being hailed the conqueror of Baghdad.

If the Commissioners are held to have done their work well, it is for the people of Great Britain to endorse their findings by practical measures. Fortunately the condition of things which they describe no longer obtains in Mesopotamia. "No more substantial results or more solid victories have been achieved than those won by the gallantry of the British and Indian armies on the stricken plains of Mesopotamia." In the military sphere past mistakes have been corrected, and particularly in regard to the medical service, for which the severest strictures of the Commission were justly reserved. We have indicated how the political errors can be atoned for, and the people must remember that due punishment can only be inflicted at their hands. There remains, however, one section of the Report which is likely to be overlooked, but which is of considerable value for the future of Mesopotamia. When war broke out in 1914, the Commissioners point out, Asia was divided between the Imperial and Indian War Departments. "It is inadvisable to give the details of this delimitation; it will be sufficient for our immediate purpose to state that a line was drawn through Arabia from Akaba to Busreh, all north of that line belonging to Whitehall, all south to Simla. Busreh was thus given to India, Mesopotamia to Great Britain—a somewhat confused division of responsibility, inasmuch as Busreh must inevitably become the base of any operations in Mesopotamia from the Persian Gulf." This confusion of control is likely to be perpetuated after the war, unless definite steps are taken under the stimulus of the Commission's findings to put an end to it. We may expect to find the Foreign Office, the Government of India and, it may be, the Colonial Office all claiming "interests" in Mesopotamia. It matters little under whose ægis the Middle East falls, provided there is no clashing between two Government departments, no overlapping, and no falling between two stools. If jurisdiction be given to the Foreign Office, there will, no doubt, be occasion for the Government of India to concern itself with certain particulars of the administration; but there need be no conflict of authority. What is required is that a final decision should be reached without delay, so that arrangements can be made for the future, and officials in Mesopotamia as well as Consuls and other representatives in Persia may know from the outset the system under which they will be expected to work.

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THE RED CROSS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following is the second portion of Major Moens' report, which we are permitted to publish by the kindness of the Red Cross. The first portion of the report appeared in THE NEAR EAST *of June 22.*

Stores.

The method of acquainting the medical authorities with a source of supply hitherto unobtainable was as follows:—A revised list of available Red Cross comforts—comprising at the time of writing this report over 200 items, from a toothpick to a hospital ship—was sent every month to the Surgeon-General, to the D.D.M.S. and to the A.D.M.S. of each division, and on the lines of communication. Copies of the list were sent by these medical officers to the O.C. of every medical unit in their sphere of control. The same method was employed at Busreh as at Amarah, with the result that every officer commanding a medical unit in Mesopotamia is kept continuously in touch with the possibilities of the Red Cross as a universal provider of comforts for the sick and wounded under his charge.

As soon as a requisition is received at the depot, if it is a local one, the goods are loosely packed and taken away by the hospital staff. If it is an up-river requisition, it is carefully packed and forwarded on the first available "P" boat bound for Sheikh Saad. At Sheikh Saad it is unloaded and put into the Red Cross "dump," and thence forwarded by the Embarkation Medical Officer to its destination, formerly by A.T. carts, but now by light railway for units on the right bank and by "T" boat, or small tug, for units on the left bank.

In all 1,478 requisitions on the Amarah depot have been complied with.

On several occasions the Red Cross, by keeping a fair reserve stock both at Busreh and at Amarah of goods most in demand, has been able to bridge over a deficiency in Government medical comforts—a deficiency in most cases temporary and local only—owing, perhaps, to the stranding of a "P" boat in the shallows of the Tigris, with the consequent blocking of the only available passage for other boats.

Red Cross Motor Launches.

Of all work done in Mesopotamia by the Order of St. John and Red Cross that of the river launches has been unique, inasmuch as they alone have occupied this field of activity; and it is no exaggeration to say that without this organisation the medical service would have been seriously handicapped.

The supply of motor launches for carrying sick and wounded, hospital personnel, and Red Cross stores represents the first phase of Red Cross work in Mesopotamia. In the autumn of 1915 two launches, the Alouette and the Olinda, were sent out; and in September of the same year, in response to a cable from General Nixon, a larger boat, the Wessex, capable of carrying as many as sixty sitting patients, was purchased. Owing to delays in shipment she did not arrive at Busreh until the end of December, and was put into commission immediately after arrival. At that time there were no other motor launches available in the country for the purpose, and for weeks on end the Wessex was running almost continuously day and night. She has carried more than 15,000 sick and wounded, and is still in service carrying Red Cross stores, of which she has already transported more than 200 tons, sometimes over long distances, such as from Busreh to Amarah (150 miles) and from Amarah to Arab Village (145 miles).

After the Wessex had been despatched and further launches had been asked for by the Army Commander I.E.F. "D," special launches were constructed, designed for the specific purpose of carrying sick and wounded, whether sitting or stretcher cases. In all there are at present in Mesopotamia thirty-four launches provided by the British Red Cross Society; and it may fairly be said that all transport of sick and wounded that can be effected by motor launches is done by these thirty-four boats, supplemented by the additional launches provided by the Indian branch of the Order of St. John.

The boats have been in service at various points along the line of river communications from the base at Busreh up to the front—a distance of about 300 miles at the end of the period covered by the report. The work varies according to the locality. At Busreh, Amarah, and Sheikh Saad the launches are employed for the discharging of the sick and wounded from the River Sick Convoy steamers to hospitals, the distributing of them from hospital to hospital according to circumstances, the visiting of marching posts and Post Hospital up and down river and for the evacuation of patients, involving sometimes journeys of over 100 miles. At the front the launches have been utilised for carrying the sick and wounded from the advanced dressing stations just behind the trenches to the nearest field ambulances.

In addition to this work, certain small launches have been detailed for the conveyance of medical officers who sometimes have to cover long distances in the course of their duties in districts where the only means of conveyance is by water. Besides this, Red Cross stores are transported from the depots to their destination by motor launches, and in this connection mention should be made of the Silver Thimble 7, located at Busreh, which up to the end of January, 1917, had carried over 120 tons of stores.

The total number of sick and wounded carried by British Red Cross launches since the first boat arrived, up to January 31, 1917, was approximately 80,000, and the general utility of the boats can be gauged from the fact that the transport of sick and wounded, both main and subsidiary, is almost entirely by water. It should be added that in no part of the river is navigation easy, owing to the strong current, the narrow channels, and the shifting sandbanks; whilst in some parts it is exceptionally difficult. Moreover, the launches make very long trips—up to 250 miles under their own power, being almost the only vessels of their size to do so; and in view of these circumstances the proportion of casualties must be considered low.

All repairs to the boats have been effected by our own repairing engineers, and the erection of a repair shop and slipway in Khandak Creek is now a *fait accompli*. All the launches are manned by Red Cross drivers and engineers, and are attached for duty to the medical authorities.

Two or three different types of launch are in service, according to the work for which they are intended; but the majority are 40-ft. launches, with a speed of 8 to 10 knots, and one engine of from 20 to 40 h.p. fitted right forward in a cabin just large enough to provide sleeping berths for the two drivers, who, as a rule, sleep in their boats. The rest of the launch is open. Ordinarily the accommodation is for 36 sitting cases or 8 stretcher and 16 sitting cases; though as many as 56 sitting cases have actually been carried in one trip. Substantial double awnings and side curtains protect the patients from the terrific heat of the sun's rays in the summer months.

On many occasions the Red Cross launches have been instrumental in preventing what would otherwise have resulted in serious breakdowns in transport. In July and August of 1916 the Florence Nightingale—a Scottish Red Cross boat—was evacuating the sick from a certain area in Amarah, starting at 6 a.m. and often not finishing work until long after midnight.

A British Red Cross river hospital ship for service on the Tigris is now nearing completion in Bombay, and is expected to be in commission next May. She will carry on board an exceptionally large ice-making machine plant, which alone will entitle her to her place in the sun, where ice is worth its weight in gold.

The Indian Order of St. John has also readily responded to the great demand for launches on the Tigris for the evacuation of sick and wounded, and has actually nine launches and one hospital ship in commission—doing yeoman service for the Red Cross in Mesopotamia.

To the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John will always accrue the honour of having contributed in measure incalculable to the rescue and relief of the sick and wounded during the Mesopotamian Campaign.

(Signed) S.M. MOENS (Major),
Acting Red Cross Commissioner, Mesopotamia.

SERBIAN TREASON TRIAL.

Reuter's Salonika correspondent reports (June 22):—The Serbian Superior Military Tribunal, acting as a Court of Cassation, to-day pronounced final judgment in the case in which members of a Serbian secret society, known as the "Black Hand," were charged with conspiracy to overthrow the present political *régime* of Serbia by the substitution of an oligarchic form of Government on the ground that the Serbian people are as yet unripe for the liberties which they at present enjoy. The Court confirmed the sentence of death passed upon Colonels Dragutin, Dimitrievitch, Milan, Milovanovitch, Radaych, Lasitch, and Vladimir Tutsovitch, and Lieutenant-Colonel Vemitch, Major Vulovitch, and the Austro-Hungarian Volunteer Malobabitch, while it commuted to twenty years' imprisonment the death sentence on Colonel Cheda Popovitch and the Vice-Consul M. Radencovitch.

The sentence of fifteen years' imprisonment imposed on the retired General Damian Popovitch has been increased to twenty years, whilst a similar sentence of fifteen years' imprisonment, given in the case of the Bosnian "Austro-Hungarian" subject named Mohammed Mehmed Rashitch, was confirmed by the Court.

The Rumanian Mission to the United States arrived at a Pacific Coast port last Friday.

According to a telegram from Vienna, the *Neues Wiener Tageblatt* announces that Count Clam-Martinitz is returning to military service and has been appointed a colonel. It is understood that he will be made Governor-General of Montenegro and will reside at Cettinge.

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THE MESOPOTAMIA REPORT.

The report of the Commission appointed by Parliament in August, 1916, to inquire into the operations in Mesopotamia was published on Tuesday. The members of the Commission were:—Lord George Hamilton (chairman), the Earl of Donoughmore, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., Sir Archibald Williamson, M.P., Mr. John Hodge, M.P., Commander J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, and General Sir Neville Lyttelton.

The history of the expedition is fully considered in the Blue Book, which consists of 200 pages. We give below the findings and conclusions of the Commission. Commander Wedgwood makes a separate report, in which he attributes the blame almost entirely to Lord Hardinge and Sir Beauchamp Duff.

The Commissioners say:—

The expedition to Mesopotamia was a justifiable military enterprise, but one of such a character that it required during its inception and development the most careful watching and preparation.

The division of responsibility between the India Office and the Indian Government, the former undertaking policy and the latter the management of the expedition, was in the circumstances unworkable. The Secretary of State, who controlled the policy, did not have cognisance of the capacity of the expedition to carry out the policy. The Indian Government, who managed the expedition, did not accompany developments of policy with the necessary preparations, even when they themselves proposed those developments.

The scope of the objective of the expedition was never sufficiently defined in advance so as to make each successive move part of a well-thought-out and matured plan.

The attempt in India entirely to control and regulate the wants of the expedition from Simla was an administrative mistake, and representatives of the Headquarters Staff with wide powers should from the first have been stationed at Bombay, the port of embarkation and disembarkation to and from Mesopotamia.

The Commander-in-Chief himself or his representatives should from time to time have visited Mesopotamia with a view to keeping the Headquarters Staff in touch with the needs of the expedition. In consequence of such want of touch the military authorities at Simla did not appreciate or realise the difficulties of campaigning in Mesopotamia, and from such lack of knowledge failed to make sufficient provision for surmounting the difficulties and drawbacks.

Military Errors.

The advance to Baghdad under the conditions existing in October, 1915, was an offensive movement based upon political and military miscalculations, and attempted with tired and insufficient forces and inadequate preparation. It resulted in the surrender of more than a division of our finest fighting troops, and the casualties incurred in the ineffective attempts to relieve Kut amounted to some 23,000 men.

The loss of prestige associated with these military failures was less than might have been anticipated owing to the deep impression made throughout and beyond the localities where the combats occurred by the splendid fighting power of the British and Indian forces engaged.

Various authorities and high officials are connected with the sanction given to this untoward advance. Each and all in our judgment, according to their relative and respective positions, must be made responsible for the errors in judgment to which they were parties and which formed the basis of their advice or orders.

Sir John Nixon.

The weightiest share of responsibility lies with Sir John Nixon, whose confident optimism was the main cause of the decision to advance.

The other persons responsible were:—

In India.—The Viceroy, Lord Hardinge, and the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Beauchamp Duff.

In England.—The Military Secretary of the India Office, Sir Edmund Barrow, the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Austen Chamberlain, and the War Committee of the Cabinet.

We put these names in the order and sequence of responsibility. The expert advisers of the Government who were consulted also approved the advance and are responsible for their advice, but the papers submitted to us suggest that the approval of the naval and military experts was reluctant. It is, however, notable that the experts unanimously anticipated no difficulty in the advance on Baghdad, but only in holding it.

We do not attach any share in the responsibility for the decision to advance to Baghdad to the Councils of the Secretary of State for India and the Viceroy. The Secretary of State for India only gave his assent to the advance after he had received an assurance from the General on the spot that he had an available force for his purpose.

Inadequate Supplies.

Dealing with the subject of supplies, equipment, reinforcements, etc., the Commission say:—The general armament and equipment were on a scale intended for an Indian frontier expedition, were not up to the standard of modern European warfare, and were quite insufficient to meet the needs of the Mesopotamia Expedition.

These shortcomings were the natural result of the policy of indiscriminate retrenchment pursued for some years before the war by the Indian Government under instructions from the Home Government by which the Army was to be prepared and maintained for frontier and internal use. The whole system of supply was on too low a standard, and was badly organised.

As regards reinforcements, we find that up to the occupation of Kut in September, 1915, the Mesopotamian Expedition was, in fact, numerically strong enough to cope with the Turkish forces brought against it. The arrangements for drafts and reinforcements had, however, from the first been lacking in co-ordination as between the Indian and the home authorities, and this want of co-ordination led to the failure to supply effective reinforcements in connection with the advance on Baghdad and the operations for the relief of Kut.

Deficient Transport.

On the question of transport, the Commission say that from the first the paramount importance, both of river and railway transport in Mesopotamia, was insufficiently realised by the military authorities in India. Up to the end of 1915 the efforts made to rectify the deficiency of river transport were wholly inadequate. For want of comprehensive grasp of the transport situation and insufficiency of river steamers we find the military authorities in India are responsible. The responsibility is a grave one. River hospital steamers were an urgent requirement for the proper equipment of the expedition and were not ordered until much too late.

With Sir John Nixon rests the responsibility for recommending the advances in 1915 with insufficient transport and equipment. For what ensued from shortage of steamers General Sir John Nixon must be held to blame.

During the first four months of 1916 the shortage of transport was fatal to the operations undertaken for the relief of Kut.

Looking at the facts which from the first must have been apparent to any administrator, military or civilian, who gave a few minutes' consideration to the map and to the conditions in Mesopotamia, the want of foresight and provision for the most fundamental needs of the expedition reflects discredit upon the organising aptitude of all the authorities concerned.

General Sir Wm. Robertson, in a document, states:—In general the operations were allowed in 1915 to develop without proper regard to the vital questions of supply and maintenance, in which opinion our investigations lead us unreservedly to concur.

Medical Defects.

The Commission further state that the medical provision for the campaign was from the beginning insufficient. The suffering to the sick and wounded owing to the defects of medical provision was most lamentably severe.

To Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, as Viceroy, belongs the general responsibility attaching to his position as the head of the Indian Government. In regard to the actual medical administration he appears to have shown throughout the utmost goodwill, but considering the paramount authority of his office his action was not sufficiently strenuous and peremptory.

A more severe censure must be passed upon the Commander-in-Chief, for not only did he, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India, fail closely to superintend the adequacy of medical provision in Mesopotamia, but he declined for a considerable time, until ultimately forced by the superior authority of the Viceroy, to give credence to rumours which proved to be true and failed to take the measures which a subsequent experience shows would have saved the wounded from avoidable suffering.

A Brighter Picture.

Reviewing the general results of the expedition, the Commission say that it may now be truly asserted that in the many parts of the world in which the Allied forces have been engaged, no more substantial results or more solid victories have been achieved than those won by the gallantry of the British and Indian armies on the stricken plains of Mesopotamia. Rarely if ever have greater courage or pertinacity been shown by British and Indian troops than is recorded in the operations of the Expeditionary Force both during their successes and reverses.

The Commissioners recommend that the Director of Medical Services in India, in war-time especially, should have far greater powers to authorise expenditure and buy needed stores. There should be an immediate and general improvement in the whole standard of comfort and accommodation in the hospitals for British troops in India. For Indian troops no time should be lost in substituting a station hospital system for the present regimental treatment. Base depots of medical stores should be reintroduced into the Indian Field Service organisation, and kept ready for mobilisation. At the outset of every campaign there should be provided a separate superior sanitary organisation and staff to look after the health of the fighting troops.

The field service ration should receive very careful reconsideration and alteration in the light of experience in Mesopotamia. This especially applies to the rations of Indian troops.

The Postmaster-General announces that the letter mails for India, the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, Ceylon, the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and beyond, and also for Australasia, which were dispatched from London on May 31 last, have been lost at sea, also the parcel mails for the same destination which were dispatched on May 23.

The British, French, Russian, and Italian Ministers at The Hague have asked that the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople be instructed to request the Turkish Government, in the name of humanity, to put a stop to the persecution of Jews in Palestine.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Thessaly and Its People.

An old military correspondent of *The Times* contributed to that paper last Friday an article entitled "Wanderings in Thessaly," in which he recalled some incidents of bygone days. Thessaly, he writes, is very backward in its agricultural methods, and its people do not take kindly to field work, finding employment more to their liking elsewhere. Thus—

During the Macedonian Revolution Volo and Karditza were the jumping-off grounds for the Cretan bands, who carried fire and the sword into Bulgarian, Serbian, and Turkish villages indiscriminately. It is idle to turn back to that page of Thessalian history. The Thessalians themselves took but little part in those disturbances; they were too busy making money in Egypt to look further afield; village children sang patriotic songs about the re-conquest of Macedonia, and all subscribed generously to the Ethnike Hetæria, and all firmly believed in the day when the Greek Empire should stretch to the eastern shores of the Black Sea, and far away into Persia. A new Constantine and a new Sofia were to reign in Constantinople.

The twenty-four villages on Mount Pelion cared for none of these things, and Volo itself, while willing to welcome the Macedonian bands, was far too much occupied with local politics to busy itself with Macedonia. Early in the autumn all the able-bodied men on Mount Pelion migrated *en masse* to Cairo, returning in the spring with their pockets full of English gold, earned by taking up one or more of the many contracts for public works in connection with the drainage projects in the land of the Pharaohs. Far too much money was to be made in this way for the inhabitants to trouble themselves with agriculture. Some few of the richer people on the mountain, foreseeing that the boom in Egypt would not last for ever, purchased blocks of land in the plains of Thessaly, and sent their sons to England or to France to study agriculture.

"The Independence of Albania."

Under the above title, the *Outlook* (June 23) publishes an article which reviews the recent history of Albania, and gives the views of Ismail Kemal Bey, now a refugee in Paris, upon the future of his country. We quote from the latter portion of the article, merely adding that "the news" referred to is that of the Italian declaration regarding Albanian independence—

"The news is good—excellent," said his Excellency, when I called on him to find out what he thought of recent events, "because it shows that Albania is to take her rightful place when justice is done to the small nationalities. I have never doubted that Albania would benefit from this war if the Great Allied Powers are to be taken at their word, and if they win—neither of which hypotheses is to be doubted. At the same time, many things may happen before we finally get our liberty and independence, and this is a step in the right direction."

"You approve, then, of Italy's act, Excellency?"

"Yes. Italy of course wants a friend and not an enemy on the other side of the Straits of Otranto."

I gathered, however, that the Albanians will not be too grateful to the Powers for the present of their independence if the territory torn from them to avoid bloodshed and trouble is not restored and full justice done to Albania.

The Greek Premier—and Others.

On Monday the *Morning Post* published a long dispatch from its Athens correspondent, sent off on June 22. The correspondent refers to the difficulties in the way of securing a really united Greece, and he considers that the question of amnesty is, perhaps, the most pressing and most thorny—

The Venizelists declare that they are willing to agree that full amnesty should be granted to all persons under arrest or being prosecuted in New Greece for resistance to the authority of the Provisional Government, but they demand the legal prosecution and punishment of the chief persons concerned in the acts of lawlessness and violence last December and in the violations of the Greek law which have been committed since then against the Liberals in Old Greece.

In proof of the pernicious effect which the prospect of a general amnesty is already having upon the guilty Court, the Staff and other pro-German centres, Venizelists point to various symptoms which cannot be overlooked. First and foremost, the remaining members of the Royal Family, with Prince Nicholas at their head, are thus early openly vowing revenge upon all Liberals, and declaring that King Constantine's triumphant return is merely a matter of a few weeks or months. Such is the atmosphere in which the new King passes his days, and it is, therefore, not surprising that in his accession proclamation he declared that he would follow "the lines which his father's reign so gloriously traced."

One aide-de-camp, the correspondent reports, "openly declares that he will shoot M. Venizelos as soon as he shows his face in Athens."

Turkey, Bulgaria, and their Allies.

Writing in the *Sunday Times*, Mr. Ashmead Bartlett declares that "the muddle in the Near East can never be bettered by force of arms alone"—the time for negotiations is near at hand. And those negotiations Mr. Ashmead Bartlett would have carried on with Turkey and Bulgaria—

The time has come,, or is rapidly coming, when both Turkey and Bulgaria will realise they have backed the wrong horse, and will be anxious to save anything they can out of the general wreck. Both countries are faced with absolute ruin and bankruptcy after the war, and yet it is not in our interests to allow either to go under. Both must retain their place on the map with boundaries properly defined.

Therefore it would seem as if a favourable moment had arrived for President Wilson, in the name of all the Allies, to restate our war aims, and to invite Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece, and Roumania to send delegates to meet at a Round Table Conference in neutral territory—let us say Switzerland. It will be the task of Allied Diplomacy to harmonise the conflicting claims and to re-adjust boundaries on a basis of nationalities as far as such a course is practical, and, where it is not, there is always the alternative of an exchange of nationals. The Allies would, of course, agree to guarantee the settlement arrived at.

The writer thinks that such a conference need not fail. "Every fresh blow we give the Hun on the Western Front shatters still further the weakening faith of Turkey and Bulgaria in their masters, and will make them more than ever anxious to come to terms before it is too late." And certainly the terms that he suggests are liberal enough to make the Turks and the Bulgarians think twice. Whether they would be approved by the Entente remains to be seen.

The Salonika Front.

Reviewing the situation (under the title "The Lull in Flanders") on the various fronts, the *Observer* (June 24) rejoices at the thought that, Thessaly being in French hands and Epirus and Janina in Italian, "the left flank and rear of the Allied armies in Macedonia are now secure from attack. So, also, is the right flank—

There is no better military barrier than the line of the Struma river, with the right bank dominating the left, and the wonder is why General Milne ever crossed the river into the unhealthy zone beyond it unless he had sufficient force, which he had not, to cut the railway at Serres. His retreat is a wise move from every point of view. General Sarrail is not going to throw his army against the impenetrable wall of the Rhodope Mountains or invade Thrace. Serbia is his objective, and Serbian territory lies west, not east, of the Struma.

The writer proceeds to praise the good work done by Italy in this theatre of the war. But he insists that Serbian territory must be recaptured from the enemy, whatever else be done—

The Italians have done good spade work during the past year in opening up communications from the Adriatic into Macedonia. They have established etappen posts along the excellent coach road from Sauti Guaranta to Koritza, and cleared the Albanian brigands out of the two roads which lead from Valona through Tepelini into Northern Epirus, one up the Voyussa, the other up the Argyrocastro valley. It remains to open up the subsidiary route, which is still in Austrian possession, from Durazzo through Elbasan to Lake Ochrida. The congestion at Salonika has now been removed. We must on no account lose sight of this theatre of war. Still less must we talk about wasting strength in "secondary" operations. A decision in the West will not mean a decision in the Balkans. *Beati possidentes.* Serbia is in occupation of the enemy, and the Allies have got to reconquer it.

The Change at Athens.

Writing in the *Daily Telegraph* (June 23) of King Constantine's fall, Dr. E. J. Dillon asks why the Entente Powers' policy of super-tolerance should suddenly have been revised. Whose influence brought about the change?—

One can but guess. To me, at any rate, it seems clear that it is in the development of Italian policy rather than in any new light that has dawned on the Entente Governments that we should look for the motive that determined their belated intervention on behalf of the violated Greek Constitution and also of their own maltreated armies. With this clue we can understand how it came to pass that after Constantine's relatives and the Russian Government had ceased to be obstacles in the paths of the Entente, the Kaiser and his brother-in-law were still able to impose their policy on the Allies and prevent the bulk of the Greek nation from rallying round Venizelos. One of the basic principles underlying all our dealings with our principal Allies is never to run counter to any of their desires if expressed with sufficient firmness. . . . King Constantine, while Entente statesmanship was humouring him and recompensing him for his fidelity to the Kaiser, was dispatching armed bands of komitadjis against our sorely-tried forces around Salonika. Sarrail uttered protest after protest, but the Entente Governments shrank from intermeddling in these domestic affairs of the Hellenic kingdom. At last the General, in sheer self-defence, abandoned protests and took to shooting the brigands.

Articles to Note.

"Russia and Roumania," in the *Manchester Guardian* (June 23).

"The New Situation in the Balkans," in the *Army and Navy Gazette* (June 23).

"Tropical Disease in the Balkans" (a paper read before the Royal Society by Major Aldo Castellani). in the *British Medical Journal* (June 16).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Situation in Greece.

June 25.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the terms of the Treaty of 1863, concerning the Government of Greece, having been violated repeatedly by ex-King Constantine, it was beyond the powers of the Allies to draw up a new Treaty, having regard to the circumstances of the hour being not less important than those of 1863; and whether it was beyond their powers to exclude from the succession, even temporarily, any close relative of the German Kaiser.

Mr. BALFOUR: Our object is to establish unity and freedom in Greece under a form of Government which will make unity and freedom permanent. There are evidently many difficulties to be surmounted before these ends are attained, but they will only be aggravated by endeavouring to deal with the problem piecemeal in answer to such inquiries as those contained in the hon. gentleman's question.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether it was by freedom of choice or from inevitable necessity that the Allies had taken action.

Mr. BALFOUR: The questions of free will and necessity have perplexed mankind for centuries. Answering another question, Mr. BALFOUR said he would prefer to await the official text of the documents before committing himself to any public statement as to the interpretation to be given to them.

Mr. R. M'NEILL asked whether recent events in Greece had in any way affected the official recognition by the Government of the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos, and whether the diplomatic representative of M. Venizelos in London was still in official relations with the Foreign Office.

Mr. BALFOUR: The answer to the first question is in the negative, and to the second in the affirmative. Affairs in Greece are at present in a state of rapid transition.

Mr. BALFOUR, replying further to Mr. M'Neill, said: M. Jonnart was given a general mandate by the French and British Governments to secure a radical solution of the Greek question. It was decided that full discretion should be left to the High Commissioner to secure this object, and it was considered that explicit instructions would merely hamper him in the exercise of a mandate requiring rapid and decisive action. His Majesty's Government were not consulted, for the reason given above, as to the exact form of communication to be made to King Constantine, although they had previously informed the French Government and M. Jonnart that no solution would, in their opinion, be effective which did not entail the abdication and withdrawal of the King.

Mr. PEMBERTON BILLING: Is the Government paying this Monarch a pension, and have they undertaken to do so in the future?

Mr. BALFOUR: I rather apprehend the answer is in the negative, but if the hon. member is so anxious I wish he would put down a question.

Mr. R. M'NEILL: Is it intended to make the report referred to public?

Mr. BALFOUR: I could not promise to make a document public until I have seen it, but I am sure it will contain material which will enable me to answer many of the questions which have been put to me to-day and on previous occasions.

King Constantine's Future.

June 26.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether an invitation would be given to King Constantine to take up his residence in this country.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The answer is in the negative.

June 27.

Mr. BALFOUR, replying to Mr. GILBERT, said he was not yet aware what arrangement the High Commissioner had come to with Monsieur Zaimis in regard to King Constantine's future pension. Presumably it would be paid from Greek revenues.

The Mesopotamia Report.

Sir R. JARDINE asked the Prime Minister whether he intended to give a day for the discussion of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Mesopotamian Expedition.

Mr. BONAR LAW, who replied, said: I shall be glad if my hon. friend will put down this question for next week after the House has had time to study the Report.

Mr. DEVLIN: Is it intended to continue Lord Hardinge in the position he occupies?

Mr. BONAR LAW: The answer I have given covers that, I think.

Mr. DEVLIN: What will be done with Lord Hardinge's Report in connection with the recent trouble in Ireland?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I had hoped to avoid saying anything about this at all to-day, but it is obvious that the Government could not allow a Report of this kind to reach them without immediately taking steps to see what action should be taken in regard to it.

Mr. DEVLIN: Is it the principle of the Government in appointing these Commissions to set a thief to catch a thief?

Sir R. JARDINE: Will the right hon. gentleman deal with the cases of officials censured in the Report during the interval?

Mr. BONAR LAW: It must obviously be the duty of the Government to take immediate action in regard to those who are especially accused of culpability in the matter.

Mr. KING: Is Lord Hardinge still in a position of great authority and eminence at the Foreign Office?

Mr. BONAR LAW: These questions assume that Lord Hardinge has been guilty. I do not wish to make any such assumption at present.

The Air Service in Mesopotamia.

Major BAIRD, replying to Mr. PEMBERTON BILLING, who asked whether any complaint had been received regarding the type of machine supplied to the air pilots on service with the British troops in Mesopotamia, said: I am not aware of the receipt of any communication on this matter which could with correctness be described as a complaint. The Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia has stated that he would like certain additions to the aeronautical equipment of his forces, and his wishes in this respect are being met.

Mr. PEMBERTON BILLING: Is the hon. gentleman aware that the German Government have discovered our *ruses de guerre*, and are we making this a dumping-ground for our worst "dud" machines?

Colonel C. LOWTHER: Will an opportunity be given for the discussion of the Mesopotamia scandal?

The SPEAKER intervened, and no further answer was given.

"MEN OF DARKNESS."

In a message despatched from Volo, on June 14, Mr. G. Ward Price tells the following amusing story of the discomfiture of certain Greek "Royalist" orators:—

Volo, with its large admixture of Royalists and German-paid roughs, had been for three days on the verge of trouble. That those days passed quietly was probably due to the arrival in port of an English ship, a merchantman, which the Navy had converted into an auxiliary cruiser. As a fighting unit her modest gun equipment hardly made her formidable, but the moral effect of her arrival was immense. As a British resident told me, she proved "a powerful sedative." And the means she took to impress the hostile Royalists were characteristic of the resourcefulness which is traditional in the British Navy. She used what I can only call naval hypnotic treatment. Until she came the Royalists were holding meetings every night on the sea front, where are the cafés. In gatherings several hundred strong they would inflame one another with raki and bloodthirsty oratory. The evening after H.M.S. Robin (that is not her real name) arrived one of these meetings was in full swing. "Down with the dogs of Allies!" cried the stubbly-chinned Royalists. "Curse Venizelos!" "Long live King Constantine!" The meeting had reached the zenith of enthusiasm, when suddenly every Royalist started as if he had been shot. Through the sultry blackness of the June night had struck a brilliant beam. It came from the searchlight of the English ship, and it had fallen and rested full upon them. It never wavered. It seemed to be looking into the face of every man among them as if to see who would speak next. Words died away on their lips. The unprecedented spectacle was witnessed of a crowd of Greeks without half a dozen people talking at once. The Diehards, who had been most vociferous against the Allies the moment before, found a strange difficulty in enunciating any more curses. The worst desperado of a Last Ditcher ceased abruptly to advocate fighting. The searchlight simply stared them into silence Then individually and inconspicuously they slipped away into the grateful obscurity of the surrounding darkness. After that the searchlight was simply master of the situation.

NEW SERBIAN MINISTRY.

A Reuter's message from Corfu, dated June 24:—As a result of the resignation of three of its members, the entire Ministry presented its resignation to the Crown Prince Alexander. M. Nikola P. Pashitch has formed a new Government, which is constituted as follows:—

M. NIKOLA PASHITCH.—Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

M. STOYAN PROTITCH.—Finance and Vice-President of the Council.

M. LJUBOMIR YOVANOVITCH.—Interior.

M. MARKO DJURITCHITCH.—Justice, and (temporarily) Agriculture.

DR. MOMTCHILE NINTCHITCH.—Public Works, and (temporarily) Public Instruction.

GENERAL BOZIDAR TERZITCH.—War.

News was received in Egypt lately that Herr Otto Lindemann, a well-known cotton merchant of Alexandria, who was expelled from the country early in the war, was in America when war was declared between the United States and Germany. The American authorities arrested him. It is said that Herr Lindemann travelled to America from Germany on board the mercantile submarine Deutschland.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

I have pointed out previously in these Notes that the losses caused to shipping by enemy submarines and other war risks will continue to be of a fluctuating character, and the returns issued by the Admiralty last week and this bear out my statement. The figures published on Wednesday show that, as compared with those of June 19, the number of ships, of the more-than-1,600-tons category, sunk were six fewer; an interesting and unusual feature of the official report is that in the week under review fewer vessels moved in the danger area, fewer were attacked, fewer were sunk, and fewer escaped after attack. This is satisfactory, and the satisfaction is the more justified when the returns for the whole of June are considered. In that month the movements of vessels were 22,613, as compared with 18,777 in March, 24,775 in April, and 20,903 in May. The losses were 119, as compared with 133 in March, 223 in April, and 136 in May.

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The expression "satisfactory," however, must be taken in a certain limited sense. There is not a single detail to show the actual tonnage involved in these losses. The Admiralty persistently refuses to make any disclosure in this respect, and since they are solely responsible to the nation for the "running of the show" afloat it would be unpatriotic to press them unduly to provide details. But, as I have said before, no very important secret would be given away to the enemy if to the number of vessels lost were added a statement that the tonnage concerned was so much less or more as the case might be, and it seems a pity that this is not done.

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Soon after he took charge of the Admiralty Sir Edward Carson made a great speech in which he described the wide activities of the Royal Navy, outlined the vast sea area its ships had to patrol and sketched the extent and character of the risks they undertook. He mentioned, it may be remembered, that mines had been found adrift so far away as off the Cape of Good Hope and in the Gulf of Aden. The loss of the P. and O. steamer Mongolia off Bombay on Saturday of last week will recall that speech in a somewhat unpleasant manner. On the previous day the Postmaster-General had announced that the mails of May 31 had been lost owing to enemy action, but there was nothing to indicate where, when and how the loss had occurred. The official statement regarding the Mongolia makes those points clear, and will serve to emphasise how widespread are the risks which the Mercantile Marine has to undertake. Losses in Eastern waters—since the Emden was disposed of—have been so insignificant that this risk has been lost sight of; while there is no ground for panic, there is certainly cause for caution, a lesson which, I have no doubt, those in authority have already taken to heart and mind.

Mention of the P. and O. reminds me that the stock-holders of the company have decided unanimously in favour of the scheme to acquire the ordinary shares of the Union Steam Ship Company of New Zealand, "in consideration of 10s. of P. and O. deferred stock and 30s. cash for each share." By this arrangement the premier shipping concern assumes control of a fleet of seventy-four high-class steamers with a tonnage of 237,860; and, as Lord Inchcape remarked at the meeting on Wednesday, "if you reckon the value of the £500,000 of P. and O. deferred stock as £1,500,000, this, together with the £1,500,000 of cash, makes the purchase price of the Union Steamship Company's shares £3,000,000"—the most important maritime deal since the fusion of the P. and O. and the British India.

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The terrible story of the operations in the Mesopotamia campaign, as told in the report of the Commissioners who were appointed to conduct an investigation, does not call for any special comment in these Notes; but I may be permitted once more to call attention to the excellent work done at Busreh in the way of port development. The port has been provided with improved equipment, cargo is more easily handled, and shipowners have been granted facilities which were unknown under the Turkish *régime*. That is not to say, of course, that the work has been completed. Few people are aware of the vast possibilities for trade and commerce that exist there. Some years have elapsed now since I visited the Shatt-el-Arab, but I have lively recollections of the great trade activities of the region. Standing on the deck of a British India steamer, I was able to judge of the variety of the produce exported: corn, fruit, skins, horses, and a hundred other "lines," all of which had already become famous in oversea markets. As I mentioned last week, the Government of India have initiated a considerable programme of commercial and industrial development, and when the present war has become a chapter in the great book of history the trade of Busreh and its hinterland will be a living—and still growing—Imperial force.

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Sir John H. Biles, the famous naval architect, writes to *The Times* to point out that the Commissioners did not accord full justice to the river craft employed on the rivers in Mesopotamia in the transport of troops and material. "The river craft condemned by the Commission" (he writes) "are the swim-ended barges and the paddlers. The former were condemned before they were built by some persons in Mesopotamia. The Commission adopted this condemnation. The Commissioners did not ask whether the vessels had been completed and tried. They did not ask what is the result. Since these vessels have been condemned in Mesopotamia last summer Baghdad and beyond have been reached by our river craft. . . . Their statement is, 'they have been tried and condemned.' The facts are that they were first condemned and afterwards tried. They are now in constant use, and are very useful, and particularly useful for work above Amara. . . . The condemnation of the paddlers is of a similar negligent order. All these paddlers are doing most useful work, and have fully justified the money spent on them and the care exercised in their construction by their designers and builders, and the anxiety shared by all who have been responsible for getting these frail craft successfully across thousands of miles of ocean."

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The action of the German Government in "levying a contribution" of £10,000,000 on the occupied districts of Roumania is in full keeping with its policy of high-handed robbery which it has adopted throughout the war. At the moment, unfortunately, there is no remedy; to "kick against the pricks" would, in all probability, only provoke further oppressive acts, and it must be assumed that the unfortunate people now living under the iron heel of the Hun militarists must submit to more impoverishment to satisfy the rapacity of the invaders. The sufferings of the Roumanians have been borne with much fortitude; they have made great sacrifices for principle, and all their friends outside (who long to get inside) can offer in the way of comfort is a promise of relief—some day. Somewhat intangible and bordering on platitude, perhaps, but the relief will be afforded, and it will be none the less welcome because it will be belated. In the meantime, I am informed, practical schemes are already afoot in this country, and not a moment will be lost in beginning the work of rehabilitating Roumanian industry and commerce when the first opportunity presents itself.

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One of the more curious results of the shortage of wood used by the Lancashire mills in preparing piece-goods for the markets is an appeal made to customers to return what is called in the trade "rolling boards." There is no obligation to return them, of course, but if retailers desire to have their cloth packed in the way necessary to preservation in proper condition they will do well to respond to the appeal. It is a matter of doubt, all the same, whether, in view of the shortage of timber, it will be possible for long to pack piece-goods for oversea markets in the old manner. It has been pointed out that pieces of cloth can be rolled without boards by the use of a skeleton frame, which is withdrawn later; this has the advantage of reducing the gross weight of packages, not an unimportant matter in these days; but retailers do not like the arrangement, because it deprives the goods of their centre stiffening. Before the war is over I am afraid a good many dislikes will have to be made the best of, however.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE SUDAN AND ITS ECONOMIC ADVANCE.

No. 10.—The Mongalla Province.

BY PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

Anterior to 1906 that large semi-tropical tract of country, the most remote and perhaps the most backward, and now known as the Province of Mongalla, formed part of the Upper Nile Province. In that year a separate administration was formed, with the parallel of 7 deg. 30 min. north latitude as its northern limit. From a picturesque point of view the country may be regarded as ranking among the more attractive in the Sudan, while its climate, although at certain seasons decidedly trying to the European, is not found always unpleasant for the African.

The hot weather commences towards the middle of November, and lasts until the end of March. The seasonal rains are exceptionally heavy, enduring from ten to twelve hours at a time. From Gondokoro south to the Equator the rainy periods increase in length, until at the Equator itself rain and sunshine succeed each other in rapid succession all the year round.

Thirteen districts, or *mamurias*, now form the political division of Mongalla, which has a more or less superficial area of 90,000 miles, and a population estimated at 207,400. Within its administrative limits is also now included the Lado Enclave, an immense area extending to 15,000 square miles, with a population put at 250,000. This new territory was taken over from Belgium; on January 1, 1914, the southern Lado Enclave was exchanged with the Uganda Government for the Gondokoro and Minnute districts, situated upon the southern frontier, and this latter now proceeds along the 4 deg. N. parallel up to the Sandeman Gulf of Lake Rudolf.

One of the main drawbacks to the economic advancement of this huge province has been the large number of tribes—many very troublesome—which go to form its very mixed population. It would be impossible to enumerate the whole of the different clans—probably in excess of seventy—referred to, but the principal among them are the Baris, Dinkas, Berris, Niambaras, Fajeulas, Kukus, Kakuas, Kalikus, Mondus, Makarakas, Mandoris, Latsukas, Lafites, Lokoias, Morus, Dodingas, Dabosas, Oboyas, etc., etc. The most numerous are the Dinkas, the Baris and the Kakuas. The last of the tribes to submit to the rule of Government were the Dodingas, Dabosas, Lafites, and the Oboyas. Naturally, the control and supervision of so many different, and, in some cases, contending elements is no easy task, but one calling for continual watchfulness and the exercise of much patience and no little discernment.

That some marked improvement in the social condition of the heterogeneous people of Mongalla has been effected within the past decade may be inferred from the difference in the official accounts of the situation given in 1906 and again in 1916. Writing in the first-named year, the then Governor of the new Province, Captain (now Major) Angus Cameron (the present Governor of the Sennar Province) said:—"The Baris appear to be in a chronic state of semi-starvation," while ten years later Colonel R. C. R. Owen, C.M.G., who succeeded Major Cameron as Governor, is found writing:—"The people are decidedly prosperous; poverty is unknown." Thus are the benefits of good and wise government in the Sudan manifested, realising in a thoroughly practical form Henry Clay's famous dictum, "Government is a trust, and the officers of the Government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people."

The complete history of the Mongalla Province has yet to be written, for, notwithstanding the amount of progress that has been mentioned as applying to the actual welfare of the inhabitants, there has been no time to take in hand the serious economic development of the rich and productive country which is comprised within its wide borders. Sufficient is known, however, from careful exploration and diligent observation to enable one to say that in time to come this Province may be brought to yield a substantial revenue to the Administration of the Sudan. Already the people have learned to realise the advantages of raising grain crops, and many—but, of course, not all—of them have shown themselves to be amenable to management in other directions. They now prefer to pay their tribute to Government in the form of grain and even in money, instead of, as formerly, in goats and sheep. Very few of the tribes refuse to pay in any form, and those who do are soon called to account by the long arm of the authorities, who cannot afford to allow any default in this respect for fear of the bad effect produced upon those of the people who are inclined to be more regular and honest.

The trade of the Province, if not as yet very considerable, at least shows signs of advancing. Ten years ago hardly any revenue was derived from it, while it cost the Gerverment some £E6,000 or £E7,000 "to run the show." To-day the revenue approaches to something between £E25,000 and £E27,000, with a continual tendency to improve. The natural products of the country include dura, rubber, coffee, and a little Nyassaland cotton, as well as sugar-cane. The local authorities are confident that in due time the growing of cotton can be made profitable. Experimental crops have been started at Mongalla and Rejaf, while attempts to cultivate the coffee plant are also said to have been encouraging. The districts of Moru, Yei and Loka are very similar in soil and climate to those of the Uganda, where this form of agriculture has attained the highest success. Fortunately labour is abundant, if not, perhaps, very efficient; the average pay is at the rate of 2 piastres (=5d.) per diem. In some parts of the country it can be obtained for even less.

Ivory is a source of handsome revenue for the Government, since a substantial tax is levied upon all found. In this province roam some of the finest specimens of the African elephant, for whose tusks there is at all times a good market both in England and the United States. Some of the largest tusks ever found have come from Mongalla. The Governor (Colonel Owen) once shot a beast at Loka which yielded a pair of ivories weighing 136 lbs. and 131 lbs., and measuring 10 ft. 3 ins. and 9 ft. 11 ins. respectively. The age of the animal was estimated at between 150 and 200 years. When offered for sale these tusks realised the sum of £225 net, a sum which ranked as an almost record price.

Mongalla town, the capital of the province, is situated about 1,200 miles distant from Khartoum, and to get there by steamer the journey occupies three weeks—that is to say, if the state of the Nile be favourable. It is a well-arranged and very clean town, very different, one would say, from that condition in which it was found when taken over from the Belgians, who, like the Germans, prove themselves very indifferent colonists. The main idea has been to lay-out the place after the pattern of an Indian cantonment; consequently the streets are perfectly straight and rectangular, the native quarter being segregated from the official and European section, while several lengthy avenues, composed of brightly flowering trees (which some day will become tall and shady), lend an attractive appearance, an effect still further enhanced by the brilliant red shale roofs of the Government buildings. An abundance of pure water, in addition to that available from the river Nile, enables the inhabitants to practise cleanliness among themselves.

The native houses, or *tukls*, are built of thatched grass and palm leaves; they are domed-shaped, the married men's quarters being surrounded, for greater privacy, by high palisades made of the palm leaves and branches, or of tall rushes gathered from the river. The single men's huts are not quite so zealously screened from public view.

Reinforced concrete, with strong corrugated iron roofs, wood-lined, play an important part in the construction of official residences and offices. Well-tended gardens, filled with variegated-coloured flowers and many brilliantly green trees and shrubs, give a tropical appearance to the whole place. At the times of the rains the country around is carpeted richly with countless beautiful flowers, which would make of the place a small paradise were it not that at the same time there are myriads of stinging insects let loose upon the suffering inhabitants, who are driven almost mad by the persistent and pitiless persecutors. Life in Mongalla under these circumstances is not to be recommended.

BOSNIA PRUNES.

Effect of the War on an Ancient Industry.

Before the war the prune trade of Bosnia was flourishing, the production being exceeded only by that of Serbia. During the past two years, however, the United States Consul at Trieste wrote in a recent report, the trade has suffered on account of the war. The plum crop of 1916 is estimated at 1,200 car loads of ten metric tons each, 550 car loads of which were produced in the Brcka district. This crop was small compared with previous years, especially for 1908 and 1909, when the annual production amounted to about 4,000 car loads.

In normal times the transportation of prunes from Bosnia to Trieste and other points of distribution is by sea as well as by rail. Part of the crop is packed and shipped in baskets immediately after being picked, but the greater part is kiln-dried and then packed in sacks and boxes for shipping. The plums of inferior quality are made into marmalade, for which there is a great demand in Austria and Germany. On account of the scarcity of field labour during the war, the prunes are not sorted or selected as in normal times, so that those now offered for sale are often mixed in size and quality. After being dried, the prunes are examined by experts, and those not thoroughly dried or otherwise unfit for table use as "compote" are sold to the brandy distilleries.

The marketing of prunes and plum marmalade has for a long time been controlled by a banking organisation, at the head of which is the Landesbank for Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the war the sale and distribution has been regulated by Government measures, and the Purchasing Commission fixes the wholesale and retail selling prices. At present the official wholesale price of prunes is about 13½d. per Austrian lb. of 1.1 lb. avoirdupois, and the retail price about 1s. 4d. per lb. The latter price is paid for the ration quantities which consumers are allotted from time to time in each community by the Provisioning Commission thereof. For the prunes purchased in shops, however, one must pay about twice the commission price—about 2s. 8d. per lb. at present in Trieste.

WAR LOSSES AT SEA.

The Secretary of the Admiralty on Wednesday issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks for the week ended 3 p.m., June 24:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,876
Sailings	2,923

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons (gross) or over	20
Under 1,600 tons (gross)	6
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	20
British fishing vessels sunk	0

The figures are net for the actual week under report.

P. AND O. LINER SUNK.

The Government of India announces that the P. and O. liner Mongolia was sunk by a mine off Bombay at noon on Saturday last. Boats containing the passengers and crew have arrived at Bombay. The London mails the liner was carrying were lost.

COTTON GROWING IN THE EMPIRE.

In the House of Commons recently Mr. Needham asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he could announce the names of the committee to deal with the question of cotton-growing in the Empire and the terms of reference.

Mr. Roberts, who replied, said:—I am at the present moment in communication with representative associations in the cotton trade in regard to the membership of this committee, and hope very shortly to be in a position to announce the names of the gentlemen who have consented to serve. The object of the committee is to investigate in all its bearings the question of increasing the supply of raw cotton within the British Empire.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Disorganised Conditions in the Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The conditions in the market have been vitally affected by the intervention of the Government with regard to the raw cotton situation, and business in yarn and cloth has been thoroughly disorganised. At the time of writing the scheme of the Government has not been made public, but it was expected that trading in futures in the Liverpool market would be resumed on Friday under new conditions. The outlook remains very uncertain, and in spite of many rumours as to the intentions of the Government traders have been very much in the dark as to the conditions under which business will be carried on during the next few months.

It is now reported that the Alexandria cotton market has been closed until Saturday, and it is quite evident trading in futures throughout the world is disorganised for the time being.

Mail advices from Cairo relating to the demand for cotton piece goods remain encouraging, and merchants there are experiencing a healthy trade. Buying here has been rather irregular. Fancies and specialities have moved off rather more freely than sized materials.

Operations for India have been rather limited, although a rather increased inquiry has come through during the last day or two in light fabrics such as dhooties and jaconets. Some fair offers have been mentioned in finishing cloths for China. Many buyers and sellers, however, have had a nervous feeling, and the conditions have not been favourable to a large turnover.

American yarns have been slow of sale and prices have hardened, there being a tendency for "points on" to advance in Liverpool. Most producers of coarse counts have healthy engagements. Comparatively little has been done in shipping bundles.

Prices in Egyptian yarns have tended to go against buyers, especially in the finer numbers. There is considerable irregularity in the engagements of producers.

Since the above was written the Board of Trade issued the following statement:—

"A meeting was held at the Board of Trade to-day (Wednesday) at which representatives of the various cotton interests were present with a view to a further discussion of the situation.

"It was agreed that the Liverpool Cotton Exchange should reopen on Friday morning under the conditions framed by the directors of the Liverpool Cotton Association, with a view to avoiding all further cotton speculation. The detailed conditions will be made public by the association previous to the opening of the Exchange.

"It was also decided to set up at once a Board of Control for the Cotton Trade, which will include representatives of spinners, manufacturers, importers, and distributors and of the principal associations of Cotton Operatives, together with representatives of the Board of Trade.

"The names of the members and of the chairman will be announced shortly."

The conference was a continuation of the consultation which took place last week, when Mr. A. K. Barnes (president of the Liverpool Cotton Association) and Mr. W. R. Glazebrook were summoned to Whitehall after the partial closing of the Liverpool futures market, through the intervention of the Government. It was then decided that, pending further consideration, there should be no opening of the Liverpool market until after yesterday's conference, an opportunity in the meantime being afforded both millowners and operatives to consider the position.

According to a report, a suggestion was pressed at the conference that supplies to the mills should be rationed in order to prevent stoppage. The fixing of prices, it is understood, was also discussed, while a further proposal was submitted for the Government control of cotton on similar lines to that which has already been adopted in the case of supplies of wool.

The President (Sir Albert Stanley) was accompanied at the conference by Sir H. Llewellyn Smith, first secretary to the Board of Trade, Mr. G. H. Roberts, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, and Sir David Shackleton, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Labour.

The Cotton Bourse at Alexandria, which was closed by Ministerial order, will be reopened to-morrow.

FREIGHT ON OIL AND COTTON SEED

Addressing the shareholders of the British Oil and Cake Mills, Ltd., in London, last week, Mr. John W. Pearson, the Chairman and Managing Director said:—

During the course of the year the price of feeding cake of all sorts has had to be advanced considerably, and the present level is now rather more than double the average level of pre-war days. The most important factor in causing this advance is the influence of freight rates, which have possibly affected this industry more than any other. Whereas before the war, a fair average rate of freight on cotton-seed from Egypt was about 7s. 6d. per ton, and on oilseeds from India about 25s. per ton, the freights demanded to-day range from about 120s. per ton from Egypt and 300s. per ton from India, which is in many cases more than the f.o.b. cost of the goods. The greater portion of this increased cost has been borne by the advance in the price of oil, and cakes generally have not carried an advance equivalent to the extra cost of freight. A notable exception to the general practice is the rate of freight charged by the Elder, Dempster Line serving our West African colonies, the present rates being very little higher than those ruling before the war. The result of this has been that West African produce from our own colonies has been brought to this country and distributed under more favourable conditions than can apply to any other oilseed dealt with.

TRADE OPENINGS.

The Stores Department of the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior has called for tenders for the supply of Ghafir clothing required by the Stores Department during 1917, including blue drill belts, drawers, and gamis.

Sealed samples of the articles required may be inspected at the Bulaq Stores, Cairo, or at the office of Sir A. L. Webb, K.C.M.G., Queen Anne's Chambers, Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W.1, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon, and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Representatives calling at Sir A. L. Webb's office must produce a written request from their firm to do so.

Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received, up to noon on July 15, by the Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him.

Copies of the conditions and form of tender, together with lists of the articles required, may be obtained by British manufacturers on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Competition in the East.

We had occasion, recently, to allude in these columns to the remarkable progress of Japan in all branches of industry, especially in shipbuilding and in the manufacture of engines, machinery of all kinds, and machine-tools. We also alluded to the thoroughness of their energy in pushing their productions in the Australian and Indian markets. Our present difficulty in the supply of such goods to those markets is of considerable advantage to the Japanese, but at the same time it is a matter of great consequence which ought not to be overlooked. The Japanese manufacturers can produce at a much cheaper rate than British; they are nearer to the markets in question, have fewer shipping restrictions to contend against, and are, perhaps, more persuasive sellers to Oriental buyers than are our own people. The possibilities are obvious.

The Manufacture of Steel.

The cost of steel is, of course, a matter of considerable importance to Far Eastern manufacturers, but according to authoritative reports there is now a prospect of the establishment in China of a steel manufacturing industry on modern lines, and on a large scale. Subject to the sanction of the Chinese Government being obtained, a company is prepared with the necessary capital required for the purpose, and as it is unlikely that this sanction will be withheld, the company will extend its operations without delay to South China in order to handle the valuable iron deposits there, only scrap steel and pig-iron having hitherto been treated.

A Promising Outlook.

If the project is realised, it is stated, it promises to be one of the most revolutionary industrial developments undertaken in China since the Republic was inaugurated, for, it is believed, that present industrial progress in that country largely depends on the realisation of such a scheme. The Chinese, and we may say the Japanese, demand for iron and steel has increased in recent years by leaps and bounds; but owing principally to the war it has been virtually impossible to obtain delivery, not only from Europe, but also from the United States. The company meditating this development is, it is said, already operating two double sets of four furnaces, and have obtained an option on several hundred acres of land where a complete plant of an up-to-date character will be installed, and railway and other transport communication will be provided.

As the production of iron and steel leads to the establishment of other industries, this development should be all to the good of commerce. German influence in China has finally been eliminated owing to the breach between the two countries, and there is all probability that Great Britain will benefit by the establishment of the new industry.

Water-Power in South Russia.

Since we alluded to the Russian Bill which proposed to organise and develop the water-power resources of Russia—a matter of some importance to commercial and shipping interests in the Near East—it has been reported that agents and representatives of American electrical engineering firms have visited various districts in the region to study those waterfalls or stretches of water which they think capable of being used as a source of water-power, with a view, apparently, to obtain concessions. It has been admitted that Russia will afford a profitable field for electrical development at the conclusion of hostilities; and of this American firms, always well-informed by their Consuls, were not slow to take notice. It is hoped now that their activity will stir the energy of British concerns.

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NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Trade has been opened with Siwa by way of Dabaa and Marsa Matruh.

Mohamed Effendi Sharara has been appointed Secretary to the Egyptian Chamber of Commerce.

Owing to the war and the presence of British troops there has been an expansion in the trade in American chewing gum in Greece and Egypt.

By the decision of the Egyptian Government to remove restrictions by which certain areas are usually deprived of water until late in the summer, an improvement in the yield from 1,800,000 maize-bearing acres is expected.

A Reuter message from Ottawa of June 18 stated that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has lent the Imperial Munitions Board $10,000,000 to assist in meeting the financial requirements for the purchase of munitions in Canada during next year.

Representatives of the Central Powers are sitting in conference in Berlin "for the purpose of distributing the Roumanian agricultural produce and harvest." The *Lokalanzeiger* claims that the quantity of wheat to be given to Germany is so great that she will not have to limit the bread ration.

The exportation from the French zone in Morocco of beans and lentils is prohibited.

The Venezilist Consular Court at Alexandria gave judgment in twelve cases since its establishment in May.

It is announced that the direct mail service between Egypt and Italy has been suspended until further notice. All parcels for Italy will be despatched viâ France.

The Sultanieh Agricultural Society has approved the purchase of 15,000 additional tons of chemical manure and its import to Egypt on two ships carrying 9,000 and 6,000 tons each.

Several small coasting vessels have been sunk in Tunisian waters with bombs by German submarines carrying sail. The submarines were attacked by French aeroplanes, and disappeared after firing two shells which caused no damage.

A recent report by the British Consul-General at Tangier shows that the concession for the ports of Mehedya, Kenitra, and Rabat-Salée, granted to a consortium of three companies, previously mentioned in THE NEAR EAST, has been transferred to "La Société des Ports Marocains de Mehedya, Kenitra et Rabat-Salée." The new company has a capital of £100,000, and its headquarters are in Paris.

Mr. George Hazlehurst has been appointed Dock Traffic Superintendent of the Manchester Ship Canal in place of the late Mr. F. G. H. Morton.

In a paper read before the Egyptian Institute, Mr. Victor Mosseri expressed the view that Egypt could not produce pure tobacco, but it could provide a medium or light leaf.

GERMAN MORTGAGE BANK.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief H.B.M. Forces in Egypt has appointed the Public Custodian of Enemy Property to be receiver of all the property and assets in Egypt of the Egyptische Hypotheken Bank A.G., with instructions to liquidate the business of the said bank with all the powers conferred upon liquidators by the Proclamation of July 31, 1916.

This bank was founded by the Deutsche Orientbank, and the Chairman of the board of directors was Mr. Herbert Gutmann, the Vice-Chairman being Mr. Leon von Heller. The board of directors consisted of Dr. Erich Alexander, Joseph Aslan Cattaoui Pasha, Armand Dreyfus, Mohamed Talaat Bey Harb, Karl Hasselbach, Hugo Lindemann, Walter Merton, Samuel Ritscher, Ludwig Schneider, Paul Thomas, Richard Witting. The managers were Messrs. Albert Najar and Consul Wilhelm Padel. It was founded at Cairo in 1911 with a capital of £500,000, in 20,000 shares of £25 each.

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COMPANY MEETING.

UNION FONCIERE D'EGYPTE.

At the annual general meeting of this company, held in Cairo, after having heard the reports of the directors and the auditor, the shareholders approved the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, and decided to carry forward the debit balance of the latter. Messrs. Isaac Aghion, René Ismalun, and J. Charles-Roux were re-elected directors, and the election of M. Marius Lascaris as a director for a period of three years was ratified. The directors' fees were fixed at £3 per sitting. M. S. Pappo, Sub-Manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, was re-elected auditor for the financial year 1917-1918, with the remuneration of £80 for that period.

The Report.

The report was as follows :—

The cotton crop of Egypt has again been decidedly below normal in yield, as was also the case the previous year. In spite of an increased area under cultivation, the result will scarcely exceed by half a million cantars the 1915 crop, which was already quite insufficient.

The most conservative and authoritative forecasts fell wide of the mark, both those supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Alexandria General Produce Association proving considerably in excess of the reality. It was not till the last weeks of the cotton picking season that the destruction by the pink boll worm became very acute, and diminished by a disquieting proportion a crop which up till then had promised very favourably.

As a result of this, we failed to deliver the whole quantity of cotton which we had sold early in the season at P.T.482 per cantar at a moment when this action appeared prudent. On the other hand, those of our purchasers of land who held over the sale of their crop to the end of the year realised such excellent prices that they were able to reduce their arrears to an appreciable extent.

In spite of the small cotton crop and the restrictions on rice cultivation, the economic situation of the country greatly improved towards the end of the year. The high prices realised and maintained till now for all agricultural produce have enabled the fellaheen very largely to clear themselves financially, which is reflected in our affairs by a satisfactory recrudescence of land sales.

We deplore the loss from the board of directors of Monsieur G. Yver de la Bruchollerie, Manager of the Alexandria Branch of the Bank of Athens. He fell gloriously fighting for his country at Verdun in June last. In honour of his memory your board has decided to hang his portrait in the board-room.

Rural Estates.

Land Sales.—Sales this year amount to feddans 266-02-04, against 49 feddans last year. There appears, however, in the balance-sheet only feddans 190-15-12 for a value of £E13,942,503/000 representing those sales which had been transcribed at the moment of closing the accounts. These are distributed amongst the properties as follows :—

	Feddans.
Dar el Bakar Estate	63-01-16
Teda Estate	35-14-02
Kom El Hassel Estate	26-04-18
Santa Estate	75-19-00
Total Feddans	190-15-12

The mean book value of this land was £E68.941/000 per feddan, and the mean sale price was £E73.133/000.

The balance of the sales ready for registration amounting to feddans 175-10-16 (feddans 100 dating from before the war and feddans 75 from 1916) will figure in the next balance-sheet.

Purchases.—The estates have been increased by feddans 23-03-16, of which feddans 13-23-08 acquired by expropriation of, and feddans 8-06-00 by arrangement with defaulting purchasers, and a further feddans 0-20-08 acquired for general utility.

The movement in the property therefore is as follows :—

	Feddans.
Area on December 31, 1916	9755-16-13
Sales registered during the year	190-15-12
	9565-01-01
Land acquired during the year..	23-03-16
Total area on 31st March, 1917 ..	9588-04-17

Development and Cultivation.

The lack of water prevented the cultivation of rice except in our Teda, Kafr El Charki, Wazirieh, and Hessas estates, and on an area of only 830 feddans as against 2,217 in the previous year. Consequently, development was only possible on a relatively restrained area.

On the other hand, the drainage system of our Dogmera, Santa and Kafr El Charki estates has been very appreciably improved.

For the current year, water being abundant, and there being no restrictions against cultivation of rice, we hope to extend rice cultivation over more than 2,000 feddans, which should sensibly increase the revenues.

The area under cotton was 2,422 feddans, as against 1,936 the previous year, giving yields respectively of 3,471 and 2,590 cantars. For the current year the area sown in cotton exceeds 2,750 feddans.

Balance Sheet.

Rural Estates.—This item represents the net area belonging to the company multiplied by the cost price per feddan, £E63.660/000, as against £E63.117/000 the previous year.

Vendor Rights Ceded to the Land Bank.—The amount figuring under this heading is £E25.239,214/000, against £E23.732,485/000 last year.

Debtors for Land Sales.—Assets under this heading amount to £E75.047,016/000, of which £E25.239,214/000 have been ceded to the Land Bank, as above mentioned. On the other hand, the land sales annuities discounted by the Land Bank, and for the complete encashment of which we remain mutual guarantors, have been reduced from the original figure of £E77.960 to £E42.572,899/000, as against £E46.770,047/000 last year.

Annuities in Arrears.—The year began with a total arrear of £E22,316,272/000, since reduced to £E8,966,407/000.

1916-17 Annuities.—Of the annuities of the year under review, amounting to £E18.373,462/000, we have encashed £E8.217,753/000. Total encashments against annuities during the year amount to £E21.567,618/000.

Annuities in Suspense.—This item shows the amounts paid to the Land Bank on account of annuities due and under settlement.

Provision for Interest in Arrears.—This account has been drawn on for a sum of £E436,579/000 for writing off irrecoverable arrears of interest. The account has, however, been credited with a like amount to the debit of profit and loss in order to maintain the provision at its original figure of £E3.000.

Provision for Defaulting Tenants.—We have thought it well to bring this provision up to £E7,000.

Profit and Loss Account.

In addition to the usual depreciation, a sum of £E436,579/000, as above mentioned, has been set aside in order to maintain at its original figure the provision for interest in arrears, and the provision for arrears of rents has been increased by a further sum of £E1,500.

The Court of Appeal having confirmed the judgment of the Court of First Instance in the affair of the 250 shares of our company deposited with us by the late Ambroise G. Zervudachi as director's guarantee, the receivers of the firm C. G. Zervudachi and Fils have ceded the shares at £E7/8. The necessary entries have been made in the investments and profit and loss accounts.

Fees for the management of estates amount this year to £E1,250, as against £E860 last year, and there is hope that they will increase still further in the near future.

The financial year closes with a loss of £E4.830,412/000, to which must be added the amount brought forward to the debit of the profit and loss account, namely, £E15,070,130/000.

Board of Directors.

As a result of the death of Monsieur G. Yver de la Bruchollerie, the absence on military service of Monsieur Léopold Jullien, the company's managing director, and the departure of Monsieur Isaac Aghion for France, the number of resident members of your board is reduced to four.

Monsieur Marius Lascaris, director delegate of the Bank of Athens, has consented to associate himself with the company and lend his valuable collaboration on the board. You are requested to ratify the decision of the board in the matter of his election.

The retiring directors are Messrs. J. Charles Roux, Isaac Aghion and René Ismalun, who offer themselves for re-election.

Auditor.

The directors propose that Monsieur S. Pappo, sub-manager of the Land Bank of Egypt, be re-elected for the coming year with the same annual remuneration of £E80.

Auditor's Report.

The auditor's report was as follows :—

In conformity with the mandate which you have conferred on me, I have the honour to inform you that I have examined the balance-sheet and profit and loss account, and that I have found them to agree with the books of your company. Your profit and loss account, after making sundry provisions amounting to £3,812,331, closes with a loss of £4,830,412, to which must be added the losses carried over from former years, making a total of £19,900,542 to the debit of this account on March 31, 1917.

The action against the late A. Zervudachi, one time a director, having ended in your favour, the company has, on arrangement with the receivers of the firm C. G. Zervudachi and Sons, entered into possession of the 250 shares forming his director's deposit at market value. The company thus possesses 500 of its own shares.

(Signed) S. PAPPO, Auditor.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company, Limited, announce a first quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of income-tax, in respect of profits for the current year.

Bebera Company's debentures, coupon number 46, due July 1, will be paid at the National Bank of Egypt Offices, Alexandria, Cairo and London.

The National Bank of Egypt announces that Coupon No. 31 of the City of Alexandria Four per Cent. Loan, due July 1, will be paid at 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

The National Bank of Egypt announces that Coupon No. 26 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. cumulative preferred shares, due July 1, will be paid at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.).

Oil Outputs.

European :—Week. June 10, 82,500 poods; June 17, 84,200 poods.

Meetings.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C., on July 11, 1917, at 12.30 p.m. :—To receive the report of the directors, to elect directors in the place of those who retire, to elect auditors for the ensuing year, and to fix their remuneration.

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ROUMANIAN BONDS.

The Minister of Finance, according to a Reuter telegram from Jassy, dated June 23, is framing a scheme for the issue of short-term Treasury bonds, called "National Defence" bonds, for periods ranging from three to twelve months, and bearing interest at 4 per cent., to replace the three-month Five per Cent. bonds already issued. All the Roumanian banks have promised their active co-operation, and the Press and public are receiving the scheme favourably.

The success of the British offensive in France and of the Italian offensive, the new declarations of the Russian Provisional Government and the vigorous speech of M. Kerensky have combined to create an excellent impression on Roumanians, who are confident in their hope of final victory. The scheme of agrarian and social reform put forward by the Government and the energy that is being displayed by the various committees which are considering how best to carry out the reforms have also had an inspiriting effect upon the people, whose confidence in the Government is increasing.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
June 21-24 (inclusive)	520,000	500,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Weekly Situation.

	1916. Week June 22.	1917. Week June 21.
Cattle markets	389 ..	364
General markets	359 ..	429
Cattle markets closed	35 ..	118
Receipts (£).....	748 ..	793
Total for year.....	28,124 ..	33,330

Lord Sheffield writes to *The Times* that the statement quoted by the paper from the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* that the cultivated area of the occupied districts of Roumania is 266,000,000 hectares, and that 1,100,000 acres are sown with wheat is incorrect. He wrote : "The whole area of Wallachia is only about 30,000 square miles, or not quite 7,700,000 hectares. I fail to see how the enormous figure of 266,000,000 hectares has been arrived at, which is equal to about 660,000,000 acres, or more than a million square miles."

NOTICES.

THE MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT LIMITED.—The Board having decided to pay the Dividends on the 5% Cumulative Preferred Shares for the TWO Half-Years ending the 31st December, 1916 and the 30th June, 1917, Warrants for these Dividends will be posted on the 30th inst.

ROBERT H. EGGAR, Secretary.

26th June, 1917.

AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT FOUR per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES. The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 26 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares, due 1st July, will be PAID at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.).

SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to bearers of the Behera Company's Debentures that the DEBENTURES redeemed at the drawing of the 1st June, 1917, will be paid after the 1st July next at the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Cairo, and London, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

M. C. SALVAGO, Chairman.

Alexandria, the 12th June, 1917.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY, CAIRO.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a RESOLUTION was PASSED at the ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of this Company, in Cairo, on May 31, 1917, Adjourning the Meeting to July 31, 1917, at 11 a.m.

Shareholders wishing to be represented at the meeting should lodge their Share Warrants with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., not later than July 16.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.

Thursday Evening.

A very firm tone has again characterised our market this week, with a fair amount of activity in certain directions. Egypt has not been a very active factor, probably in consequence of the temporary disorganisation of the cotton market. In spite of that various buying orders have been received from over there; but, generally speaking, the prices bid have been below those at which there are sellers here, and in many cases the local buyers here have been paying higher prices for several of the shares that have been in demand.

The Government stocks have been lifeless but very firm, Unified being rather better again at 83½; sellers have been very scarce.

Among Bank shares Nationals have been done to the extent of about 300 shares round 15. Agricultural Banks have been in constant demand, about 1,500 shares having been done for the most part round 5 5-32 and 5 3-16, the close being 1-32 firmer at the latter price. Anglo-Egyptians have hardened ⅛ to 12⅛, and Land Banks are a like fraction higher at 5⅞.

Delta Light Railway prefs. have been bought on local account at the slightly higher level of 6 1-16. Aboukirs have continued somewhat depressed and are 1-32 easier at ¾, at which price they should prove a good lock-up purchase. The scarcity of water which occurred at a critical moment last year, and which materially affected their profit, should not recur this year. In fact, a cable is understood to have been received in London recently stating that the water supply is adequate and that the prospects are good.

Behéras remain firm, but there has been no business doing this week. Dairas are wanted, but there are no sellers. In Delta Lands some small business has been done round 10s. 9d. Gharbiehs have again been inquired for, and the price has improved from 22s. 6d. to 25s. 6d. bid; but no business has been done in the absence of sellers. The scarcity of sellers at the present depreciated level is easy to understand, because most holders of these £E4 shares paid over £3 for their holding.

New Egyptians have been active, about four thousand shares having changed hands round 11s. Union Foncières are wanted at 26s. 6d., but here again for the time being there are no sellers. In United Egyptian Lands a few thousand shares have again been done at about 1s. Salts and Sodas have been active and strong, some four thousand shares having changed hands round 23s. 6d. early in the week and later up to about 24s. 6d., showing a rise of 1s. 3d. since last week. Khedivial Mails have also been a strong market, persistent buying carrying the price up a further 2s. 9d. to 38s. 6d.

In Greek securities the market has kept very firm, but business has been at a standstill in the absence of sellers.

Oil Shares.

Oil shares have been quiet throughout the market, and prices have not changed much. Anglo-Egyptians ("B") closed at 14s. 6d., and Anglo-Persian Prefs. at 24s. Roumanian Consols were unchanged at 10s. 6d.

Paris Bourse.

Closing prices on Wednesday included the following:—Egyptian Unified, 95 (against 94.50); Turkish Unified, 61 (against 62); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 690 (unchanged); Suez Canal, 4,390 (against 4,375).

THE MONEY MARKET.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

London, Thursday.

There has been a good demand for money into July on the basis of 4¼ to 4½ per cent., but cash has been in ample supply, and day-to-day advances were to be obtained at from 3½ to 4¼ per cent.

There was a better demand for the limited bills on offer, fine paper being taken in cases at 4 9-16 per cent.

In the fiscal year 1915-16 the export of cumin seed from Malta was 1,115,719 lb., valued at about £29,200.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price June 22.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83½	83½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	56	56
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	56	56
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	50	50
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889.....	45	41	41
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	55xd	55xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52	52
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	63	63
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	72	72
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	92½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	—	78½-9
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.....	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68	68½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56	56
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5⅝	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7⅝	7⅝
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12	12⅛
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2⅛	2⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	—	7⅛xd
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6⅝	5⅝	5⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13½	15	15
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17½	9½	9½
Pirmus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	⅜	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	9⅛	9⅛
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/9	10/9
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	6/3	6/3
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅞	22/6	22/6
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	11/-	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	⅞	⅞
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1⅜	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅞xd	11⅞xd
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅜	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅛	23/3	24/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	35/9	38/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅛	3⅛	3⅛

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JUNE 16.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	14⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12¼ ex.
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Rispармio (New Priviligiée	Frs.	73
"	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	83
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85⅛
Privilégiée		74
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		34/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅛
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	106
" Jouissance	Frs.	163
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		23/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	663
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	332
" 1903 "	Frs.	264
" 1911 "	Frs.	263
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		½

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for eleven days ended May 31, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E.
May 21-May 31	4,811 ..	5,606
April 1-May 31	27,752 ..	33,020

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RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

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HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·65.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.

DIRECTORS:
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CENSORS:
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GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:
AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Lt. Col. J. LEIGH WOOD, C.M.G. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL	£880,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL	435,580
RESERVE FUND	65,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 322.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The German-Austrian flirtation with Russia has proved an unprofitable and in some respects a ridiculous enterprise. Petrograd seemed at one moment inclined to listen to this martial lover, who was arrayed in the white robes of the pacifist for the occasion—disguises have ever been an integral part of the stage comedies of love—but after a little pleasant dalliance the heavy Teuton wooer was repulsed, and his foot has been heavily trodden on this week in Galicia. The Russians are now once again threatening Lemberg in a country which at this season of the year is well suited to military operations; but the importance of that capital is sufficiently well understood by the enemy to make it certain that its capture will not be an easy matter.

But while Berlin and Vienna have been thus rudely repulsed, their advances have been observed and resented by Sofia with proper feminine jealousy. Bulgaria is understood to have protested sharply against the "no annexations" doctrine, which, if literally carried out, would deprive her of her expected spoil; and she is said to have cited pledges, given her by the Central Powers, that she should be allowed to annex half Serbia, the Dobruja, and a part of Greece—territories of which she is already in possession. Bulgaria appears to believe in the sincerity of the Central Powers, while Russia continues to distrust them—the very reverse of the result desired in Berlin, where it was desired to hoodwink Russia and possibly to persuade Bulgaria of the cynicism of these plausible transactions which have proved in vain.

Bulgaria cannot pretend to be surprised at the offer of a separate peace to Russia, as not a month has gone by since the Bulgarian Minister at Berlin was himself doing his utmost, as Maxim Gorki revealed, to persuade Russia to a separate peace. He would certainly not have so acted without the knowledge both of his own and the German Government. But his offer was rejected with contumely, and the German Government apparently saw that it would therefore be necessary to bait the trap with a more attractive morsel; hence, presumably, the "no annexation" talk which emanated from Austria. This must have appeared a quite harmless lie politically, since Austria can hardly expect at this time of the day to annex any Russian territory, and Russia, by resigning all claim to Constantinople, appeared to have lost interest in the Balkans, and Bulgaria's desires might therefore have been expected to be overlooked by the philosophers of Petrograd; but the cards did not quite fall on the table as the players had planned, and Bulgaria is now reproaching her partner. Whether Germany led the wrong suit or not, that particular trick has been lost by Germany.

It may not be entirely without significance that the Russian blow has fallen on Austria in a district which can claim to be part of the Ukraine, for the borderline between Poles and Ruthenes lies close to the Army frontiers in Galicia, and the Ruthenes are a strong element of the population up to the very walls of Lemberg; not being city-dwellers, they are a small proportion of the citizens of Lemberg itself. But the Ukraine question has developed this week, the National Assembly at Kief having appointed its own Cabinet, with Departments of War and Foreign Affairs. The progress side by side of a renewed offensive in the field and of political separation is a curious combination, upon which it would be idle to comment until further information is available, but the movement is important for its possible reaction in Balkan politics. The Ruthenian sphere of influence extends as far east as Odessa, and the Ukraine, besides being the granary of Southern Russia, is also its outlet to the south. Unless Russia were to split up altogether—a prospect which may be at once dismissed—she could not afford to let the Ukraine set up for itself without losing her status as a great Power and all weight in the Near East; while if the Ukraine were to start in political business for itself, it would immediately introduce a new factor into Balkan politics.

It is certain that neither Germany nor Austria has neglected the study of these proceedings at Kief. As was pointed out in these notes last week, Austria has for some time past encouraged Ruthene nationalism by those devious methods of which Vienna is a master, and it would be her object to attract the Ukraine within her orbit—the prize, indeed, would be no less valuable than Salonika. Moreover, since the Ruthenes alone would carry less weight than Russia, and the political instincts of the Ruthene are recent and not very strongly developed, their interest in the Balkans would certainly be less than that of Russia, and the weight of the Austrian influence in the Near East would consequently increase. One of the obstacles to the absorption of Serbia by Austria and Bulgaria would disappear, or at least diminish; the possibility of Slav influence reappearing at Constantinople would become remote, and both the

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Black Sea and Dardanelles questions would be revolutionized. It would not be very surprising to hear that Austrian agents had been at Kief, and that Vienna had agreed to recognize the independence of the Ukraine. But the Ruthenian is not likely to be deceived by so transparent a manœuvre.

The new Ministry of M. Venizelos is steadily making its way in Greece. Relations have been severed with the Central Powers, but no actual declaration of war has been made, although this is expected daily in Berlin. No great surprise has been expressed by the Germans at this development, which was, indeed, a foregone conclusion; they have, however, interned at Gorlitz, in Silesia, the Greek corps which King Constantine thoughtfully surrendered to Prussia some months ago.

So far as the internal affairs of Greece are concerned, the Chamber of 1915 is to be summoned in due course, when M. Venizelos—who has maintained silence as to his policy since his return to Athens, save for a guarantee to Serbia of faithfulness to the treaty which King Constantine ignored—will no doubt make a general statement as to both the domestic and foreign policy of the kingdom. Many of the Government officials whose past would not bear examination have been summarily dismissed, the new Ministers stating that they had no wish to meet them; some of those who took the most prominent part in the late outrages are to be prosecuted with the utmost rigour, while the minor personages will be allowed merely to disappear—unless they show any disposition to put their idle hands to the proverbial uses, and embarrass the new régime. Unfortunately this is a factor that will have to be reckoned with. They would be a danger, if they were left in their present positions; but the retrenched bureaucrat is not usually grateful to the Government which dismisses him, and the easiest way of revenge is to intrigue against it. Nobody need expect that these intrigues will succeed, but they will be attempted, and they will possibly give some little trouble, particularly in the event of any events occurring which could be interpreted as a check to the Allied cause.

German efforts will not be stopped in Athens merely because the Allies have taken strong action in restoring M. Venizelos to his rightful position. The methods will change, but there will be a constant attempt to undermine his position, to encourage sporadic outbreaks, to minimise the efforts of the Allies, and particularly their prospects in the Balkans; it is unlikely that the sum total of these efforts will amount to anything more than a nuisance, but they will be in evidence nevertheless.

The *New York Herald* has published a story containing details of the death of Prince Mircea, the youngest child of King Ferdinand of Roumania, last autumn; it is vouched for by Miss Loie Fuller, the dancer, who has been doing Red Cross work in Bucharest. The Prince died of typhoid last November; the Roumanian poetess Helen Vacarescu told her that the little Prince was a victim of the German airmen who dropped sweets on the capital. "Some of those sweets fell into the garden of the palace; the Prince ate as many as he could find. He fell sick almost immediately; a search was instituted, and more of the bonbons were found. An analysis showed that they were filled with typhoid germs." So does Kultur fight.

An interesting article in the *Sunday Times* discusses the Adriatic problem, from the aspect that the command of the Adriatic belongs to the Power that holds possession of the eastern coast, and that the command of the Adriatic being necessary to Italy, she must therefore obtain control in Dalmatia. The Jugo-Slavs are exhorted to compromise on the claims they are putting forward, in order not to alienate sympathy from themselves, and the final suggestion is made that the strip of coast from the present Italian frontier to the Narenta should belong to Italy, running inland also as far as the Velebit mountains; from the Narenta to the Bocche de Cattaro should be Serbian, thus giving her an outlet to the sea, the possession of the railway through the Narenta Valley to Ragusa, with the port of Gravosa. From the Bocche de Cattaro to Albania would fall to Montenegro. Should the Slavs claim more than this, it is suggested that their ambition will overleap itself.

Some time ago, in the case of Christian subjects of the Ottoman Empire, a British Order in Council was made (under the Aliens Restriction Act of 1914) which relieved them of those provisions of the Aliens Restriction Order which applied to alien enemies. This relaxation has now been extended in the case of natives of Baghdad or any other place in Mesopotamia who are by race Jews or Arabs. If a Turkish subject presents himself to the Registration Officer of his district and satisfies him that he is either a Jew or an Arab by race—race and not religion being the test—the Registration Officer may exempt him from any or all of the provisions of the Aliens Restriction Order. There can be no doubt that this wise concession will be very generally appreciated in the Middle East.

Elsewhere in this issue extended reference is made to the Mesopotamia Report. Lord Hardinge's statement in the House of Lords has somewhat cleared the ground for the forthcoming debate in the Commons, which will possibly take place next week. Discussion is, however, looked forward to with somewhat mixed feelings, owing to the fact that the cranks and the extremists have already fastened on the subject for question-time as an agreeable exercise for their peculiar faculties. Mr. Austen Chamberlain's explanation will be listened to with respect, possibly with conviction; Mr. Asquith can hardly avoid some statement in justification of his Government; the few Anglo-Indians in the House will probably contribute something of value; but beyond these it is rather unlikely that the debate will serve any very useful purpose. The Government so far does not seem prepared to give way to the cry for a scapegoat, the announcement having been made that the opinion of the legal officers of the Crown has not been sought upon the strictures in the Report.

Mr. Lloyd George dealt firmly with the destinies of Mesopotamia and Armenia in his Glasgow speech last Friday. "Mesopotamia is not Turkish, never has been Turkish. What will happen to Mesopotamia must be left to the Peace Congress when it meets, but there is one thing that will never happen to it—it will never be restored to the blasting tyranny of the Turks. . . . The same observation applies to Armenia, a land soaked with the blood of innocents massacred by the people who were bound to protect them." This had been stated before, partly directly, partly by inference, officially in the House of Commons, but it had not been definitely stated by the head of the Government. The German newspapers have taken prompt notice of the declaration, which cannot, however, have surprised them greatly. They have attempted to argue that England is continuing the war for the sake of plunder—a contention which does not harmonise very well with the view expressed in the same article, that the Entente statesmen are well aware that in a few weeks, or months at the outside, they will be brought to their knees.

General Allenby, whose loss is sincerely regretted by the Army in France, is now in Palestine, where the British and Turks are entrenched opposite each other by Gaza. The war has been confined to trench and air raids, and the Turks have accused us of bombing Jerusalem. The lie is a clever attempt to prejudice us in the eyes of both Christians and Mohammedans; but the Turkish statements are not believed even in Constantinople, and certainly not elsewhere. The facts were that the Turkish headquarters, a mile from Jerusalem, were bombed by the British Air Service.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 11.

The False Coining Case.

The false coining case, which has created such a sensation out here, came to an end on Wednesday last. The number of the accused was fifty-seven, and owing to the long list of witnesses the case lasted no less than twelve days. Eighteen of the men were acquitted; the rest received sentences varying from six months' simple imprisonment to six years' penal servitude, with two years' police supervision. Among the convicted men were the cashier of the Native Court of Appeal, a retired engineer of the Public Works, the headmaster of a primary school at Mellawi, a member of a very wealthy Coptic family, and a Sheikh-el-Balad. Many people are of opinion that, considering the enormous amount of false coining that has been going on in Egypt and the fact that the maximum penalty under the Penal Code is fifteen years' penal servitude, the sentences inflicted are by no means severe enough. I understand, however, that the men who received the higher sentences gave considerable assistance to the authorities in the course of the inquiry, and that this was taken into account in fixing the penalties.

At the conclusion of the trial the Court publicly congratulated the Parquet representative on the very able manner in which he had conducted the inquiry and the subsequent prosecution. This official is Mohammed Zaky el Ibrachi, to whose ability I have had previous occasion to refer in this correspondence, notably in the Wakfs Scandals case last year, when his work called for similar comment from the Court. He is certainly one of the most promising of the younger Egyptian lawyers, and if he continues to display in the future the same moral and mental qualities as have distinguished his work in the past he should have a brilliant career in store for him.

The authorities are to be congratulated on having so successfully laid by the heels this large band of false-coiners. They were greatly assisted in their work of investigation by Mr. A. Lucas, the well-known and popular Director of Laboratories, who has long played a prominent part in the detection of crime in Egypt, and who gave most interesting evidence in the course of the trial.

The Water Supply.

There seems little doubt that Egypt will have an abundant water supply throughout this year. The levels on the White Nile are at present two metres above normal; and the Blue Nile at Roseires, after rising a metre above normal, is now at the same level as at this time last year. The Aswan Reservoir is a metre above the normal, while the main river is at present one and a-half metres above its usual height at this period of the year. There should, therefore, be no complaint as to the volume of water available for cultivation, though, as Sir Murdoch Macdonald pointed out in his last report, until the entire canal system in the Delta is remodelled there is bound to be shortage at the lower ends of the canals, and certain areas at those points will continue to complain of lack of water even at the time when the levels are abnormally high.

It is interesting to note that, although very large numbers of labourers have been drawn away from their ordinary occupation by the Egyptian Labour Corps and other similar formations, the agricultural requirements of the country have not suffered at all. This destroys once and for all the great argument that has always been opposed in the past to any question of extending the cultivable area, viz., that there is already insufficient labour in the country. It is a well-known fact that in certain parts of the Delta the population is very congested, while in other districts it is very sparse compared with the area under cultivation. Whatever complaints as to lack of labour may have been raised in the past are due rather to bad distribution than to actual scarcity in the country, and as soon as the figures from the recent census are available one of the tasks before the authorities would appear to be to devise some scheme whereby the Fellah's inherent disinclination to leave his district may be overcome and the labour supply available may be organised so as to bring about a proper distribution to meet the periodical demands of the agricultural districts where at certain periods of the year there is a greater demand, and to provide the labour required by the lands which will be available for cultivation when the drainage and reclamation work in the Delta is resumed. The war has shown that there is more than ample labour for the present cultivable area, and it only requires organising to be made to go a good deal farther than it does to-day.

June 18.

The Command of the British Forces in Egypt.

The news that General Sir Archibald Murray is to relinquish the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force has come as no surprise out here, for there had been persistent rumours during the past two months that he was about to go home. It was not known who his successor would be, but it is interesting to note that the name of General Smuts was most mentioned. Considerable satisfaction is expressed at General Allenby having been selected to succeed him; for, although he is personally unknown to us, his good work in France has not passed without notice in Egypt.

It would be idle to contend that General Murray's relinquishment of the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force is regarded with regret out here. Indeed, it is a remarkable fact that, although he has never come much into personal contact with the local population, the news of his impending departure has been received in both Egyptian and European circles with a feeling of distinct relief. It must be remembered that the command of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force carries with it the military control, and that, as a result, the Commander-in-Chief has the final decision in, and is responsible for the civil government of the country. It is in respect of his administration of Egypt, and not of his work as a soldier—as to which comment must be left to the military experts—that the public is now expressing its opinion. Since he succeeded General Sir John Maxwell in March, 1916, the state of Egypt has, it is true, remained eminently satisfactory; but in the course of his direction of affairs General Murray has contrived to obtain in a most pronounced degree what our Gallic friends call "une mauvaise presse," and from what one knows and hears it is not altogether undeserved. That his administration has been as smooth and successful as it has been is, indeed, due rather to the tact of his subordinates and of the civil authorities, whose task has been by no means an easy one, than to his own personal efforts.

The Sharaki Lands.

Last week I reported that there were signs that Egypt would not suffer from any lack of water this year, and now, in proof of that fact, the Irrigation Service has issued an order removing the "Sharaki Prohibition." It should be explained that every year it is forbidden to water land which is lying fallow, after the reaping of the winter crops, until such time as the cotton crop has obtained all its requirements. The land thus deprived of water is called Sharaki, but it must not be confused with other areas also called Sharaki—lands which do not receive any water throughout any given year, and are for that reason exempted from land taxation. The "Sharaki" referred to now merely has its water supply delayed, but obtains thereby no exemption of taxation. Usually, the prohibition is not removed until late in the summer—in 1915 it was removed on July 15, and in 1914 on July 27, but this year it has been found possible to allow watering of these lands to take place as from the 19th inst. in most parts of Lower Egypt, as from June 25 in other parts of that area, and as from July 1 in Middle Egypt. Great benefits are expected from this unusually early removal of the prohibition. The condition of the maize crop depends entirely on how soon water can be put on the land given up to it, and as the area affected is almost all maize-growing land it is highly probable that the coming crop will show a marked improvement in yield and quality, and that the

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foodstuffs stringency during next winter will be materially relieved thereby.

There is, at the same time, an unfavourable side to the water-supply question. Abundance of water may quite possibly bring about an increase in the severity of the annual cotton-worm attack. There are, indeed, signs already of early activity on the part of that pest. Circulars have accordingly been sent to all the provincial authorities drawing their attention to this eventuality and calling upon them to take all the necessary steps to search for the egg masses and destroy them without delay. The latest reports show that the authorities are on the alert, and have made the requisite arrangements to deal with the scourge as soon as its appearance is reported in their districts. An interesting innovation has been started in this connection in the province of Dakahlia. On the initiative of Colonel Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo City Police, a number of vagabond children have been taken from the city and sent down to that province for employment in the work of picking the egg masses, and if the experiment is successful, further contingents will follow. The children receive a small sum per day to cover their food, etc. It is to be hoped that this experiment will prove sufficiently successful for similar action to be taken in other directions. If such an extension can be made, it will in a measure provide a solution to the serious problem confronting the authorities as to how they can satisfactorily deal with the increasingly large numbers of vagabond children in the streets of the capital.

The Paper Shortage.

Owing to the shortage of paper and the difficulty in obtaining further supplies, the military authorities have issued regulations with regard to the publication of newspapers. No paper is to appear on more than six days in the week, or to have more than eight pages; no supplements or special editions are to appear; no newspaper is to be sold at less that five milliemes, and those which have more than four pages are not to be sold at less than one piastre; papers, the price of which is five milliemes are to limit their size to two pages on four days of the week; and the maximum size of a page is fixed at 52 x 67 centimetres. Most of the local papers have announced their intention of increasing their price. These regulations should, in the ordinary way, result in a diminution in the consumption of paper, but the weak point about them would appear to be that the obligatory alteration of the price is not to extend to subscriptions. The natural effect of this will certainly be to add to the list of subscribers and correspondingly decrease the daily sales; but, whilst it may reduce the wastage, such as it is, on returns, it will not, it is to be feared, have the effect on consumption that the authorities undoubtedly expect. It would have been much sounder if the concession as to price had been explicitly extended to existing subscriptions only.

The Philippides Case.

The case in which Philippides Bey, late head of the Secret Police at the Cairo Governorate, is accused of having accepted bribes from police officials to secure their promotion, and his wife and orderly are accused of acting as intermediaries, came before the Cairo Assize Court on Saturday. It aroused very great public interest, and the Appeal Court and hall were crowded from an early hour. As I write the case is still proceeding, and nothing of a sensational character has occurred.*

The Abdication of King Constantine.

The news of the abdication of King Constantine, —which, by the way, reached here from Paris long before any message on the subject arrived from London— was received with wild enthusiasm by the Venizelists both here and in Alexandria. In the latter city a Te Deum was sung in the Orthodox Church, where the service was most impressive. After the ceremony the congregation proceeded to the French and British Consulates to thank the Protecting Powers for their intervention at Athens. Telegrams of congratulation were sent to M. Venizelos by the various communities.

I gather from conversations which I have had, that, although the liveliest satisfaction is felt at the abdication of King Constantine, the accession of his son Alexander by no means meets with general approval. It is felt that by far the best solution would be the complete exclusion of the whole Royal family from the Greek throne, and the substitution of whatever head the Hellenic nation may decide to choose. There is an impression among leading Hellenes that their country is as yet unfitted for a republic, and that it must still content itself with the monarchical system; and I find a decided inclination towards the nomination of a British prince as King. Whilst it is recognised that no hasty measures must be taken, there is, nevertheless, a general feeling that a clean sweep must be made at once of the element which has betrayed Greece and lowered her position among the nations of the world; and hopes are in this respect reposed in M. Jonnart, news of whose appointment as Commissioner, representing all the Entente Powers, has just been reported here.

As regards the situation in the Greek colony in Egypt everything has been done with exemplary orderliness, despite the efforts of the Royalists to create trouble. Leading members of the community agree that it is time that the Royalist Diplomatic Agent left the country. He has moved heaven and earth to sow dissension in their midst, and in this he has received marked assistance from the Patriarch. The removal of the latter is a matter which will, from the very nature of his position, require delicate handling, and so will take some time; but the same does not apply to M. Xydakis, whose departure could easily be brought about by the Anglo-Egyptian authorities declaring him to be unacceptable to them as the representative of the new King. His past behaviour certainly does not recommend him for the post of representative of what is hoped is a new order of things at Athens.

NILE POST BOAT LOST.

Egyptian and Sudan papers received by the last mail give details of a sad accident on the Nile, in the vicinity of Renk, Upper Nile Province, on May 29. The north-bound post boat Amara, when steaming north, ran into an haboob twenty-five miles south of Renk. She was quickly driven against the east bank of the river, but before she could be securely made fast the wind changed and blew her out into mid-stream, where she capsized in a few seconds.

There were ten passengers, and of these Major Thwaites, D.S.O., Department of Supplies; Captain Smith, 12th Sudanese; and Sergt. Williams, of the Sudan Service, were drowned. Sir A. Sharpe, late Governor of Nyassaland, who was also a passenger, sank with the ship, but, after clinging for some time to a piece of wreckage, was rescued. All his belongings were lost. Specially noteworthy was the pluck displayed by the wife of Colonel Moir, Postmaster-General of the Sudan, who, with her husband, was among the passengers. Other passengers were Bimbashi Heriot-Hill, of the Transport Department, E.A.; Captain Critchley-Salmon; Mr. Gillman, engineer, Steamers Department; and Sergeant Summerfield.

THE NEW GREEK CABINET.

Reuter's Athens Correspondent reports:—Alterations have been made in the Ministry, which is now constituted as follows:—

M. VENIZELOS	Prime Minister and Minister of War
M. REPOULIS	Interior
M. TSIRITMOKOS	Justice
M. POLITIS	Foreign Affairs
ADMIRAL CONDOURIOTIS	Marine
M. NEGROPONTES	Finance
M. PAPANASTASIOU	National Economy
M. DINGAS	Education
M. EMBIRIKOS	Food Supplies
M. SPIRIDES	Communications

Salvationists in India have subscribed towards the cost of a motor ambulance for service among the British troops in Mesopotamia.

General Papoulas, Commanding the Fifth Army Corps in Peloponnesus, has asked to be placed on the retired list, says Reuter's Athens correspondent. He has addressed an order of the day to his troops calling on them to remain fraternally united and to maintain discipline and order.

* A Reuter's message from Cairo, dated June 30, reports:—The trial of the Chief of the Secret Police, Philippides Bey, and his wife for bribery and corruption, which has been occupying public attention for fifteen days, closed to-day, when both prisoners were found guilty on eight out of thirteen counts. Philippides was sentenced to five years' confinement, and his wife to one year's hard labour, both, in addition, being fined £800. They were subjected to a hostile demonstration on leaving the court.

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THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 11, 1917.

Since I forwarded my previous notes on the persecution of the Jews in Palestine, reports have come to hand giving further particulars of the atrocities committed by the Turks there, especially in Gaza.

Jemal Pasha is said to have ordered the inhabitants to quit that town at short notice, when they had to leave behind all their furniture and belongings, which the soldiers freely looted. The latter are said to have been selling rugs and carpets worth from £20 to £30 apiece for as many piastres. What is more reminiscent still of old Bashi Bozuk methods is that the fugitive women have been stripped by the soldiers of their gold and silver ornaments.

After the first rude shock given by the British Army in Palestine, Jemal Pasha thought of evacuating Jerusalem also; and he convened the notables of the city to that end. They, however, unanimously replied: "The case of the inhabitants of Gaza is a sufficient warning to us. We prefer to remain in our homes and bear the risks of invasion rather than quit them, as the people of Gaza have done." This so incensed the autocrat that he forthwith constituted a court martial, which condemned these recalcitrant notables to exile to Anatolia. Among the notables similarly exiled from Gaza are the Mufti and the heads of the leading families there.

To complete the ruin of the poor inhabitants of Southern Palestine the cavalry force let loose their horses to graze in the green fields of corn. Of the eagerly expected harvest nothing but the stubble remained.

A curious and noteworthy fact is that in Kerek gold and silver abound. The explanation is that the Arabs there, who have always defied Turkish authority, refused to sell supplies to Jemal Pasha unless the payment were made in gold. Necessity compelled Jemal to comply, more especially as the Kerek Arabs threaten to join the Hejaz troops at any moment.

It is appropriate to give in this connection a translation of the full text of the warning published by Jemal Pasha in the newspaper *Al Sharq* in April last. It is headed thus: "Last warning from headquarters of the 4th Sultanian Army Corps regarding paper currency":—

The depreciation of paper money in the zone occupied by the 4th Army Corps has been greater than in any other place in the Empire, and, as this region comprises important centres of commercial exchange, this depreciation is causing real disaster to the inhabitants of Syria and Palestine, and to the army as well, not to speak of the repercussion on Irak and Asia Minor. When we find this paper currency *extraordinarily* considered in Germany and Switzerland, and even in France (*sic*), and Ottoman arms and those of our Allies in the most secure position everywhere, the only explanation for this daily depreciation can be that it is the manœuvre of monopolists. Wherefore, I wish—nay, I order—the destruction of this monopoly at its very roots, so that there should remain no difference between the value of paper and gold currency. I had hoped that there would be a spontaneous return to normal conditions, and I refrained consequently from the adoption of severe measures; but the experience of two years has proved to me that severity is a sacred duty incumbent on me for the safety of the troops and the welfare of the poor and of the fatherland. Before, however, I resort to the exercise of this severity I give this last warning in the following manner:—

1. The Vali or Mutessarif will convene all those who, by reason of their social position, may influence the economic situation, such as the managers of the Ottoman and Deutsche Banks, and all the rich people, leading merchants, sarrafs, and notables, and will warn them as to the necessity of exercising, at this juncture, a patriotic spirit, and manifesting a real desire with a view to making the necessary arrangements for securing a permanent equality of value between gold and paper currency, and he will see that such arrangements are properly carried out by them.

2. We hope that this body, that represents the distinguished category of the nation, will be so moved by patriotic ardour as to take actively the steps best calculated to lead to the attainment of this object, and we feel persuaded that they are capable of adequately coping with this situation.

3. If, however, our hopes be frustrated, and the difference of value between gold and paper currency persists till May 15—*i.e.*, if on May 15 the people do not buy food or any other commodity with paper money in exactly the same way as gold, *i.e.*, without any difference of value between the two currencies—I will exile, by drawing lots, ten of the notables aforementioned, together with their families, to Anatolia or Ramelia. Even the managers of the Ottoman and Deutsche Banks will not be exempted from this measure. In other words, their names will be included in those cast in the lots.

4. The vilayets will, in the meantime, present in duplicate lists bearing the names of the notables in question and those of the members of their respective families, all arranged in alphabetical order.

5. Six weeks after the exile of the first lot the deportation of the second lot will be carried out, and this arrangement will be continued on these lines with mathematical precision until the paper currency regains its face value.

6. The disaster that has overtaken Syria and Palestine on account of this depreciation of the paper currency has reached a degree which is unprecedented in its intensity, and I therefore find that the exercise of severity in this case is a real mercy to the poor and the country at large, inasmuch as it will conduce to the uprooting of this disaster.

And the Young Turks, with unconscious humour, are now impudently proposing to treat with the Socialists of Russia!

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Food Prices.

Great complaints are made regarding the widespread disobedience to orders regulating the prices of most articles of food and other necessaries. The rules are evaded by dealers of all classes. In order to defeat them tradesmen withhold goods from the markets and shops, selling secretly at higher than tariff prices, to the benefit of the well-to-do, and the great detriment of the poor. The punishments inflicted in a few cases that come before the Provost Marshals have not sufficed to stop the evil. In giving voice to these complaints it is pointed out that if the rules are not strictly enforced, it would be better that they should not exist. The abuses could be stopped if there were full co-operation between the Government and the municipal authorities. The police could do more to assist the town employees. Bakers continue to give trouble. To deal with this class the police and municipal inspectors could supervise the actual mixing of the flour. If during the summer, which is the season of abundance in meat, vegetables, and other supplies, the defiance of orders and proclamations is allowed to go unchecked, matters may, it is urged, become worse during the winter months.

Death of the Archimandrite Meletios.

The death of the Archimandrite of the metropolis of Kitium at Larnaca, at the age of seventy-four, deprives the Greek Church and community of a highly respected and much-esteemed member. The office is an important one in the Greek Church. It was filled very worthily by the deceased, who resided for over half a century at Larnaca. During several periods in which the see remained vacant, Melétios administered the office, as *locum tenens*, with ability; being regarded with great affection by his compatriots. The burial was in St. George's Cemetery. The Bishop of Kitium, who was absent at Limassol, hastened to Larnaca on receipt of a telegram. The funeral service was attended by representatives of the Government, the Consular body, the municipality, and large numbers of citizens.

Summer on Mt. Troodos.

The hotels should be well filled in spite of adverse circumstances. At Troödos that of Najem Houri's Hotel Company within the camp lines is much favoured. At Platres the hotel attracts large numbers, being in a convenient spot near a much-frequented village, which has grown into importance since the British occupation. At about an hour's distance from Platres, to the east, at a most picturesque spot in the folds of the mountain range, and deep in the pine forest, is another hotel, close to the old Mesopotamos monastery. It is now advertised as containing forty-five beds, and every comfort, by Messrs. George and Son. It is a favourite place for picnics and excursions from the camp and all neighbouring places. English, Greek, Turkish, and other languages are spoken, and a cosmopolitan company is evidently expected.

Need of an English Paper.

It is to be regretted that no English paper exists in the island. Several have come into existence at different periods since 1878, but none have had a long life. The *Cyprus Herald*, published weekly in the early days, managed to eke out a precarious existence for some years, but collapsed owing to want of funds. The British "colony" is too small to support a paper, and a subsidy is, of course, out of the question. There is an abundance of Greek papers, but there are few among the English who can, or care to, read them. Cypriots are well informed through them. Articles on the treatment of Belgians, Serbians, Roumanians, and of all occupied territories have been read throughout the length and breadth of Cyprus. Good translations of articles from European papers are inserted. There is no delusion anywhere as to the nature of German *Kultur*. In Cyprus, as in all parts of the world, the full meaning of the German menace to civilisation is thoroughly well understood.

According to a Constantinople telegram to the *Frankfürter Zeitung*, the wife of Dr. von Kühlmann, the German Ambassador in Constantinople, died last week of typhoid fever and inflammation of the lungs.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

As was inevitable, there have been many rumours regarding the effect that King Constantine's departure from Greece has had upon King Ferdinand of Bulgaria; and certain journals are amusing themselves—at least I hope they are—and pleasing their readers by picturing a kind of wild panic in Bulgaria. That Ferdi the Fox has been rather perturbed, I am prepared to believe; for as long as Constantine was on the throne, there was, at any rate, some reason for believing that the Entente Powers were not in earnest over the Balkan campaign; and as Ferdi is a nervous soul, he must feel distinctly unhappy at the thought of a friendly Balkan monarch being removed. So it is natural enough, perhaps, that he should "get a move on him," and endeavour to stir up his dear friends, the Kaiser and the Emperor Charles, to send reinforcements. But somehow I find it hard to believe that Bulgaria is panic-stricken at what has occurred. The Bulgarians are our enemies; but that is not to say that they have no good qualities at all. And they are cool-headed, unexcitable folk. They will weigh the chances carefully once more, I fancy; but they will *not* do anything sudden, under the impression that all is lost because Constantine has gone and they may have the Greek army against them ere long.

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Indeed, looking at it from, as near as possible, the Bulgars' point of view, the need for endeavouring to come to terms does not seem very pressing just yet. So far they have not been badly "spanked"; they have got in their harvests all right; they have acquired some useful—and long-coveted—territory; and their position appears to be a strong one—to put it mildly. Things being thus, and the Bulgarian character being what it is, I regard the talk about "general consternation" reigning in the country as being distinctly far-fetched.

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I have never been a great admirer of the habit of calling the ex-King Constantine "Tino," even though it rested upon the authority of that master of good-taste, the Kaiser! I have occasionally used the abbreviation, no doubt, for it is unquestionably a convenience in its way; but I have not done it more than I could help. A few days ago, however, I saw the expression, "The Tino family," in a note in a provincial paper, and that strikes me as having quite a nice, homely ring about it. If ever the family referred to is very hard hit by the Fates, and forced to take to "the halls," it will, at any rate, have an excellent stage name to begin with.

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There has lately been some correspondence in the newspapers about the British prisoners in the hands of the Turks. This shows how unhappy many people in this country have been rendered by the reports that the Turks are treating their captives badly. Personally, I hold that the Turk has shown himself unfit to rule any subject race; and that therefore he is probably unfit to hold any prisoners. But, on the other hand, one does hear of prisoners—quite humble individuals, too; so it can hardly be a case of "window-dressing"—being very decently treated, as far as the supplies will permit. It would undoubtedly be a great boon if only *all* the concentration camps in Turkey were open to inspection by neutral visitors. Is it quite impossible?

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The expression "get-rich-quick" is surely of the West western; but the frame of mind, or state of desire, that it indicates is by no means unknown in the East. I was, therefore, hardly surprised when, a few days ago, in glancing through the *Egyptian Gazette*, I came across the heading. "Get-Rich-Quick Egyptians." Had that been all, I should have "skipped" the paragraph, but when I read the subtitle, "A Tale of Magic," I settled myself comfortably, to enjoy a treat. And I was not entirely disappointed. Here, briefly, is the tale:—

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In the days when the Sultan Hussein the Good sat on the throne of Egypt—long may he continue to do so—there came to Helouan a Moor, named Hajji Ibrahim Sayyid, who soon let it be known to a chosen few that he was a Magician of the First Water: he had indeed solved a problem that had puzzled the alchemists throughout the Ages; and could, by means of a potent charm, turn lead into gold. This startling information was whispered into the ear of a notable of the place, one Ahmed Effendi Wasfi, who was a rich man, and who, desiring to become yet richer, agreed to help the Moor with his magic. For, it seemed, before the charm could work, certain preliminaries had to be observed. So the Effendi lent the Moor a house; and advanced him more than a hundred pounds for the purchase of woven stuff for curtains for a special room "for the King of the Jann," and for a stock of perfumes and drugs "for the use of the Jann." He supplied also large quantities of lead, zinc, and cement to the Moor; and bound himself not to divulge any secrets he might learn, or to mention the source of the wealth that was to be his.

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But, alas for the glory of the Jann! Those fickle beings failed the good Hajji, and the wealth was not forthcoming. Then Ahmed Effendi considered himself freed from his oath, and called in the police. The Moor's Familiar failed to warn him of the approach of the Minions of the Law; and as a result he was taken to Cairo under arrest. Then it transpired that he had reaped a rich harvest out of other Egyptians, by similar means. What his fate was the *Egyptian Gazette* does not tell me. But, unless one of the Jann, relenting at the last moment, bore him off in a cloud of smoke, I fancy I can make a fairly good guess.

CORSAIR.

KOSSOVO DAY.

Thursday, June 28, being Kossovo Day, the London units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals and the Serbian Society of Great Britain held a joint meeting at King's College, London, which was addressed by the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield and Mr. A. H. E. Taylor. Professor Gilbert Murray presided.

Mrs. Haverfield described the experiences of a hospital unit in the Dobruja. Among other incidents, she recalled one that occurred when a member of the unit, a young girl who had been studying medicine for two years, had charge of a motor ambulance for cholera patients. She was taking a Serbian colonel, suffering from the complaint, and a Serbian doctor, to Cernavoda. Arrived there, the doctor left, to go in search of the hospital. There was an aeroplane attack in progress, but the girl driver pulled aside the curtain that separated her from the patient, talked to him, and consoled him. It was characteristic of the Serbian spirit, said Mrs. Haverfield, that the patient was so pleased with the young girl's courage that he refused to leave the ambulance until her name had been written down on a piece of paper and handed to him, because, he said, she had been so heroic that if he lived he was determined to get a special decoration for her.

Mr. Taylor's address dealt with the unification of the Jugo-Slav race into a single State. Among the forces that were opposed to this, he said, were, first, the Bulgarophil movement which sought to detach Bulgaria from the Central Alliance by a bribe at the expense of Serbia. There should be no question of requiring the Southern Slavs to give up territories to which they had historical rights, the right of recent possession and at least an equal ethnographical right, unless we could guarantee them a complete national union. A second influence against the unification of the Southern Slav race was an Italian one. He trusted that when the time of reckoning came the Italians would be true to their own past. As the Jugo-Slavs were now, so the Italians had been. The third influence was Austrophil. The creation of the Jugo-Slav state was for us partly a matter of sentiment, partly an obligation of humanity, but there was also a solid British interest in doing so.

On Monday Messrs. Sotheby sold twenty-nine autograph letters and two manuscripts of Lord Byron for close upon one thousand pounds.

The Serbian military authorities are in possession of an official Bulgarian document which shows that all Serbian prisoners and interned civilians and recruits from the Morava region have been notified that they will be shot in the event of their attempting to escape, their homesteads burned, their properties confiscated, and their families deported.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

AN INTERNATIONAL NON-SEQUITUR.*

Mr. Leonard S. Woolf is a Fabian Internationalist, and he has seized upon Constantinople as the *corpus vile* for what he regards as an experiment, but what is, in fact, a proved failure. "The most striking difference between the imperialist's and the internationalist's ideal," he complains, "is that the world has allowed the former to attempt to put his ideal into practice, while refusing even to give a trial to the ideal of the latter." The statement is not correct, and indeed is contradicted by the author himself earlier in the book, where, apart from instances supplied by Egypt, Crete, and China, which he affects to ignore, he cites a number of successful cases, which incidentally have no bearing on the subject: "International administration has been applied in its most complete form to the control of river traffic and the freedom of navigation of rivers in the European Commission of the Danube, to postal and telegraphic communications in the Universal Postal Union and the Telegraphic and Radio-telegraphic Unions, etc., etc." Mr. Woolf enumerates a very formidable list of instances of successful international co-operation, which might have been still further amplified by reference to chess clubs, bowling alleys, and boating picnics. The latter cases would be quite as much to the point as the analogy chosen for the purposes of the book. No one challenges the success of the European Commission of the Danube, and there is no reason why an international body should not be made responsible for the navigation pure and simple of the waterway connecting the Black Sea and the Mediterranean. But that would not solve "the future of Constantinople." So intent is our author on riding his hobby of internationalism that he has not discovered the weakness of an argument based upon the supposed similarity between a river and a city. To contend that, because an international body can direct the conservancy of a river on sound lines, the handling on similar lines of all the complex problems associated with the government of a large city and a considerable extent of territory must be equally a success, is not a convincing testimonial to the reasoning faculties of those who urge the point.

According to our Internationalist, however, the problem is a simple one. The International Commission in charge of Constantinople is to be given a written constitution. "The powers of the Commission, as an Executive, to make regulations for freedom of communication, law, order, police, sanitation, to appoint and dismiss subordinate officers, would be defined . . . regular criminal and municipal courts would be required for trying cases of breach of regulations and other offences. The establishment of these courts must be provided for in the Treaty, together with the appointment of the judges and magistrates and the scale of their salaries. . . . The Treaty, in providing for the continuance or establishment of civil courts and judges, will lay it down that the existing civil law of the territory internationalised shall continue to govern the decisions of these courts."

The suspicion that Mr. Woolf is more concerned with the future of internationalism than interested in the future of Constantinople is confirmed by the fact that he has never heard of the Capitulations, and suggests that the existing civil law should supply the code of the internationalized city. It is with difficulty that one has the patience to examine such amateur theories. We are to imagine the government of Constantinople vested in a Commission consisting of an American, a Dane, and a Swiss, unless forsooth "one member . . . should . . . represent or even be elected by the native (*sic*) population." Of what nationality are the police to be, and the magistrates and the judges? If they are to be as cosmopolitan as the inhabitants, it requires little imagination to realise that precisely the same conditions as have always wrecked international administration will be repeated. Here it may be mentioned that our author, in the exuberance of his discovery of a book in the French language on the Danube Commission, written by the Secretary-General of the Roumanian Academy, challenges the application by the late Lord Cromer and by Lord Milner of the word Internationalism to the former status of Egypt. It was the mixture of national administration, he assures us, that made international government in Egypt unsatisfactory, and indeed prevented the latter from being given a fair trial. Whether Mr. Woolf speaks with the same exhaustive knowledge of things Egyptian as of things Turkish does not appear, but it is very evident that he has given no thought to the administrative problems of any cosmopolitan city or territory. The fact detracts somewhat from the value of his panacea for Constantinople. A further symptom of shallowness is displayed in several pages of comment on Napoleon's exclamation (detached from its context): "Constantinople! That means the rule of the world." No one but Mr. Woolf has ever imagined that the saying was intended to imply more than that possession of Constantinople would round off the victor's hegemony of the world. We are solemnly assured that "Constantinople has been in existence and in the hands of a single Power for the last 450 years at least. It has never yet given the rule of the world to anyone."

Dispassionate inquiry would convince the wildest enthusiast that international government does not stand the test of practice. It may be introduced in name, but the practical administration must be in the hands of one national authority, who will supply or control the police.

The Millennium has not yet come, and it will be courting disaster if it tries to introduce itself first in Constantinople. It is a kind of town that requires a fairly numerous police force, and police forces have been known to kick over the traces. To guard against such a possibility a military force must be available, and if the line of argument is followed to its logical conclusion we soon come to the nationalism which Mr. Woolf may deprecate in the case of Egypt, but which he would not be able to eliminate.

Constantinople is of great economic importance to Russia, because her economic development depends on free access to the Mediterranean. Similarly the freedom of the waterway is essential to Roumania. To secure this it is necessary that Turkish control should be eliminated, in order to prevent the possibility of the recrudescence of German intrigue in the Near East. When Turkish control has been eliminated, the main concern of Europe—*i.e.*, of the Allies—should be for the good government of Constantinople. That can never be achieved under international supervision for reasons already hinted at. Some thought must be given to the character of the city and its inhabitants. Nationality hardly enters the question, for the reason that there is no one race numerically predominant in the cosmopolitan community. The fetish advanced by Mr. Woolf, it is to be feared, would merely enable us to re-write, as the fate of the people,

"Perturbabantur Constantinopolitani
Innumerabilibus Sollicitudinibus."

* "The Future of Constantinople." By Leonard S. Woolf. London: George Allen and Unwin, Limited. 2s. 6d. net.

BOOK NOTES.

A volume which should be of especial interest at the present moment is "Palestine," by Mr. A. M. Hyamson, which will shortly be published by Messrs. Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd. In this work the author, after a brief sketch of the history of Palestine in earlier times, describes in detail the remarkable spiritual and material revival which the country has undergone in the past thirty-five years as the result of Jewish immigration. The book includes a history of the Zionist Movement, and is the first in England to deal at any length with the regeneration of Palestine by the Jews.

M. J. de Morgan, who was formerly Director-General of Antiquities in Egypt, has written an interesting and valuable "Essai sur les Nationalites," which is published (Berger-Lerrauls) at three francs.

Mr. Milford has now published the new edition of "Observations of the Mussulmauns of India," to which reference was made in these columns quite recently. The price of the book is six shillings net.

Dr. Berriedale Keith and Dr. Albert Carnoy will be responsible for the next volume of the Mythology of All Races series (Putnam), which will deal with Indian and Iranian myths.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Memoirs of a Balkan Diplomatist. By Count Mijatovich. (London: Cassell, 16s. net.)

Political and Social Conditions in Slovene Lands. [Southern Slav Library, VI.] (London: The Near East, Limited.)

The Influence of Organisation on History. By Ian D. Colvin. (Published by the British Empire Producers' Organisation.)

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. July.	1917. June.		1335. Ramadan	5677. Tamuz
6	23	Friday	16	16
7	24	Saturday.....	17	17
8	25	Sunday	18	18
9	26	Monday	19	19
10	27	Tuesday	20	20
11	28	Wednesday	21	21
12	29	Thursday	22	22

To-day is the birthday of H.R.H. Princess Victoria.

Next Thursday is the birthday of the King of Serbia.

Thursday will also be the birthday of Prince John, the youngest son of the King and Queen, who was born at Sandringham in 1905.

The Sultan of Egypt has given £1,000 to the fund for the building of an Anglican Cathedral at Cairo, the site for which was given by the Egyptian Government on his initiative. Sir R. Wingate and Bishop MacInnes have both written, warmly thanking the Sultan.

Prince Paul of Serbia, who recently arrived in England for medical treatment, has left the nursing home for Scotland, where he will spend the period of convalescence.

The Serbian Minister and several Staff officers attended the Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday of last week in honour of Kossovo Day at the Russian Church in Welbeck Street.

Sir Francis Elliot, his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Athens, had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on Thursday last week. His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. The following day Sir Francis was received by the Foreign Secretary at the Foreign Office.

Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on Thursday last week.

According to the *Daily Mail's* Athens correspondent, it is understood that Prince Christopher intends coming to London, "where he will marry a wealthy American girl."

From the same source comes the report that Prince Nicholas hopes finally to settle in Scotland.

The marriage of Mr. Thomas Lyons, his Majesty's Diplomatic Service, elder son of the late Admiral of the Fleet Sir Algernon Lyons, G.C.B., and Lady Lyons, of Kilvrough, Glamorganshire, with Miss Alexina, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. MacEwen, of Reedley, Branksome Park, Bournemouth, took place on Wednesday afternoon at St. Aldhelm's Church, Branksome, Bournemouth. Mr. Lyons served some time in Cairo, leaving there for Madrid in 1909, and afterwards being transferred to Peking.

On the list of pensions granted during the year ended March 31, 1917, is one of £150, granted to Lady Blunt, "in consideration of the distinguished services of her late husband, Sir John E. Blunt, C.B., as Consul-General at Salonika and at Boston."

Mrs. Herbert Squiers (*née* Marguérite, daughter of Myles Kennedy, Stone Cross, Ulverston), of Thorne's Beach, Beaulieu, Hants, and of New York, gave birth to a son, Herbert Goldsmith, on June 28.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the grade of Officer of the Order of the Nile on Lieutenant Philip L. Neville, Flag Lieutenant to Vice-Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss.

Miralai H. J. Huddleston Bey, D.S.O., M.C., late Officer Commanding the Egyptian Camel Corps, has been awarded the 3rd Class Order of the Nile. Huddleston Bey, it will be remembered, was in command of the column which engaged Ali Dinar, Sultan of Darfur, in the mountains, in which battle he met his death.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Phillott, Lecturer in Hindustani at Cambridge University, has accepted the offer of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund to be honorary general director of the administration of relief in the Holy Land, and is proceeding shortly to Egypt to make all the preliminary arrangements. Colonel Phillott, who saw active service in India in 1890 and 1891, subsequently had experience in relief work on the North-West Frontier, and later was Consul-General at Kerman, in Persia. He is a most distinguished Arabic scholar, and speaks many of the languages of the East, being a gold medallist in both Persian and Urdu.

Montenegro was represented at the Canadian Confederation Jubilee service at Westminster Abbey by the Consul-General for Montenegro, Sir Roper Parkington.

The idea of establishing a Red Cross hospital on the beautiful Grecian Isle of Syra was recently conceived by M. Venizelos, and Mr. Leon Messinesi, the well-known Anglo-Greek merchant, who is president of the hospital, is now at Syra completing arrangements. The hospital is recognised by the British Government, and donations will be gratefully received at the offices of L. N. Messinesi and Co., Eastcheap Buildings, E.C.3

A correspondent writes:—Mr. Leon Messinesi is a member of an old family which in Greece is very prominent in politics, as well as in commerce. His firm, L. M. Messinesi, of 19, Eastcheap, is well known in the City of London. He has been Consul-General for Greece in London for many years, and during the military revolution in Athens in 1909, when M. Venizelos was called from Crete, and, for the first time, appeared in Greek politics, Mr. Messinesi was asked by his compatriots to represent them in the new Parliament. He was duly elected as Deputy for Achaia and Elis, and continued to represent those large districts until the dissolution of the Parliament by King Constantine in 1915. That Parliament is now to be recalled by M. Venizelos. During the recent troubles in Athens, when Venezelists were persecuted, Mr. Messinesi happened to be in Greece, and, as a supporter of the Entente and a fearless speaker, he had to suffer. In good time he went to the island of Syra, which was under the control of the Provisional Government of M. Venizelos, and while there he apparently formulated the idea of establishing an hospital for the wounded. He instructed the manager of his firm in London, Mr. H. Waller, to procure and despatch the necessary requirements, and also to collect subscriptions for the hospital. These instructions were promptly carried out by Mr. Waller, and a sum of £800 was collected and forwarded to Mr. Messinesi. An appeal has also been made through the Press.

Captain Leonidas Lucas Ralli, A.S.C., of Park Street, W., at one time secretary to Sir Edward Ward, left property valued at £11,973.

Apropos of our reference recently to the good work of the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund, it is interesting to note that it has provided the following amounts for various works of mercy in the Near East:—£10,000 for two British Farmers' Hospitals in Serbia; £1,000 for Dr. Barrie's Serbian Hospital; £20,000 for hospital work in the Dardanelles; £20,000 for the extension and upkeep of a convalescent home (1,000 beds) at Montazah, Alexandria; £103,150 for motor ambulance convoys in Salonika, France, and Belgium; £5,000 for stores for Serbia; £5,000 for motor ambulances and steam launch for Egypt; £20,000 for hospital work in the Persian Gulf; and £2,000 for motor soup kitchens for the Caucasian Red Cross. The address of the Fund is Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, London, S.E.1.

Sir Lindsey Smith has resigned his position as hon. secretary to the Wounded Allies Relief Committee in order to take up a Government appointment, and the new hon. secretary is Dr. V. H. Rutherford, who did valuable work in organising the committee's hospitals in France, Serbia, and Montenegro.

An exhibition of wash and pencil drawings done in the Sudan by Dorothy Willis is to be held at 24A, Lower Regent Street, S.W.1 (the Empire Book Room; entrance in Jermyn Street), from July 2 to 22, inclusive. The exhibition will be open from 10.30 to 6 on week days, and on Sundays from 3 to 6.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The Secretary of the War Office last Friday made the following announcement:—General Sir E. H. H. Allenby, K.C.B., has arrived in Egypt, and has taken over the command of the Expeditionary Force.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the rank of Bey (second class) on Mohammed Shahin Bey, private physician to His Highness, and on Mohammed Teymour Bey and Mohammed Zulficar Bey, Masters of Ceremonies.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that it is announced that M. Gennadius will remain in London as Greek Minister under the new *régime*. The message adds: M. Romanos resumes his duties as Greek Minister in Paris. M. Caclamanos has been named for Petrograd, and M. Alexandris for Berne.

A Berlin message, forwarded on from Amsterdam by Reuter, states that the Greek Minister in Berlin, M. Theotokis, has telegraphed his resignation to the new Government, and has handed over the Legation to the First Secretary.

Bimbashi (temporary) S. M. Castle, 9th Sudanese, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

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Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that Admiral Coundouriotis, the Greek Minister of Marine, has ordered the retirement from active service of Vice-Admirals Dousmanis, Damianos, Ipitis, and Mioulis and various minor officers. Important changes are being made in all departments.

Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) G. G. S. Brander, 12th Sudanese, having ceased to be employed with Patrol No. 33, relinquishes the temporary rank of Kaimakam. He has been transferred to the 11th Sudanese.

The King has granted permission to Mr. Mark Charles Carman, of the Egyptian Ministry of Education, to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by him as Assistant Master at the Tewfikieh School, Cairo.

OBITUARY.

A Reuter's message from Budapest, received by way of Amsterdam, reports the death of M. Titu Maiorescu, formerly Prime Minister of Roumania, at the age of 77 years, after a short illness. He was born in 1840, and entered politics at the age of 31, being elected a Deputy. Before this he had been appointed Professor of Philosophy in the University of Jassy. In 1911 he was Foreign Minister, and in 1913 he became Prime Minister at the head of a coalition Cabinet.

The Jassy correspondent of *The Times* reports (June 29): The funeral of Dr. Campbell, assistant to the British Hospital at Jassy, who died of blood poisoning, took place to-day in the presence of members of the Legation and a great number of Allied and Roumanian officers. The Queen, who was also present, placed on the body the Order of the Roumanian Crown.

In an appreciation of General Broadwood, published in *The Times* last week, "E. B." writes: "Anyone who has had the privilege of serving under him in strenuous and anxious times in the Sudan and South Africa will not need to be reminded of his fearless courage, tenacity of purpose, and gallant spirit. For many years he worked in the fierce, unceasing heat of the Sudan, unknown and unheard of, during which time he fashioned the efficient native cavalry force that came to the front so well and did such good service on many hard-fought fields, culminating in the Battle of Khartoum. Physically by no means strong, his indomitable spirit carried him through those long years. His great strength lay in the fact, well known to all with whom he came in contact, from Lord Kitchener to the lowest of his troopers, that he was as 'straight' as a gun-barrel, absolutely trusted by his superiors, and loyal to those serving under him. No one ever heard Broadwood lay the blame for any failure on a subordinate."

It is now nearly two months since Captain A. T. Cull was reported missing, and later news is not favourable to the hopes previously entertained that he was a prisoner of war. Captain Cull was manager of the Minieh branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. He was in the Seaforth Highlanders, and was attached to the Royal Flying Corps. When last seen he was heavily engaged with enemy aeroplanes. Two British machines were brought down in flames, and it is believed that his machine was one of these. His colleagues are much distressed that more favourable news has not been received.

The death is reported in the Egyptian Press of Lieutenant Arthur H. Vella, who was a nephew of Bernard Pasha, of the Sudan Government, the only son of Mrs. Vella Bernard and of the late Captain A. Vella, Adjutant Royal Malta Artillery, and grandson of the late Colonel Count Bernard, Commanding Royal Malta Artillery. This is the second member of the same family to have given up his life in this war, the first being his first cousin, Lieutenant B. P. Bernard, only son of Bernard Pasha, who was killed in action in France in the first months of the war.

The Egyptian papers report the death in Cairo of Mr. Constantine Meimarachi, one of the most prominent Greek business men in the city. A native of Crete, soon after his arrival in Egypt he founded the Cretan Brotherhood, of which he was President. He also took part in the formation of the first Greek Criminal Court in Egypt. He was elected Treasurer of the Greek Community Council, and possessed many foreign and Egyptian orders, including that of a Commander of the Order of the Osmanieh. He led a most active life throughout, and lately joined the Greek national movement, and was in charge of the Recruiting as well as the Relief Committee.

The death occurred at Henley-on-Thames last week of Colonel William James Holmes Frodsham, of Mettingham, Suffolk, aged sixty-six years. He served with the 31st Regiment in the Sudan Expedition, 1885, receiving the medal with clasp and the bronze star.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

PLANK.—On June 29, at Alexandria, Egypt, to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Plank—a daughter.

At Serajevo, on the spot where the Archduke Francis Ferdinand was murdered, there will be unveiled a memorial with the inscription:—"The Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his consort, the Duchess Sophia, gave up their lives on June 28, 1914, on this spot for King and Fatherland."

Reuter's correspondent at Serbian Headquarters telegraphs that after the outbreak of war the Serbians inhabiting Austria and Hungary were arrested and treated as ordinary criminals, being subjected to all kinds of torture, especially famine. Later they were sent to concentration camps, at two of which 23,000 died of typhoid fever and other contagious illnesses.

A Reuter's message from Jassy, dated June 21, reports:—Despite the present situation, the Roumanian National Fête of May 10 was celebrated with as much ceremony as possible. After service there was a military parade in the presence of the King and Queen, the Crown Prince Carol, the members of the Royal Family, all the Roumanian Ministers, and the foreign military missions. King Ferdinand conferred numerous decorations on officers, and on one soldier a decoration on behalf of the French Republic, while a military band played the Marseillaise. The King and Queen, the Crown Prince, the members of the Royal Family, and the official procession were warmly cheered.

WHERE TO STAY.

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Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

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Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

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FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1917.

THE REPORT—AND AFTER.

The one feature that emerges from the discussion now raging round the Mesopotamia Report is that public opinion is unanimous in requiring the Government to take definite action in regard to the strictures passed by the Commission. It is natural that indignation should be directed, in the first instance, against the individuals who were primarily responsible for the mismanagement of the campaign, and the Report has been sufficiently explicit in the charges it has brought against some of those upon whom responsibility fell to enable disciplinary measures to be taken at once against them. But the value of the Commission's inquiry and searching criticism would be largely lost to the nation, if public feeling were to exhaust itself in securing that those who have served their country ill should receive their deserts. For this reason it is to be hoped that the personal aspect of the whole matter will be disposed of with the least possible delay. It would be well, indeed, if the more glaring cases, the full details of which, at least in regard to the medical arrangements of the Expedition, have been well known to the British and India Governments since the submission of the Vincent-Bingley Report over a year ago, could be settled before the debate in the House of Commons. The Government can have no desire to obscure the real issue. Behind the culpability of individuals lie the defects of a thoroughly unsatisfactory system, and if the criticism of Parliament is to be helpful, it ought to have mere disciplinary considerations cleared out of its way to enable it to concentrate upon the more important questions affecting methods of administration.

No one will grudge Lord Hardinge his personal statement in the House of Lords. In the circumstances it could hardly have been omitted; but he left the main problem precisely where he found it. The Commission was appointed to inquire into the conduct of certain operations of war in Mesopotamia; it was not called upon to dilate upon the achievements of India or the internal conditions of that country. It observed a just sense of proportion in calling attention briefly to the state of affairs in India at the time, and in stating that the preoccupation caused by the period of grave anxiety through which the Government of India was passing must not be forgotten in blaming it for the inefficiency of the management of the Mesopotamia campaign. Further, it paid due tribute to the fighting capacity and efficiency of the combatant forces of the Indian Army. Neither the record of the troops nor India's splendid contribution to the Empire's cause was in dispute. The gravamen of the charges brought against Lord Hardinge's Government and the military authorities of his time was that they failed persistently and continuously to minister to the wants of the forces employed in Mesopotamia, and tolerated without attempting to improve a thoroughly unsatisfactory military administration. For reasons that were set forth in these columns last week we are far from holding that responsibility attaches to the Viceroy and his advisers alone. Lord Hardinge belonged to a system, the roots of which spread to Whitehall. In peace times its shortcomings might escape public notice, and even be hardly apparent to those who were responsible for it. But under the searching test supplied by war it broke down, and its inherent unsoundness was laid bare. War, unlike peace, cannot do with the second best; it calls for the utmost that men can give, physically and intellectually. For this reason war rarely proves an unmixed evil to a nation, however hardly it may press on the individual; it serves to set a higher standard of attainment for all, for Government as well as for the people. We cannot help thinking, therefore, that Lord Hardinge would have added to the obligation under which his distinguished career has laid the country, if he had frankly recognized the fact that past standards of achievement have been set too low and if he had welcomed the new order which, in the interests of the Empire as a whole, could embrace within its censure Viceroy, Secretary of State, and Cabinet, and point them to more efficient service. It cannot be overlooked that while the Mesopotamia Expedition was registering its early successes it was regarded throughout India, and particularly in the Viceroy's Camp, as essentially "Our Show." Only when the tide turned and inherent defects could no longer be disguised did it become necessary to distribute the share of responsibility. But had the India Government been less content with what it knew to be the second best, disaster would not have overtaken the Mesopotamia Expedition.

When the House of Commons discusses the Report it is to be hoped that it will not adopt the attitude that its duty has been done when it has confirmed the sentence already passed on a handful of officials. Apart from those who have been guilty of deliberate neglect or of individual misdemeanours in misrepresenting facts to their superiors or in grossly overbearing conduct of their subordinates, the shortcomings of those indicted by the Commission implicate the nation as a whole. They are symptomatic of a state of affairs in which the people and Parliament in particular acquiesced. For years now, with the connivance of the House of Commons, the sense of responsibility among those in authority has been allowed to become increasingly dulled. Under a leader who made no attempt to lead, members of the Government indulged their individual temperaments in the matter of action or inaction, and relied on the party loyalty to protect them from the penalty for failure. To round off its task, the Mesopotamia Commission needs to convince the nation that the whole system of administration requires careful overhauling. High office must be distributed according to the administrative fitness of those appointed, and not as a reward for political oratory or political backing. More whole-hearted service in the interests of the State ought to be enacted, in order that departmental jealousies may not be allowed to clog the machinery of government. Only by keeping the wider issues in view can the country hope to make atonement to those who laid down their lives in Mesopotamia or were the victims of gross neglect and incompetence. It should be resolved that in that country at least none of the errors of administration which contributed to the temporary eclipse of the Expedition shall be perpetuated in the settlement after the war; that there shall be no friction, no overlapping, but that a definite goal shall be kept in view and officials be set a high standard of achievement. On foundations liberally sprinkled with British and Indian blood we should at least see to it that the memorial to be raised is a lasting one, intelligently planned, scientifically constructed, and loyally maintained.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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ITALY AND THE BALKANS.

With a view to enabling our readers to see both sides of the controversy between the Southern Slavs and the Italians regarding the future of Dalmatia, we have asked Signor F. Bonavia to state the Italian case. This he has undertaken to do, and we publish below the first of his articles:—

There seems to be a general, if not clearly-defined, impression that the claims of Italy to her unredeemed provinces on the eastern shores of the Adriatic are based more or less on a very recent imperialistic policy, and that their attainment would be a repayment for the help given by Italy in the present war, entailing gross injustice to other races. Fiume is spoken of as a Hungarian town, although the Magyars are at most only a twelfth of the population. One writer, obviously honest and eager to deal fairly with the subject, suggested a little while ago that Trieste should become, at the end of the war, an international city; another, less unbiassed, perhaps, but equally misinformed, suggested that Austria be given a "chance" in the future partition of the Adriatic. Austria has had her chance; and this state of mind, this uncertainty, is the direct result of the policy through which Austria wished to justify her possessions in the Adriatic in face of the democracies of the world. There was never a more ruthless application of the motto "*Divide et impera*" than the history of these unfortunate provinces can show. For half-a-century the most cruel policy of wholesale banishment and persecution was carried out by the Viennese Government; yet the world at large heard little of it, since the Italians, represented by a hopeless minority in the Austrian Parliament, could not make themselves heard while the storm raged between Czechs and Germans. Italy, their natural protector, was gagged and bound by the unnatural treaty of alliance, which was the first cause of that mistrust with which she was in the past sometimes regarded by those very nations whose history, race and sympathies fashioned them to be her friends. The free choice of the people of Italy in the moment of crisis showed where the heart of Italy had always been, but the mischief has not been undone wholly yet.

The Italian claims on Trieste, Istria and Dalmatia (their right to the Trentino does not seem to have been questioned) are neither imperialistic nor recent. Since ever the idea of a united Italy began to take root from the blood-soaked fields of Napoleonic campaigns these provinces, which had been Roman first and then Venetian, in any case Latin for twenty centuries, were claimed for the new Italy. In the little town of Capodistria two pieces of cannon placed in the only square and a gallows equally permanently established, were necessary to stifle the protests of the people when the population was handed over to Austria in payment for her treachery to Venice. The people in the Dalmatian towns wept with grief when they saw the insignia of the Venetian Republic lowered. It was not difficult then to know the political wishes and the nationality of these provinces. In the days of Mazzini and Garibaldi the aim of the Italian patriots was equally known and accepted by all liberal-minded people. "Austria is arming herself to defend Istria and Venice; for Garibaldi, as soon as his army is reinforced, will throw himself on Dalmatia, crossing from Puglia, and shut in the face of the barbarians that always open door, the Italian Alps," wrote Count Prospero Antonini to G. Rinaldi. Cavour's Chargé d'Affaires, in a long interview with Napoleon III., submitted a memorial, which gave as the boundaries of Northern Italy "Piedmont, Lombardy, Venice, Italian Friuli and the coastland of Dalmaltia." There was then no doubt in the minds of statesmen as to the justice of the Italian claims, the only doubts were as to the expediency of a war to realise them. If further proof be wanted, one need only glance at the proclamations of the Dalmato-Istrians calling the people to arm for Italian independence, to the sums of money freely and generously given for the liberation of Venice; to the repeated protests of the municipalities of Istria against its union with Krain; to the requests for national and administrative autonomy. Carlo Cattaneo in January, 1851, in a letter to *The Times* and the *Daily News*, wrote:—

> Many English people are under the erroneous impression that Austria possesses her Italian provinces in virtue of some old hereditary right, and they go so far as to believe that Prussia or any other Germanic Power has not only the right, but the duty, by uninterrupted tradition, to ensure to Austria the domination of these lands. I wish to point out that two-thirds of the Italian subjects of Austria are of quite recent acquisition; almost four million inhabitants belong to the Venetian States and its original dependencies on the Istrian coast of the Adriatic —Istria, Dalmatia, Ragusa, and Cattaro. . . The way in which the Venetian, the oldest autonomous State existing in Europe, passed sixty years ago suddenly from one moment to the next from being the ally of Austria to becoming its prey and victim, marks one of the lowest and meanest transactions to be met with in modern history.

This is the *fons et origo* of all the evil which, let us hope, the present war will rectify, as it certainly will if justice and right are to prevail over violence, and if the remnants of a policy by which nations were traded in and handed about like chattels are no longer to poison the future destinies of the world. The Treaty of Campoformio, which gave Austria these provinces, irrespective of the wishes of the population, prepared the way for the attempt to force a way through to Salonika and to the East, suppressing on the way both the Italians of Dalmatia and the Slavs of Serbia.

As long as the Austrians still hoped to reconquer Venice and their Italian dominion, they did not deny the Italian nationality of the southern provinces. In 1848 the *Osservatore Triestino*, the official organ of the Austrian Government in Trieste, commenting upon a proclamation of the Governor relative to a revolt in favour of Italy ruthlessly suppressed, wrote: "Citizens, he who writes is Italian, and proud of the fact. If he were ordered to renounce his nationality he would be the last to write a line in this paper; but, for the love of Heaven, be not misled by those who play upon your unfounded fear of seeing your nationality adulterated, disturbing your minds by a mere phantom." How well founded was this fear of a murderous attempt upon their nationality is proved by the fact that little more than half a century later an apparently unbiassed writer could seriously suggest the internationalization of Trieste.

As Austria lost first Lombardy and then Venice, she tightened her deadly grip on the remaining provinces. Her dream of an Italian domain lost, with the establishment of a free and united Italian nation, she had no more use for an Italian population. Taking advantage of the fact that Italy was shackled by an alliance and that Germany was drawing to herself the alarmed attention of the rest of Europe, she turned her energies to the ruthless systematic uprooting of the Italian element in her Italian provinces. How this war was waged and with what success will be considered in the next article.

F. BONAVIA.

The report of the West Indian Contingent Committee for the six months ended December 31 states that it had been the intention of the Committee to present a specially designed box of chocolates bearing the regimental badge to each officer, non-commissioned officer, and man of the regiment. But while the boxes sent to France safely reached their destination, those despatched to Egypt failed to do so since they were in a vessel which was mined. These chocolate boxes were, however, salved, and it is hoped that they will eventually reach the battalions for which they were intended.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

GREAT AGE AND BOUQUET.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Education in Egypt.

In its Educational Supplement *The Times* publishes a note on "Education in Egypt," from its Cairo correspondent. The writer quotes some interesting statistics of the numbers of schools, scholars, etc., and welcomes the appointment of the special commission recently appointed to study the best means for extending elementary education. He concludes:—

Those responsible for public instruction in Egypt are to be congratulated on having decided at last to tackle the question of universal education on a far wider scale than has been done in the past, and one can only hope that financial considerations will not be allowed to intervene and prevent the introduction of a social reform which is certainly among the most urgent, and of which the country has long been in need.

Russia and Constantinople.

Last Friday the *Daily Chronicle* published an article, "Constantinople and Russian Aims," by Professor J. Y. Simpson. The sub-title of the article, "Some Varying Views," gives an excellent idea of the effect it creates upon the reader. First we are given "the typical Ministerial point of view of a year ago":—

For us the possession of Constantinople is not so much a policy of annexation as of necessity. Who is to dominate in the Straits, Germany or Russia?—that is the question. We must have Constantinople, not from the strict point of view of annexation, but simply in order to be able to dominate the Black Sea. In relation to this, Great Britain and France have no fear because they have only economic interests there. But we wish to prevent Germany and Austria coming to the Black Sea; we desire to make for ever impossible a repetition of the Goeben and Breslau affair; we do not wish to have our export commerce imperilled any longer.

Those who hold—or held—this view realise that it is difficult to make it acceptable to the Socialists. The Cadet or Liberal point of view is not very far removed from the first. To the Socialists the questions of Poland and of Armenia do not involve "annexation," but the question of the Straits is another matter; and it is at this point they would break with the old conceptions and the old methods. But the Cadets argue:—

We do not consider it just to speak of such a protective measure as an "Imperial policy." If we do not get possession of Constantinople and the Straits it simply means that we shall need to be a militaristic Power, and build ships and forts for the protection of all our Black Sea Coast, which is our last wish.

As to the point of view of the Ministry of to-day, Professor Simpson says that it may be developed in the words of one of its members:—

Personally, I have always been against our having Constantinople. It is not necessary for us, and it would be a bad thing for our good relations with other nations. That is one reason why I am against the policy. Then, again, after the war Turkey will see that she has lost everything because of Germany. It is a great mistake to think that Turkey will be German after the war. Our good relations with the Balkan Slavs will give us a fair possibility of separating Germany from Turkey, perhaps by the Bulgarians themselves.

The policy of internationalization finds few supporters; though one Duma leader is quoted as suggesting a "Bosphorus Company" on the lines of the Suez Canal Company, but "the bulk of the shares to be equally divided between Russia and Germany." Apparently Westminster has not a monopoly of wiseacres!

Greek "Royalists" and M. Venizelos.

In an article published last Friday the Athens correspondent of the *Morning Post* declares that "the courageous decision of M. Venizelos to undertake the formation of a new Ministry is worthy of his reputation as a statesman." After hinting at certain doubts and misgivings entertained by his friends, and hoping for a successful outcome of his acceptance of the difficult task, the article proceeds:—

While he himself is naturally reticent regarding this undertaking, the cardinal points in the situation are discussed freely among his prominent adherents. For instance, as regards the argument that continuation in power of the Zaimis Ministry would conduce to a better fusion of the two Greek States and to the gradual subsiding of party passions by giving to the ex-King's partisans time for more mature reflection, it is pointed out that, whereas during the first couple of days after King Constantine's dethronement that faction was thrown into utter confusion and discouragement, to-day they have taken a new lease of hope and courage from the declaration of M. Zaimis that King Constantine must return to the Throne later, from the countenance given by the remaining members of the Royal Family to this prospect, and from the rumours of an imminent German drive into Greece.

It is well known that the Zaimis Cabinet expected to remain in power for two or three months longer, apparently at King Constantine's wish. While the personal good faith of M. Zaimis is unquestioned, he is regarded as unconsciously serving the plans of the ex-King's party, who still hope for a German victory within two or three months, and who want a weak and neutral Government in power in Athens in order that there may be as few obstacles as possible to King Constantine's return.

Lord Hardinge and Mesopotamia.

In a leading article on Lord Hardinge's statement in the House of Lords, *The Times* (July 4) declares "it is the importance of remembering India's total effort in the war which justifies Lord Hardinge's statement in circumstances of privilege which are denied to his colleagues. At the same time we cannot agree with him for a moment that the Commission is at fault because it dismisses these considerations in a few lines. Its business was with Mesopotamia." As to the responsibility for the first advance on Baghdad, *The Times* says:—

Lord Hardinge maintains that he and General Duff were at first only willing to go forward if they received another division, and that in any case they left the decision to the Home Government. He implies—and Mr. Austen Chamberlain's telegrams are the proof—that the Cabinet pressed for the capture of Baghdad. No doubt they did, but the verdict remains that neither the Viceroy nor his Commander-in-Chief showed any effective dissent. They seem to have boxed the entire compass. Speaking broadly, the telegrams reveal original reluctance and ultimate alacrity, though it must be recognised that to the end they continued to plead for early reinforcements. Our conclusion is that the mistake of the dash to Baghdad does not lie primarily at their door, but that they participated in it without sufficient reflection or inquiry. We cannot accept Lord Hardinge's plea that if he had vetoed the advance to Baghdad it would have been "civilian interference with military plans," for he had the Commander-in-Chief at his elbow; but, as the problem was primarily military, General Duff's case was far graver than his own.

The article concludes with a passage which may be commended to the particular attention of some of the clamorous critics referred to in it:—

Lord Hardinge's closing words deserve respect, for in effect he claimed to be judged as Viceroy, not only by his own countrymen, but also by the hundreds of millions over whom he ruled with acknowledged success for a period which extended, not by his own desire, beyond the ordinary term of the Viceroyalty. It is common knowledge that he enjoyed the esteem of the people of India to an unusual degree. He governed them during the most critical time we have ever known in India, with one exception. He never lost their good will even in the most trying moments, and on his return home the most favourable verdicts were rightly passed upon his internal administration. These things should not be forgotten. Too many of the critics who are foremost in clamouring for Lord Hardinge's head are either those who are constantly imploring us to "trust the soldiers," which is exactly what he did, with most unfortunate results, or they are those who last year were beslavering him with excessive praise for the sympathy he had shown with Indian aspirations. More consistency and a better memory will be required when the time comes for a final verdict. Our own view is that Lord Hardinge's statement yesterday does not shake the conclusions of the Mesopotamia Commission or dispose of his share in the general condemnation, but that it will restore a sense of perspective to the public judgment of India's effort under his rule.

"King Constantine's Failure."

On Monday the *Morning Post* published an interview granted to its Jassy correspondent by M. Take Jonescu. Perhaps the most interesting part of the interview is the following:—

As a matter of fact, it has long been evident to all candid minds that it was to the interest of Greece to co-operate with the Powers of the Entente. On this subject I should like to call your attention to a step taken by King Carol, which shows the shrewdness and perspicacity of that Monarch. In August, 1914, he read to me a message he had sent to King Constantine advising him, in case he could not maintain neutrality, to form an alliance with France and England. King Carol, who was not at that time prepared to join the Entente himself, recommended that step to Greece.

As to the ex-King's policy, M. Jonescu stated that he had proofs that "King Constantine had a secret understanding with the King of Bulgaria, through German channels, even before Bulgaria abandoned her neutrality. There were, said M. Jonescu, two reasons for King Constantine's criminal conduct towards his country.

One was that, in spite of the fact that King Constantine is a man of good intentions and that he considers himself a true Greek, his mental powers are below the normal. . . . The ex-King of the Hellenes conceived that he could play in Greece the *rôle* of a Prussian monarch, in spite of the fact that well-informed counsellors advised him not to indulge in dreams of this description. Like all men of limited perception who happen to be raised to a position of responsibility, King Constantine was possessed by a fierce, almost ferocious, jealousy, and the popularity of M. Venizelos exasperated him in the highest degree. I do not say that King Constantine was also jealous of the genius of the Greek statesman, for a man of his intellectual equipment is incapable of understanding the distance that separates him from a man of the stamp of M. Venizelos.

Articles to Note.

"Balkan Unity and the 'New Departure': A Reply to Mr. Noel Buxton," by A. F. Whyte, M.P., in the *Nineteenth Century* (July).

"The State of Feeling in Old Greece," by Professor Ronald M. Burrows, in the *Contemporary Review* (July).

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Lord Hardinge on Mesopotamia. July 3.

LORD HARDINGE asked permission to make a personal statement connected with the Mesopotamia Commission Report. "I desire," he continued, "to render full justice to the tone and temper of the majority report, and to deal with it in no spirit of cavil or complaint. I have but two regrets to formulate—first, that the Commission did not comprise amongst its members an eminent lawyer accustomed to sift and weigh evidence with technical knowledge and experience; second, that the whole of the evidence taken before the Commission cannot be published. I believe that had it been possible to do this a different impression in regard to some at least of the points that have attracted public attention would have been created. As it is, the impression must be conveyed to the ordinary reader is that India had practically made no serious effort in the war, and that such effort as she had made had been made grudgingly and under pressure from home. That such is not the case must be well known to your lordships; but I cannot help fearing that the publication of the report in India may create a feeling that the efforts and sacrifices of India have been inadequately appreciated at home. The report scarcely refers to the greatest military effort ever made in the history of India in the despatch of expeditions to France, Egypt, and East Africa before the expedition to Mesopotamia was even under contemplation, nor is any account taken of the fact that, owing to the readiness of India to assist by giving with an open hand all she had in the initial stages of the three expeditions I have already mentioned, her military resources and reserves of equipment and stores of all kinds were already seriously depleted, and, in fact, almost exhausted, before even the inception of the idea of a campaign in Mesopotamia." Lord Hardinge then pointed out that of the five military Budgets for which he and his Government could be held responsible every one exceeded the maximum expenditure fixed by Lord Nicholson's Committee. He would not, he said, go into the question of the proposed railway from Bushreh to Nasiriyeh, since the reasons why it was not built were summed up fully in Lord Chelmsford's telegram of July 24, 1916, on page 59 of the report, showing conclusively that the military necessity of its construction was not recognised by the military authorities as immediate in the first instance. The recapture of Kut by the enemy made it a strategic necessity. Referring to the despatch of troops from India, Lord Hardinge said that approximately 80,000 British officers and men and 210,000 Indian officers and men, all fully trained and equipped, were despatched overseas, while the largest Indian expedition ever previously sent overseas amounted to 18,000 men. At one time the British garrison in India was reduced to about 15,000 men. India also supplied large quantities of small-arm ammunition, rifles, guns of the latest pattern and type, besides enormous quantities of material. India, in fact, was bled absolutely white during the first few weeks of the war.

"At that time there was," said Lord Hardinge, "no question of an expedition to Mesopotamia, and the Government of India's sole preoccupation was to make every possible sacrifice in order to secure a successful prosecution of the war in France. Then came a moment, after the commencement of operations in Mesopotamia, when India's own needs became pressing, and the results of her previous readiness to make sacrifices began to be severely felt. It was then our turn to address repeated and insistent demands to the War Office for troops, drafts, aeroplanes, machine guns, bombs, etc., most of which were either refused or else given with a sparing hand on account of what was held to be the even greater need of our forces in France. It is not my intention in saying this to make any recriminations, for I recognise the difficulty that existed at home, but I only wish that your lordships and the public should understand the difficulties which we in India had to face in meeting the needs and demands of the Mesopotamian force. A further impression created, I think unwittingly, by the report of the Commission is that the Mesopotamian campaign was the sole preoccupation of the Government of India. In a report of 132 closely printed pages the situation on the frontier and in the interior is dealt with in eight lines, and yet this situation had a very close relation to the military resources of India, as is admitted by the Commission, and at times was one of anxiety and danger."

Referring to the first advance on Baghdad, Lord Hardinge maintained that the Government of India's views were clearly expressed in the telegram which stated that unless an Indian division was sent from France an advance could not be carried out. While one of the Government of India's telegrams to the Home Government had dwelt upon the advantages to be gained by the capture of Baghdad, a private telegram sent on the same day to the Secretary of State had made it clear that the responsibility for decision must rest upon his Majesty's Government. The Government of India had no authority to order the advance to Baghdad. They could only make recommendations to the Secretary of State, who had clearly laid down that the control of the scope of operations should rest in the hands of his Majesty's Government. "The decision, therefore, rested with the latter," said Lord Hardinge. "I did, however, convey my own views, after consultation with the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary of State in a private telegram on October 9, after Sir Beauchamp Duff and I had thoroughly discussed the situation. Having private information that the Gallipoli expedition was not going well, and bearing in mind the views of the Cabinet upon the 'great political and military advantages of the occupation of Baghdad,' the Commander-in-Chief and I came to the conclusion that General Nixon was in the best position to judge as to the number of troops that he would require to attain his objective, and that under the circumstances of the moment the Government of India would have placed themselves in an invidious position and would have exposed themselves to the criticism of having ignored the demands of the Empire, if at a critical moment they had overridden the opinion of the General in command in the field and had vetoed the advance to Baghdad. It would have been a case of civilian interference with military plans. At the same time we emphasised the necessity of the reinforcement of General Nixon by a fully organised division which should reach Baghdad not later than one month after its capture. The question appears to have been threshed out by an Inter-Departmental Committee in London and the combined staffs, and all the military authorities in London, India, and, as far as I then knew, in Mesopotamia were in agreement that General Nixon's force was adequate for the capture of Baghdad, but not sufficient to ensure its retention. In consequence, presumably, of this united opinion, the advance upon Baghdad received the sanction of his Majesty's Government."

Referring to the medical breakdown, Lord Hardinge admitted frankly and regretfully that after the battle of Ctsiphon and during the retirement from Kut, and in later operations, serious shortcomings in the medical services became apparent, and the wounded suffered terrible hardships and privations. The heavy demands made upon India for the provision of ambulances and hospitals and their personnel in England, France, Mesopotamia, Egypt, and East Africa soon exhausted an organisation which had never been intended or prepared for operations out of India, and within three months of the outbreak of war the supply of hospital assistants and of all permanent hospital staff had been already exhausted, but every effort was being made to improvise new personnel. Nevertheless, by making a great effort, many more ambulances, hospitals, and medical personnel were despatched from India to the various theatres of war during the course of 1915. Lord Hardinge had no wish to shirk responsibility, but it was not easy to know what further action he could have taken without exposing himself to the charge of excessive civilian interference in military matters. As to the insufficiency of river transport, Lord Hardinge said: "It was only in June and July of 1915 that the shortage first showed itself, and orders for boats were at once placed at home, but some delay occurred at the Admiralty in placing the orders. The Army Department fully realised the immense importance of the question of river transport, and during the whole of the succeeding months strained every nerve to meet the demand. Ships and barges of shallow draught from every river in India, Burma, Shanghai, Hong Kong, the Nile, and even penny steamers from the Thames were bought or commandeered. A large proportion of these, unfortunately, foundered on their way to the Persian Gulf, owing to unsuitable construction to meet unfavourable weather. All ready-built craft purchased proved defective in some way, while new construction in England was uncertain and subordinate to Admiralty demands. The provision of river craft, therefore, involved much greater delay than at first seemed likely, and, as ships cannot be procured or built in a day, the situation could only have been met by preparation far in advance, which the gradual development of policy in Mesopotamia did not permit."

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mesopotamia Report. June 28.

Mr. H. SAMUEL asked the Leader of the House what would be the business for next week, and whether he was prepared to give a day for the discussion of the Report of the Royal Commission on Mesopotamia.

Mr. BONAR LAW said that on Monday and Tuesday the Finance Bill would be taken; on Wednesday the Representation of the People Pill. He would announce the business for Thursday and Friday on Monday. If, as he was sure was the case, there was a desire that the Mesopotamia Report should be discussed, the Government would, of course, be glad to give a day for it.

King Alexander's Pledge. July 2.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Mr. Lynch that King Alexander had given assurances that he would respect the Hellenic Constitution. He understood that the King's uncles had already left Greece.

The Withdrawal at Salonika.

Mr. MACPHERSON, replying to Mr. Lynch, who asked whether he could give the House any explanation of the retirement of Allied troops over the Struma, and whether he could indicate, even in its general scope, the purpose of the Salonika Expedition, said: Our troops east of the Struma have been withdrawn to the foothills on the western bank, owing to the unsanitary conditions prevailing in the river valley during the malarial season. The last part of the question is one of high policy, and should be addressed to my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. LYNCH asked whether the Government had considered that they might be drifting into a disaster comparable to that of Gallipoli or Mesopotamia, and whether it would not be better that questions of this kind should be gone into before rather than afterwards.

The SPEAKER intimated that the question need not be answered, as it was argumentative in character.

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The Mesopotamia Report.

Mr. McKenna asked what the business would be on Thursday and Friday, and when it was proposed to have the debate on Mesopotamia.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer: On Thursday it is proposed to continue the proceedings on the Finance Bill, and on Friday we shall have the discussion on financial control. As regards the Mesopotamia debate, the Government, of course, would desire to follow the wishes of the House, and if it is its desire, the debate may possibly take place next week. If the right hon. gentleman will repeat his question on Thursday I shall no doubt be able to give a definite answer.

Ex-King Constantine's Correspondence. July 3.

Mr. Macpherson, answering Mr. Lynch, who asked whether the correspondence between ex-King Constantine and persons resident in this country was subject to censorship; and if so, whether any exceptions whatever were permitted, said: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, except as regards ex-King Constantine's correspondence with persons whose letters are exempt. With regard to the last part, the only letters which are exempted from censorship are those of members of his Majesty's Government, and such other letters as, to the knowledge of the censor, have been despatched by, or will be delivered to, persons who correspond with foreign countries on the public service.

Mesopotamia Again.

Mr. Bonar Law informed Sir J. Jardine that he was not yet in a position to name a day for the discussion of the Mesopotamian Report, but he hoped to be able to do so on Thursday.

Prisoners in Turkey. July 4.

Mr. J F. Hope, replying to Mr. Marriott, said: His Majesty's Government are unfortunately aware that there had been a very high rate of mortality among all the British non-commissioned officers and men prisoners of war in Turkey, and constant representations have been made to the Turkish Government with a view to the improvement of their condition. The Ottoman Government recently consented to the concentration at one or two camps of all invalid prisoners of war, with a view to better medical attention, but his Majesty's Government has yet to learn to what extent this measure has been carried out and what benefit has ensued from it. The prisoners of war in the Taurus and Amanus regions are being attended by British medical officers.

Greek Affairs.

Mr. Palmer asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether ex-King Constantine of Greece had entered into any undertaking not to take active part in any military operations against the Allies.

Lord R. Cecil: The answer is in the negative.

Lord R. Cecil, answering Mr. Palmer, said that he understood that after the surrender of Kavalla three regiments of Greek infantry and one of field artillery were taken to Sofia and finally interned at Görlitz. It has since been reported that a certain number of these Greek troops were employed by the enemy in labour battalions on the Macedonian front, but no confirmation of this report has as yet been obtained.

The Mesopotamia Report.

Sir J. Jardine asked the Secretary for India why a large proportion of his orders referring to the advance on Baghdad and quoted in the Mesopotamia Commission Report were marked private; and what became of the private telegram conveying information as to the possible concentration of 60,000 Turkish troops near Baghdad, which was not transmitted to Sir John Nixon in Mesopotamia?

Mr. Chamberlain: It is impossible for me to deal fully with this subject by question and answer. I presume that it will be raised in the debate, and I can then reply, if the House wishes. But I should state at once that no orders for the advance on Baghdad or for any other military operation were sent by me by private telegrams.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to Sir J. D. Rees, said the evidence taken by the Mesopotamia Commission would not be published; and also replied in the negative to the question whether it was proposed to introduce legislation relating to the Government of India upon the report as presented to the House.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to questions by Sir J. Jardine and Mr. Houston, said: Major Carter has suffered no injury and will suffer none in his career on account of the efforts which he made to bring to notice and to secure a remedy for the deplorable defects in the medical arrangements in Mesopotamia. I am only waiting till copies of the report of the Commission can reach India to bring his conduct to the notice of the Government of India with a view to his services receiving suitable recognition. Meanwhile I may say that on account of his special knowledge and experience, he was sent home in May, 1916, to advise as to the fitting out of hospital ships, etc., building in this country for Mesopotamia, and he has been engaged on this and similar work at the War Office ever since. Far from desiring to penalise him, the Government of India have more than once applied for his services, but on each occasion the War Office replied that he could not be spared from the valuable work he is now doing. Major Carter was granted the temporary rank of Lieutenant-colonel on August 8, 1916. He held the rank of major for three years previous to that date. He joined the Indian Medical Service from this country in 1902 at the age of twenty-six.

AN ALPHABET FROM MESOPOTAMIA.

A member of our Fighting Forces in Mesopotamia has composed some verses, which he entitles "The Alphabet of Mesopotamia." Through the kindness of a correspondent we are allowed to reproduce here some specimens:—

'A is the Apple, which grew, so they say,
In the Garden of Eden, down Kurna way,
Till Eve came along and ate it one day,
And got thrown out of Mesopotamia.

C is the gallant old Indian Corps
That went out to France and fought hard in the war,
But now it's forgotten, and battles no more
In the land of Mesopotamia.

D were the Diplomats who were so mean
In their efforts to Turkey in autumn, '14.
If they'd not been so stupid we'd never have seen
This unblessed Mesopotamia.

F is for "Fritz," who flies in the sky;
To bring the brute down we've had many a try;
But the shells that *we* shoot with they all pass him by,
And fall back on Mesopotamia.

H are the Harems, which, so it appears,
Have flourished in Baghdad for hundreds of years.
Should you think we'll annex all the destitute dears
When their husbands leave Mesopotamia?

M is the local Mosquito, whose bite
Often keeps us awake all hours of the night,
And makes all our faces a horrible sight
In the trenches of Mesopotamia.

O are the Orders we get from the corps.
Thank goodness! by this time we're perfectly sure
That if issued at three they'll be cancelled by four
By the H.Q. in Mesopotamia.

V is the Victory we had at Dijailah.
I heard of it first from a pal who's a sailor.
He read it in Reuter's aboard his "mahala"
On the Tigris in Mesopotamia.

Y is the Yearning we feel every day
To get back to Blighty, and blooming well stay
Till we're sent out to France, which is heaven, they say,
After fighting in Mesopotamia.

ARMENIAN RED CROSS.

The following telegram, dated June 5, has reached Miss Emily J. Robinson, the Hon. Secretary of the Armenian Red Cross and Refugee fund:—

"The first conference of the Armenian refugees from Turkey, now in session in Erivan, Caucasus, mindful of your loving and sincere attitude towards the Armenian people and the active manner in which you have shown this attitude, expresses to you its deep thanks. We trust that you will always remain a firm friend of our suffering people.—Antranig, Leon Shants."

Owing to the retirement of the Russian forces and the capture of Mush and Oghnut by the Turks, the flanks of Erzeroum and Erzinjan were left exposed. The relief committees at these two centres, alarmed at the prospect of fresh horrors, thought it wisest to remove the children from the orphanages at both these towns, also the women and girls who had been rescued from the Moslems, to a place of safety. The latest account describes these unfortunate people as tramping through the snow and mud of the highlands towards the Caucasus.

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund is the *only* British fund which has founded and is maintaining an orphanage in the Caucasus. The cost of maintenance of each child is £15 per annum. Regular subscriptio is are earnestly entreated. Contributions should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary at 35A, Elsham Road, London, W.14. Cheques should be made payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Chambers, and crossed "London and South Western Bank, Holland Park Branch."

The Greek troops at Salonika and those occupying positions at the front took the oath of allegiance to King Alexander on Sunday morning.

A Salonika telegram states that the French have occupied the port of Itea, thus completing communication with the Gulf of Corinth, and that more arms and ammunition have been seized in Thessaly.

The first stamps for the new Republic of Albania are seven in number, and bear a crude device of the Albanian eagle, and the native name Shqipenie, says the *Daily Telegraph*. The currency is French. The following are the denominations, with their respective colours:—1 centime, brown and green; 3 centimes, grey-black and green; 5 centimes, black and green; 10 centimes, red and black: 25 centimes, blue and black; 50 centimes, purple and black; 1 franc, brown and black.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Birkenhead or Manchester? That is the question. The Chamber of Commerce of the great cotton city are pressing on the Board of Trade and, of course, the Shipping Controller, the advantages of utilising the port to a greater extent for the shipment of merchandise for Eastern destinations. They point out that the present unavoidable railway congestion emphasises the advantages of the port and Canal, and it is understood that these are fully appreciated. It is pointed out that under existing conditions the primary consideration must be the securing of the maximum yearly carrying power from each sea-going vessel, and it is this consideration which must mainly decide whether it shall be Birkenhead or Manchester.

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I find lively satisfaction throughout the City of London at the turn affairs have taken in Greece. Even those who viewed the retention of Alexander on the throne —and I write more particularly of Greek friends—with considerable misgiving have modified their pessimism and look forward to the coming of better times. They cannot understand, however, why the "changes" were not effected eighteen months ago, but in view of the thoroughgoing character of the reforms, are not inclined to indulge in recrimination. "Let the dead bury their dead" may not always be a safe gospel to preach; but in the case of Greece it will do little harm. The thing is to "get on," and with that doughty champion of right—M. Venizelos —once more in possession of his own, and the representatives of the Allies unhampered, we bid fair to succeed in doing so. Meanwhile, for the greater results of the transformation we must wait. All that can be said at the moment is that the improved situation is already indicated in commercial circles in this country.

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The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has just issued its new calendar for 1917-1918, and has repeated its useful practice of dating the calendar from the middle of the year, by which time the majority of calendars of the usual type have become discoloured. The R.M.S.P. calendar takes the form of pencil sketches by Fred Taylor, R.I., of various capital cities in Europe and America from which a large proportion of the company's business is drawn.

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An interesting feature in the report of the work of the Imperial Institute, which has just been presented to the new Executive Council, is a reference to the increased attention given in Egypt to flax growing. It is pointed out that the area under cultivation has been extended and new seed has been introduced—facts already set out in THE NEAR EAST. The report states that a sample of Egyptian flax straw examined yielded about 24 per cent. of soft, fairly lustrous fibre, which was valued in March by flax spinners in Belfast at from £200 to £220 per ton. As showing the rise of prices owing to the war, it may be mentioned that in normal times such flax would be worth less than £60 per ton. The war prices will end with the war, of course, but the indications are sufficient to show that the industry is worth developing.

The week's return (up to July 1) of movements to and from United Kingdom ports, and losses of mercantile vessels, shows a slight improvement, as will be observed from the official figures published elsewhere in THE NEAR EAST to-day. Fewer ships of both the larger classes were sunk, and in certain quarters there is, I observe, a tendency to optimism in consequence. Pessimism is to be deprecated as strongly as words can condemn it; on the other hand, there is no real ground to strike off at a tangent in the other direction. Losses from submarines are bound to fluctuate, and as the enemy becomes more desperate owing to the increasing precariousness of his position on shore—the advent of American troops in France, the awakening on the Russian front, and the rebirth of the Greek people will increase his desperation—he will become more strenuous in the air and under the sea. While, therefore, there is every ground for satisfaction because the Navy is doing so well, it would be a fatal mistake to imagine that the worst of the submarine warfare is over, because such is not the case.

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As a matter of fact, there is more cause for thankfulness to be found in the statistics of arriving and departing vessels than in the fluctuating reduction of losses. The German Naval captain, von Kühlwetter, remarked the other day that if the German achievements are reduced it is because there is less shipping left to sink. His flamboyant boast is not borne out by the figures. More vessels entered and cleared from United Kingdom ports in the month of June than in any other since the official returns have been issued. The total, in and out, was 28,204, as against 18,777 in March, 24,775 in April, and 20,903 in May. These speak for themselves, and, in the meantime, whatever be the cause which keeps the losses down to below a certain point—much below the point which the Admiralty estimated—it is certainly not because there are fewer vessels to provide targets for the U-boats.

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I must point out once more, however, that in studying these official returns people must not lose sight of the fact that there is no guide as to the tonnage involved, and that, after all, is the important question. The moral is that Britons overseas, as well as those at home, must continue, by exercising economy in the consumption of imported goods, to support the Navy in its fight against the submarine menace. It is true that the losses show no signs of increasing, that more vessels are being built, and that the assistance of countries like the United States and Brazil is of great value, but the need for economy remains, and that is the sermon to be preached with the official returns for a text.

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People who are interested in the oil industry in Egypt will be disappointed, no doubt, by the report of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for 1916, which is published in the City section of THE NEAR EAST to-day. The showing certainly looks bad at the first glance—a loss of £246,400 raising the total debit balance to £342,200 —but the result is much better than it seems. The apparent loss is due to the writing off of £370,000 for depreciation of the properties extending over the whole period since the formation of the company in 1911, this being a lump sum agreed on by the income-tax authorities. The actual output of oil for 1916 was 54,800 tons, an increase of nearly 20,000 tons, and as since the beginning of the current year a new and prolific well has been struck, with the result that for the first five months the output of the fields has reached 45,300 tons, the present year should be exceedingly prosperous.

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The Indiaman, I see, has been discussing the question of substituting Indian opium for Turkish, and Mr. J. Thurlbeck Humphrey, in a very readable article which appears in this week's issue of the paper, suggests that Indian "growers might be expected to improve their methods considerably under the guidance of instructors familiar with the cultivation of the poppy in Asia Minor, but all attempts in this direction have been consistently discouraged in the past by officials who were probably more anxious to retain control than to secure better results. Nevertheless, it is worthy of serious consideration whether such instructors ought not to be employed, and it might even be desirable, whenever circumstances permit, to introduce some skilled labour from the Turkish to the Indian poppy fields." The writer had previously pointed out that, apart from its deficiency in morphine and high percentage of narcotine, Indian opium formerly contained excess of moisture and also frequently contained oil, the presence of which was detrimental from the point of view of the maker of medicinal preparations.

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He explains how this came about. "In order to prevent adhesion of the gelatinous juice, the iron scrapers used by the opium gatherers, as well as the fingers of the latter, were oiled from time to time with linseed oil, and the oil consequently became incorporated with the drug. Oil was also similarly used by some of the Persian opium gatherers, but neither Persian opium nor Indian opium of the quality now imported into England is characterised by the presence of oil. Moreover, the fact that more than two thousand cases of Indian opium have been imported into England since the outbreak of war, despite its low morphine content, would seem to indicate that it is gradually making its way into favour." After the war, Mr. Humphrey thinks, the position will be very different, owing to the inevitable fall in prices if and when the market is reopened for supplies of Turkish opium, unless in the meantime there has been further improvement in the Indian product. As a matter of fact, I believe I am right in saying that the further improvement is taking place.

COMMENTATOR.

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TRADE OPENINGS IN EGYPT.

1.—Cotton.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

The liquidation of enemy concerns in Egypt is proceeding, but by no means as quickly as one had hoped, neither has British trade appeared to take the interest in the absorption of enemy business or the acquirement of control over raw material and local industries that one would naturally have expected of it. From inquiries made I gather that no blame can be attached to the local Government authorities, who have done all in their power to bring before British trading circles the openings that have from time to time become available, and to persuade likely firms to take them up: nor can the blame be laid entirely at the door of British traders, although the attitude of the Manchester Cotton Association in the matter of the absorption of the cotton business done before the war by enemy firms does not indicate that our people at home have learned much from the lessons of the past.

Problems and Handicaps.

From what one can gather, the Anglo-Egyptian authorities responsible for the winding up of enemy concerns have been confronted by problems arising out of the peculiar complicated situation in this country which have defeated their projects or delayed their actions, while one of the main obstacles to the taking up of local enemy business by any firm at home, or to the financing from home of local industries or resources, appears to have been the difficulty of getting the new issues committee to consent to the requisite capital being invested outside Great Britain.

The handicap under which enterprising British traders and capitalists are labouring in regard to the question of capital, and the general attitude towards the whole question of the capturing of enemy trade in Egypt show only too clearly how urgently we need at home some well organised central organisation to look after our foreign trade interests, and how equally urgently a complete organisation of our Consular service is required.

To take only the question of the enemy cotton business in this country. From the correspondence published some time ago in the London Press, it is abundantly clear that the initiative—in fact, all the action—was taken by the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government. Strictly speaking, the latter was not called on to intervene, and in so doing he departed from his usual rôle. The Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government is not here to look after British trade interests. His duty is to see that the financial administration of Egypt is carried out to the best purpose, and that the country uses its resources advantageously and obtains for them the best markets.

Egypt's Real Concern.

Now, it does not concern Egypt one little bit where her cotton goes nor who handles it. Her main preoccupation is to obtain the best price, so that it was not on behalf of Egypt that the Financial Adviser took up the matter of the British cotton firms working here. He intervened, first, because he saw that a unique opportunity was slipping by for British traders to acquire business, which had been done by enemy traders, which, it was important, should pass to British hands, and, secondly, because there was no one else ready or qualified to bring the matter to the attention of those at home most directly concerned.

Had we, as an Empire, been properly organised for carrying on world trade—that is, had our Consular representatives in this country been qualified men, and had there existed at home a properly organised central organisation, "run" by experienced men, who would have realised at a glance the importance of the question, there would have been no need for him to intervene at this end, and the Manchester Cotton Association would not have been allowed to persevere in an attitude towards the enemy cotton business which was as absurd as it was ill-advised. Between them, the Consular authorities at Alexandria and the central organisation at home would have been able to convince the Manchester people that what they expected the existing British cotton firms could do was a sheer impossibility. Anyone who studies the figures will see at once that for these firms to absorb the extra business left by the elimination of the enemy firms meant that they would have almost to double their usual volume of business, and, with the prices that have ruled during the past year, likewise double their capital turnover.

A Comparison.

A comparison of the export figures for the pre-war year of 1913-1914 and the last complete cotton year 1915-1916 confirms the opinion of the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government.

It shows:—

(1) That the total exports of cotton fell off by 241,944 bales, or 25 per cent., and the quantity handled by British firms by 45,347 bales, or 11 per cent.; but that cotton handled by non-British firms increased by 77,842 bales, or 26 per cent.

(2) That the quantity exported to Great Britain fell off by 177,399 bales, or 33 per cent., and the quantity thereof shipped by British firms by 135,171 bales, or 50 per cent.; but that the quantity sent to Great Britain by non-British firms increased by 50,012 bales, or 30 per cent.

(3) That while British exporters sent to Great Britain 135,171 bales less, they actually sent to other countries 89,824 bales more, or an increase of 72 per cent. on the figures for 1913-1914; and non-British exporters, in addition to increasing their shipments to Great Britain by 50,012 bales, also increased their shipments to other countries by 27,830 bales, or 20 per cent. more than in 1913-1914.

(4) That, in 1913-1914, when they handled an aggregate quantity which was equal to 75 per cent. of the total shipments to Great Britain, British shippers sent 51 per cent. of those total shipments, and only 32 per cent. of their purchases went to foreign countries; whereas in 1915-1916, when they handled an aggregate quantity which was practically the same as the total shipments to Great Britain, the British exporters sent under 40 per cent. of those total shipments, and directed the major portion of their purchases to foreign countries.

British Firms Wanted.

These figures tell their own tale. With a general decrease in export a diminution in the quantity handled by British firms might not unnaturally be expected; but considering that the decrease in the total export was less than the quantity formerly handled by the enemy element, the combination of a diminution in the volume passing through local British hands with such a substantial increase in the turn-over of the non-British firms, clearly indicates that the existing British houses have not been able to cope with the business left over by the elimination of the enemy firms, while the fact that in circumstances the British firms so markedly increased the quantity sent by them to other countries, and at the same time reduced to half that sent by them to Great Britain, would appear to show that they found in foreign countries the facilities as to credit and terms which they did not receive from their own country. That again in the circumstances non-British firms should increase the quantity which they sent to Great Britain would seem further to indicate that something is radically wrong. Whether the question of capital is responsible, whether our methods are at fault, or whether the cause is a combination of the two, there is no doubt that something must be done to remedy this state of affairs and that immediate steps must be taken so that matters may be readjusted before the next coton crop comes on the market next September.

Another Point of View.

There is, moreover, another aspect of the question which is very important. Great Britain takes the lion's share of the Egyptian cotton exports. The predominant variety is Sakellaridis—66 per cent. of the total area is put under it—which is used exclusively for making the most important war accessories. It follows, therefore, that the British Government is buying, indirectly, most of the Egyptian cotton exported to Great Britain, and that, consequently, in the cost of its munitions is included the very high price which Egyptian cotton has attained during the past year. Now, it is a well-known fact that the cotton exporters gain considerably out of their cotton dealings; their profit since the outbreak of war must have been pretty substantial owing to the steady rise in the cotton market.

In these circumstances it would obviously have been in Imperial interests if the Treasury had not only allowed but had pressed for the establishment of more British cotton firms, because, inasmuch as the profit on the cotton exported would have gone to British capitalists, the British Exchequer would have been able to recoup itself by means of income and excess war tax for a considerable part of the huge sum paid by it for the cotton which it so urgently required. As it is, the non-creation of more British firms, or, at any rate, the inability of those already working out here to handle the crop has entirely benefited neutrals and others who, as already pointed out, have considerably increased their business and whose profits cannot be touched by either the British or the Egyptian tax collector.

No rice was shipped from Burma to Greece in 1916.

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SUBMARINE WAR.

Another Drop in the Number of Vessels Sunk.

The Secretary of the Admiralty has issued the return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks in respect of British merchant vessels for the week ended at 3 p.m. on July 1. The return, with vessels sunk, and attacked in previous weeks deducted, is:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):

(a) Arrivals	2,745
(b) Sailings	2,846

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:

(a) 1,600 tons (gross) or over	15
(b) Under 1.600 tons (gross)	5
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	11
British fishing vessels sunk	11

During the week ended at midnight on July 1 (Reuter's correspondent telegraphed from Rome on Wednesday), 610 merchant ships of all nationalities, with a total gross tonnage of 318,367, entered Italian ports, while 540 ships, with a total gross tonnage of 338,504 left. This is exclusive of fishing boats and coasting vessels. The losses of Italian ships on all seas were one steamer, eight small sailing ships, and four fishing boats.

THE PORT OF PIRÆUS.

According to the Statistical Commission of the Port of Piræus, twenty-two steamers of a gross tonnage of 34,437, and seventy-two sailing vessels of a net tonnage of 1,272, entered the port during March, 1917. All these sailing vessels arrived from Greek ports, while seventeen steamers arrived from ports within the blockaded area, the remaining five steamers coming from foreign countries and were flying the Italian flag.

During March, 1916, the number of steamers arriving from Greek ports was 191 and 427 sailing vessels, while forty-three steamers and eleven sailing vessels arrived from foreign ports.

SUDAN IRRIGATION PROJECTS.

THE NEAR EAST has already referred to the fact that Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Adviser to the Ministry of Public Works in Egypt, and Colonel E. E. Bernard, Financial Adviser to the Sudan Government, are visiting London in connection with conferences which are being held here with regard to the future of the irrigation schemes, projected before the war, in Egypt and the Sudan.

"We are inclined to believe," writes *The Times*, "that one of the results of the war may be to make some alteration in the financial basis for these schemes, if not in the schemes themselves. But in any case, it is, no doubt, highly desirable that the Home Government should be in possession of the full facts of the situation, and of the requirements in both countries, in order that there may be as little delay as possible when the moment arrives at which these important works can be proceeded with. It will be remembered that before the war it was arranged that a large loan should be raised by Egypt and the Sudan for the purpose, assisted by a British Government guarantee of the interest at 5 per cent. But in the altered conditions it seems improbable that these terms would hold good, and it may be preferable to consider whether the financing of these particular schemes should not be included in the new programme of Imperial Development which will be pressed on the British Government from different quarters of the Empire after the war."

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Egyptian Business Thoroughly Disorganised.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MANCHESTER, Thursday.

An unsettled feeling has continued to prevail throughout the market, and the regulations which are being issued by the Board of Control are not helping matters. It is now being more fully realised that the interference of the Government will result in legitimate trading being restricted, whatever may be the effect upon the gambling element.

Users of raw cotton have now obtained licences to purchase, but only limited supplies can be obtained, and it seems quite impossible at the moment to sell yarn and cloth for distant delivery, in view of the fact that raw material cannot be purchased to cover such sales.

It was expected that the Board of Control would put forward some scheme for curtailing consumption, but it is said that in this connection nothing is to be done at present. Particulars are now being obtained of supplies of the raw material in the hands of spinners and at warehouses, and it is hoped that the complete statistics will be available some time next week.

An extraordinary position has prevailed in the Alexandria cotton market, a big advance in prices having occurred. Business in Egyptian yarns has been thoroughly disorganised, buyers being unable to follow the upward movement. A fair undercurrent of demand has been dealt with in piece goods for Egypt, but the outlook is very uncertain, and some makers have refused to book orders a long way ahead.

Only a sorting-up trade has been done for India. Some attempts have been made at transactions in finishing and bleaching cloths for China. Further contracts have been placed in materials suitable for the purposes of the war. American yarns have again advanced in price. Most spinners have held very firmly to quotations. A comparatively small trade has been done, there being no initiative on the part of buyers.

LIVERPOOL AND M. VENIZELOS.

The following telegrams from Liverpool have been sent to M. Venizelos:—

The members of the Liverpool Greek Community extend to you their warmest congratulations, and rejoice in the knowledge that their beloved country being once more under your able guidance, will enjoy union and prosperity, and take her place in the ranks of those fighting for honour, justice, and freedom.

(Signed) SPYRIDION ACRATOPULO,
President.

His Excellency Eleutherios Venizelos,
Prime Minister, Athens.

I respectfully beg to tender you my heartiest congratulations on your return to the head of the Government of a united Greece, and pray that you may be granted many years of health to guide our country in the path of honour, prosperity, and freedom.

MALANDRINOS, Consul-General.
—*Liverpool Courier.*

AMERICAN TRA DEIN ADEN.

The total exports invoiced at the American Consulate at Aden, Arabia, for the United States increased in value from £154.675 for the first three months of 1916 to £245.610 for the corresponding period this year. This gain was due to the greater shipments of skins, increasing in value from £99,780 to £242,510. The American purchases of coffee, however, decreased from £51,959 for the first quarter of 1916 to £1,478 for the corresponding period this year.

ENGINEERING NOTES.

Water Power in South Russia.

Reference was made in these Notes last week to the developments in water power in South Russia. It is acknowledged by those who possess local experience that much water power is available in Russia, especially in the South, where industry and agriculture are advanced, and where great advantages can be obtained by utilising the power to instal hydro-electric stations for transmission of power to distant points in busy industrial centres, or for the purpose of fixing atmospheric nitrogen, smelting metallic ores, etc. Moreover, there is a large number of towns and mining districts which anxiously await an adequate power supply. Municipalities, also, have shown great readiness to adopt comprehensive electric tramway schemes. There is a long list of Russian towns which now possess such systems, as well as central stations and a similar list of other municipalities which already are seriously discussing the establishment of electric tramways and lighting systems. It is, therefore, of great importance that British firms interested in electrical enterprises should bestir themselves.

British Electric Vehicles.

It is satisfactory to learn that several British electrical engineering firms are devoting serious consideration to the question of manufacturing electric vehicles and equipment as soon as normal conditions return, thereby placing themselves in a position to meet the already well-developed American competition.

"Magnetic Salvage."

According to news from the United States, steel ships sunk in the course of the present war may be raised with the aid of pontoons clamped firmly to the hulls with big electric magnets. The magnets receive the electric energy from the generators on a ship on the surface.

Tungsten Metal Powder.

A new and important industry has come into existence in England by the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of tungsten metal powder. Tungsten is a vital ingredient in the making of high-speed steel, which is used for metal-cutting tools of all kinds, and before the war the whole supply of pure tungsten powder came from Germany.

Hint to Munition Workers.

Some iron castings, when put on a planer or shaper, are so very hard, having a number of chilled spots on the surface, that it is a difficult and tedious task to keep the tool sharp enough to do good work. Continual trips to the emery wheel are necessary, causing annoyance and waste of time. In cases of this kind, the worried tool-maker should heat a quality of tool steel—not the high speed variety—to a cherry-red; plunge it into salt water until cold; pull out and hold over the fire until a drop of water will evaporate when placed on it. Then plunge it into cold water. This takes the hardening strain off the tool and prevents the edges from breaking out. In practice a tool of this kind will work well on chilled spots and keep a sharp edge.

Metal Exports.

In exporting manufactured metal goods, whether machinery, or iron, steel or brassware do not coat them with animal fat—if they are consigned to places where there are Mussulmans, such as in the Near and Middle East, and in North Africa. German commercial agents tell them the fat used is from pigs and buyers will not touch them. It is one of the latest squibs in German competition since they have been shut out from those markets.

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BRITISH INDUSTRIAL DIRECTORY.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade is compiling an index or directory of British and Irish manufacturers, which it is proposed to forward to Consular Officers, Trade Commissioners, and other correspondents of the Board of Trade abroad for use in dealing with inquiries which they may receive for British and Irish goods, both now and for delivery after the war. A large number of firms have already supplied information as to their products to the Department, but before transmitting this information abroad it is desired to furnish to all manufacturers in the United Kingdom interested in the export trade an opportunity of applying for the inclusion of their names in this index. The Department is now compiling the sections of the index dealing with the following trades :—

1. Boot and shoe.
2. Leather and leather goods.
3. Wearing apparel.
4. Rope, twine, and net trades.
5. Haberdashery.
6. Fancy goods.
7. Floor cloths and coverings.

Manufacturers in these trades in the United Kingdom are invited to supply a detailed list of the articles which they manufacture, a list of the markets abroad in which they are more particularly interested, particulars of their agents abroad, their terms of business, and, generally, any information which would be of use in dealing adequately with inquiries from persons desirous of purchasing goods from the United Kingdom. Those who desire to apply for the inclusion of their names in this index should forward particulars to the Board of Trade Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2. Envelopes should be marked "Index."

ITALIAN TRADE WITH EGYPT.

The Italian colony is somewhat disturbed at the interruption of direct navigation between Egypt and Italy, writes the *Egyptian Gazette*. The Alexandrian section of the Italian Colonial Institute has sent a letter to its parent society at Rome to the effect that if this state of things is prolonged it will have disastrous consequences, and making two suggestions as palliatives. Numbers of boats of the Ellerman, Prince, Papayanni, and Moss Lines enter our ports from Liverpool, London, Glasgow, and Hull, touching at Gibraltar and Malta. Most of them enter the port of Alexandria.

"Could not the Italian and British Governments arrange for one or two boats, even of small tonnage, to call at an Italian port, or a Malta-Genoa, Malta, Leghorn, or Malta-Naples service could be quickly established?"

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

The Alexandria Exchange has been re-opened.

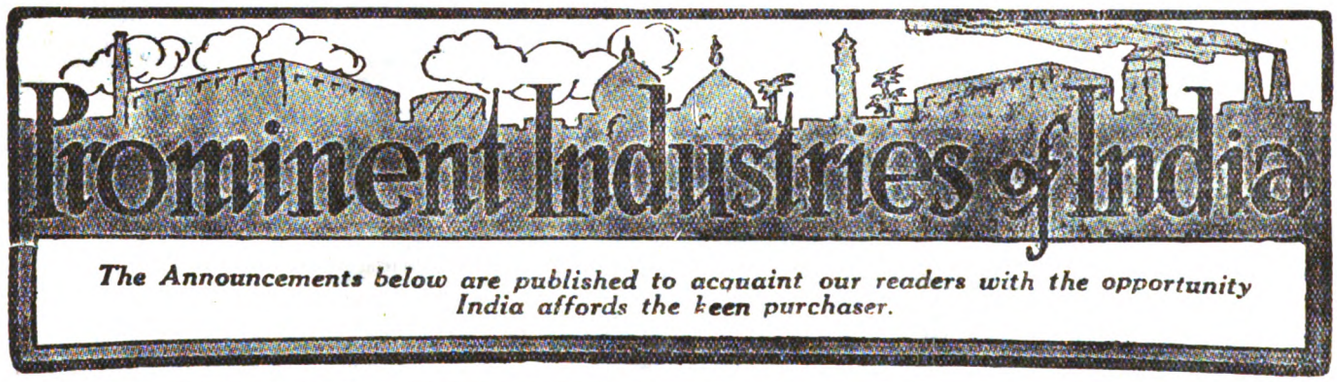
Holland has taken over the protection of Greek interests in Germany.

An Alexandria message (July 2) states that the cottonseed market is firm, with July quoted at 152p.

Lloyd's agent at Tangier telegraphs that he has been informed by the inspector of Cape Spartel Lighthouse that probably, as from July 1, the intensity of Cape Spartel Light will be decreased until further notice.

Proceedings are in progress before the Prize Court at Malta in respect of one case of cottons, seven cases of soap, and 432 bundles of black sheets ex the vessel Jesmore. Appearance should be entered by all persons claiming an interest as soon as possible.

A group formed by a large number of Roumanian University professors has been formed to work for a rapprochement between Roumania and the Allied countries in intellectual, economic, and financial matters. The group in particular approached France in regard to technical agricultural instruction.



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COMPANY MEETING.

ALEXANDRIA WATER CO.

The thirty-ninth annual general meeting of the Alexandria Water Company was held at Alexandria on Thursday, June 7, at 4 p.m., the number of shares represented at the meeting being 19,667. The following is the report of the directors to the shareholders :—

The directors, in submitting to the shareholders their annual report and statement of accounts for the last financial year ending March 31, 1917, have much pleasure in stating that in spite of the extremely difficult conditions prevailing, the severe restrictions on all supplies and further increase of price in all commodities, the results obtained are considered very satisfactory. During the past year there has been a steady rise in the price of combustible, the water supply has been entirely maintained by the use of crude oil for the boilers in place of coal, and had this crude oil not been available the cost of combustible would have been considerably greater than was actually the case.

The total quantity of water pumped was 21,933,000 cubic metres, showing an increase of 471,000 cubic metres over the previous year. The water supply to shipping, though still very much in excess of normal times, shows a decrease in revenue of £25,319 over last year, which was phenomenal owing to the exceptional movement of transports.

The extension of mains this year has been very small, the total length laid up to 6 in. only is 4,885 metres, and 274 metres of high pressure mains at Minet el Bassal.

The increase in the number of consumers has been satisfactory, 1,728 new consumers having been added, with an increase of revenue of £6,546.

Owing to the ever increasing demand for filtered water supply in Alexandria, it has been decided to put in hand immediately large extensions of our filtration works at an estimated cost of about £25,000; this is considered an urgent necessity, and already a considerable amount of the work has been done. An entirely new additional filter house will be required containing 10-21 ft. 0 in. Jewell filters, of which four are already on order; these four will give an additional daily output of 7,000 cubic metres. An additional settling basin in reinforced concrete having a capacity of 4,500 cubic metres is also in course of construction. It is anticipated that the new filters will be ready to work about the end of the present year.

A sum of £13,706 has been spent on new works during the course of the year consisting of :—

	£
Machinery, filters and buildings ..	7,711
Water mains, hydrants, etc.	3,463
Water meters	1,969
Port	486
Sundries	77
Total	£13,706

The total receipts amount to £179,298 as against £198,988 realised last year, showing a decrease of £19,690. This decrease is entirely due to the falling off of the receipts in the port, which are £25,319 less than last year. The increase in working expenses amounts to £11,969, due entirely to increased cost of materials, such as combustible, alum and other articles, which is entirely unavoidable.

The board has accorded a supplement of £774 to the gratification to the employees, in consideration of the great increase in the cost of living owing to the war.

In the profit and loss account a sum of £12,000 has been passed to the depreciation of machinery, pipes and other wasting assets in accordance with the various rates fixed by the board to be written off annually, also a small sum of £122 has been written off certain articles in stock which have depreciated in value.

The value of securities based on the market prices at March 31, 1917, is covered by the special reserve made during the last two years.

The balance of the profit and loss after making the above appreciations and the usual allowances, and after deducting the interim dividend paid in December, 1916, is £81,000

	£
From which should first be deducted 6 per cent. to complete with the interim dividend, the 10 per cent. on the capital	36,000
Leaving a balance of	45,000
Of which one half is due to the Municipality according to our convention	22,500
And the other half to the shareholders	22,500

which represents three shillings and ninepence per share, and this, added to the 6 per cent, above mentioned, makes a total of nine shillings and ninepence per share for the dividend of June 15, 1917.

The directors, therefore, recommend the shareholders to fix the dividend payable on June 15, 1917, at nine shillings and ninepence per share, which, with the interim dividend of four shillings paid on December, 1916, makes a total dividend of thirteen shillings and ninepence for the year.

According to article 84 of the articles of association, Messrs. A. L. Gorra and M. C. Salvago are the two directors who retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR TWELVE MONTHS ENDING MARCH 31, 1917.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To dividend paid on June 15, 1916, at 9s. 9d. per share	58,500 0 0	
,, Municipality's share to March 31, 1916, by Convention	22,500 0 0	
		81,000 0 0
,, Interim dividend paid December, 1916, at 4s. per share		24,000 0 0
,, Depreciation on building, machinery, mains, &c.		12,000 0 0
,, Depreciation on stock of material in hand		122 5 2
,, Gratuity to staff		3,133 3 3
,, Provision for compensation claims ..		676 9 4
,, Balance carried to Balance Sheet		81,000 0 0
		£201,931 17 9
By Balance as per Profit and Loss Account, March 31, 1916		81,000 0 0
,, Balance from Revenue and Expenditure Account		105,434 19 7
,, Profit on ice works		1,855 17 9
,, Service and fittings, sale of material and sundry receipts		3,793 11 4
,, Interest on securities, etc.		9,847 9 1
		£201,931 17 9

BALANCE SHEET, MARCH 31, 1917.

LIABILITIES.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Share Capital, authorised: 120,000 shares of £5 each, fully paid		600,000 0 0
,, Creditors and other accounts: Deposits by consumers	28,390 7 6	
Sundries	39,442 2 7	
		67,832 10 1
,, Reserve belonging to the Shareholders		105,097 0 8
,, Provision for depreciation of securities		33,500 0 0
,, Profit and loss account: Balance carried forward March 31, 1917		81,000 0 0
		£887,429 10 9

ASSETS.

By land, buildings, machinery, mains, furniture, etc., at cost to the company	500,411 10 9	
Less depreciation	134,101 0 0	
		366,310 10 9
By concession, at cost:		233,684 18 10
,, securities, at market price of March 31, 1914, £30,000 Egyptian Privileged Debt 3½ per cent., £111,900 Egyptian United Debt 4 per cent., 1,500 Agricultural Bank of Egypt 4 per cent. Cum. Pref. Shares of £10 each		152,335 19 11
By Sundry Debtors;		
,, Sundries	5,151 9 2	
,, Amounts due on water rates, etc.	6,130 18 6	
		11,282 7 8
,, Cash at Bankers, in Treasury Bills and in hand		103,58[illegible] 7
,, Stock of material in hand, at cost less depreciation, as certified by the manager		20,230 4 0
		£887,429 10 9

A. L. GORRA, M. C. SALVAGO,
Directors.

Mails containing correspondence (except parcels) addressed to Old Greece posted in the United Kingdom from May 19 to 22, inclusive, have been lost at sea through enemy action.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Oriental Carpet Manufacturers.

The directors of the Oriental Carpet Manufacturers, Ltd., find that, owing to the war, they are still unable to submit to the shareholders a balance-sheet for 1916, and, in consequence, will not call an annual general meeting. They are able, however, to inform the shareholders that the business done in Allied and neutral countries has been satisfactory, and that they have every hope on the conclusion of hostilities that the business will resume its former prosperity in all its branches.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.

The directors for 1916 state that the facilities granted by the Egyptian Government mentioned in last year's report have allowed the company to concentrate its efforts principally on the Hurghada field, with the result that a much larger output has already been obtained from those concessions. The total production of crude oil from the Gemsah and Hurghada fields for the year was 54,800 tons, as compared with 34,961 tons in 1915. The oil produced was again treated in the Suez refinery and the products obtained have been readily sold. The prices realised by the Asiatic Petroleum Company (Egypt), Ltd., during 1916 and up to the present date during 1917 continue satisfactory, the demand for local requirements and for Government purposes being fully maintained. As in previous years, the directors have been able to arrange to fill the deficiency of the company's supply of crude oil for the refinery by treating for other parties imported crude oil and distillate, for which work £40,143 was received. The Western anticline at Hurghada may now be regarded as definitely proved. Production has been obtained from ten wells, and the limits of the anticline are not yet determined. While the directors regret to report that the production of the Gemsah wells again proved disappointing, the total production for the year being only a little over 10,000 tons, they are able to advise that at Hurghada several new wells produced oil during the year, and the total production of these fields amounted to 44,000 tons. During 1917 a prolific well, No. 15, was struck in the middle of March, which up to the end of May had already produced 18,610 tons. The total production for 1917, up to the end of May, from the two fields amounted to 45,303 tons. The directors reserve £370,000 for depreciation over the whole period since the formation of the company, in 1911. This figure is based upon an arrangement made with the Income-Tax Authorities regarding depreciation allowed by them in respect of the capital assets of the company. The directors did not consider it necessary to deal with this matter so long as working expenses exceeded proceeds realised for the products. The balance-sheet shows that the total receipts were £225,608 (£220,474 being proceeds of oil and value of oil stock), while the total expenditure was £472,040. This sum, with the balance of £95,724 carried down, gives a total debit balance of £342,156.

COMPANY NOTES.

Meetings.

The tenth ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Lands, Limited, will be held on July 7 at the company's office, 12, Rue Tewfik, Alexandria.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 20 tons, against 91 tons; Hurghada, 926 tons, against 1,264 tons.

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GERMAN INTRIGUES IN AFRICA.

Mr. R. Williams, speaking in Leeds recently, made some interesting revelations as to how the enterprise of the late Cecil Rhodes in Africa was thwarted by the Germans. Mr. Williams, who was associated with Mr. Rhodes, said he was now able to reveal what he had kept to himself for many long years. "Whatever move I made," he said, "whatever step I took, I found Germany placing herself across my path. Whether I was negotiating on behalf of Cecil Rhodes with King Leopold for the Cape to Cairo Railway to pass through the Congo State, or whether I was dealing with the Portuguese about building the Benguella Railway, I met with either the opposition of British subjects of German origin or with the direct opposition of Germany herself."

P. AND O. DEFERRED STOCK.

It is announced that, Treasury sanction having been obtained for the issue of £500,000 P. and O. Deferred stock, to be given in exchange for the Union Steamship Company's shares, the arrangement which was sanctioned at the P. and O. general meeting on June 27 will be at once carried through.

EGYPTIAN COTTON AND WHEAT.

The Government crop report for June shows the condition of cotton in Lower Egypt to be 6 per cent. and in Upper Egypt 2 per cent. below the average. *The Times* correspondent telegraphed from Cairo on July 4:—The condition of wheat in the whole of Egypt was about 3½ per cent. above the average, and the yield above the normal.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
June 25	420,000	120,000
June 26	160,000	120,000
June 27	280,000	180,000
June 28	280,000	90,000
June 29, 30	420,000	250,000
July 1	250,000	30,000

At a court of directors held on June 27, Mr. Ernest R. Debenham was appointed a director of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, E.C., Thursday.

Our Stock Exchange has been closed for two days this week, and this fact has rather interfered with business. A very favourable tendency continues to prevail, and prices generally speaking, where altered, are again rather better.

The Government bonds are again somewhat firmer, with a certain amount of business doing, Unified being ½ up at 84, and 3½ per cent. preferences having been done at 73 for a few thousand pounds. Turkish 3½ per cents (Egypt Tribute) have also been in demand round 69, a rise of ½. In the Bank shares some small transactions have been effected in Nationals round 15, and a fairly large turnover has taken place in Agriculturals at about 5¼. Sellers of the latter are now becoming rather scarcer, and any insistent demand is likely to cause an improvement in the price. Allotments are rather quieter at 2⅞ after their recent sharp rise. In Behéra prefs. a parcel of five hundred shares, which has hung over the market for some time past, has now found a home round 4. Gharbieh Lands have continued in demand, but there are still no sellers. Some trifling transactions have been effected in New Egyptians round 11s. Union Foncières have improved to 27s. 6d. bid, at which price one hundred shares were done. In Unitedes some transactions took place at 1s., and a fair number of Egyptian and Foreign Trusts were done round 6s. Egyptian Markets changed hands at 27s. 6d. in a small way; but Salts and Sodas, although firm, have hardly been dealt in this week.

On the other hand, Khedivial Mails have again been a feature, and, after changing hands up to 40s. c.d., were subsequently done at 39s. 6d. xd., closing about 38s. 6d., a net rise of 1s. 6d. since last week. The prefs. are also ⅛ better at 3⅞.

In Greek stocks the market has been a buoyant one, and fairly large business has been transacted at rising prices. The 1881 and 1884 loans are on balance about 3 points up at 57½ xd. Monopolies have improved about 4 to 51. Rentes and 1914 are both a point up at 42 and 73 respectively. The 1902 loan has been done at 62 xd., showing a rise of half a point.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptian "B" fell 6d. to 14s. 3d. on the report.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Tuesday included:—Egyptian Unified, 95.05 (against 95); Turkish Unified, 62.20 (against 62); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 700 (against 695); Suez Canal, 4,399 (against 4,400).

THE MONEY MARKET.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

London, Thursday.

The leading banks have reduced their rates for daily or weekly loans to 4¼ per cent., and money is consequently easier, and brokers have been able to secure balances overnight at 3 to 3½ per cent. Bill rates were, therefore, disposed to be easy, two months' bills being quoted 4⅝ per cent., and three months' 4¾ to 4 13-16 per cent. Longer-dated Treasuries were done at 4¾ per cent., and August and September were at 4 9-16 per cent. Exchange on Alexandria is unchanged. Silver has come in fresh demand, and rose ¾d. to 39⅞d. per ounce.

SOCIETE ANONYME DU BEHERA.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to bearers of the Behera Company's Debentures that the DEBENTURES redeemed at the drawing of the 1st June, 1917, will be paid after the 1st July next at the National Bank of Egypt, Alexandria, Cairo, and London, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

M. C. SALVAGO, Chairman.

Alexandria, the 12th June, 1917.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price June 29.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83½	84
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72½	73
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	56	57½xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	56	57½xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	50	53xd
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	46	41	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55xd	55xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52	52xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	62xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	72	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92½	92½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	50½
Persia 5% 1911	91	78½-9	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	69
Do. 4% Unified	79	56	56
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5½	5⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅛	12½
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅛	2⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅛	8⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	7⅛xd	7⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¼	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	5⅝	6
National Bank of Egypt	13½	15	14⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	⅜	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	2⅞
Béhéra Co.	8½	9⅛	9⅛
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/9	10/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/3	6/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	22/6	26/6
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	11/-	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	⅜	⅜
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1⅛	1⅞
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11½xd	11½xd
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅜	24/6	24/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	38/6	38/6xd
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3⅝

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON JUNE 16.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	14⅛
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½ ex.
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Privilegiée	Frs.	73
"	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	83
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85⅛
Privilégiée		74
Land Bank of Egypt	£	5⅞
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		34/9
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	163
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		23/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	663
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	332
" 1903 "	Frs.	264
" 1911 "	Frs.	263
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		½

AGRICULTURAL BANK of EGYPT FOUR per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES. The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 26 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt Four per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares, due 1st July, will be PAID at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria, and London (6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.).

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to Issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)
RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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Correspondence is invited from all those having Serbian interests or contemplating business with Serbia when communication is restored.

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Capital: Lei, 12,000,000. Reserve Funds: Lei, 36,794,298·05.

VICE-GOVERNOR - I. G. BIBICESCU.
DIRECTORS:
N. BARBULESCU, HENRY CATARGY, TH. CAPITANOVICI, CORNELIU CIORANU, G. G. DANIELOPOLU.
CENSORS:
DR. CANTACUZINO, I. PR. DUMITRESCU, C. KRUPENSKI, N. N. MURGASEANU, C. NACU, J. C. NEGRUZZI, A. SALIGNY.
GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER - ATH MOSCHUNA.

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Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:
AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Lt. Col. J. LEIGH WOOD, C.M.G. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bart.

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F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

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INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - -	65,000

HEAD OFFICE—
28, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

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Subscribed Capital - -	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital - -	500,000
Reserve - - - - -	690,000

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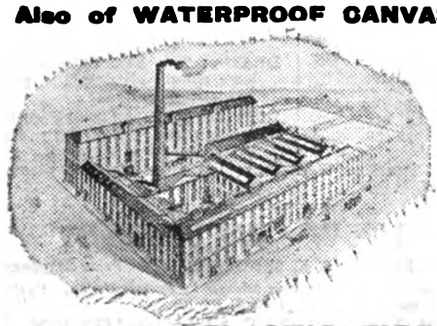
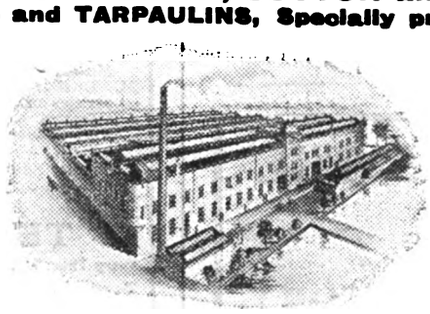
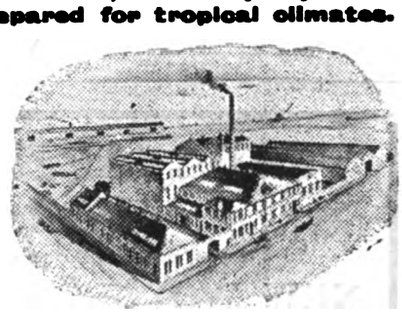

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No. 323.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On the eve of the Parliamentary debate on the Mesopotamia Report it is announced that a judicial inquiry is to be held into the conduct of all those persons who are prejudicially affected by the report. The personnel of the Court is undecided, and while the step is sure to be welcomed as a promise of determined action by the Government, certain difficulties seem likely to arise. The evidence of the witnesses before the Royal Commission was protected; moreover, the Royal Commission was not a judicial body, and was, therefore, not bound by the strict rules regarding evidence which prevail in the Courts—presumably, therefore, the judges will have to hear the evidence again before they can decide on any steps. Moreover, as Mr. Bonar Law pointed out in announcing the inquiry, many of the witnesses before the Court will have to be brought considerable distances, much time will thereby be consumed, and before the summary of evidence could be completed the Statute of Limitations, which in cases of this kind prescribes three years, would come into force.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the judicial inquiry will have no power to deal with the faults in the system, but must to all appearance confine itself to an examination into the conduct of the individuals concerned. While there is no public desire whatever to prejudge the case as a whole, or that of any person connected with it, it must be admitted that the appointment of a judicial body which has indeed the power to pass sentence but is impotent to enforce it would be strongly resented. Further, the soldiers who were implicated in the case are now unemployed, and they have, therefore, been punished; the civilians concerned in the case are still in the employment of the State. It remains an open question whether the judicial inquiry will be effective as regards the latter. It will have no power to punish, but it will have the power to advise the Army Council on the matter, which can take action if necessary by court-martial. But civilians are not amenable to the Army Council, and they cannot be tried by court-martial; and if the judicial body has no power of itself to punish soldiers, it can hardly have power to punish civilians. Should that be the case—and we hope it will not prove so—it would be an unsatisfactory expedient.

It may be said that no penalties were inflicted in the similar case of the Dardanelles. But the soldiers inculpated in that disaster have not been further employed; Mr. Winston Churchill, the politician who was most concerned in the affair, retired, and has perhaps been sufficiently punished by the universal distrust of his considerable but dangerous abilities which his countrymen have manifested ever since; Mr. Asquith, who as head of the Cabinet was also responsible for the venture, had also resigned his post before the Dardanelles Report was issued. Now, it is not the case that most of the politicians who have been named in the Mesopotamia report have retired.

Apropos the Mesopotamia question, Sir O'Moore Creagh has pointed out, in an article in the *Weekly Dispatch*, that, when in 1911 he was asked to make reductions in the Indian Army, he furnished a complete report to the Government of India of the reasons which made these proposals unwise. He called attention to the fact that we had to apprehend war with Turkey, or Turkey aided by Germany, "which, indeed, was quite obvious." He catalogued the deficiencies in the army, but his recommendations were ignored. Possibly something more will be heard of this.

Matters are moving in Athens. M. Venizelos is firmly in the saddle, and King Alexander has received the remaining Ministers in audience. The union of the two armies of Royalists and Venizelists is proceeding, and we are told that it proceeds without difficulty; the Constituent Assembly is to undertake the revision of the Constitution on a democratic basis, and it is said that it will officially proclaim the deposition of King Constantine and the Crown Prince. Should that step be taken, it would be significant, for deposition is by no means the same thing as abdication. It will be remembered that some confusion was caused over the precise use of the term when Mr. Bonar Law announced the *fait accompli*.

M. Jonnart has left Athens for the time being, and while in Western Europe he will look into the question of Greek finances, which have suffered somewhat heavily these last two years. Britain and France will probably come to the rescue, and with Greece herself restored to unity her industry will make good progress, and with a world-shortage of all goods she will have no difficulty in getting good prices for her produce, should it be possible to export. Large tracts of fertile land are to be

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put under cultivation in Macedonia and Old Greece, which it is hoped will almost suffice to feed the army and the rest of the population. The restoration of railway service between Athens and Salonika, which is announced this week, will help considerably towards the commercial resuscitation of the country.

Something is also being done in regard to foreign policy. M. Venizelos cannot, indeed, undo in a day the harm wrought by King Constantine in two years; he cannot get back territory ceded to Bulgaria. But apart from his assurance of support to Serbia, negotiations have been undertaken with Italy regarding Epirus. Conversations have already begun, and the Athens newspapers have announced that the Italian troops are to leave Janina, and be replaced by Greeks; while an Italian journal states that this will only be a portion of a general evacuation of Greek territory by the Allies as soon as M. Venizelos feels himself strong enough to cope with the situation. As to the military situation and its possible developments it would be useless to speculate here, but a great deal will be gained, if Greece and Italy can at last accommodate their ambitions. For Italy, of course, the question is more complicated and probably more vital than for Greece, owing to the fact that she is directly interested in the whole Adriatic problem, which can never be more than a secondary question for Greece, as well as in the Levant, but the Greater Greece which M. Venizelos stands for need not necessarily conflict at many angles with legitimate Italian ambitions.

It is said that when the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at Berlin called for his passports, the Foreign Secretary, Herr Zimmermann, lost his temper and declared, "This doesn't matter to Germany, but it will matter much to Greece. Your Venizelos will smart for this." It seems to be fast becoming a German tradition to be as rude to foreign gentlemen as to their own women.

It is understood that a strict inquiry is to be held into the disturbances of last December at Athens, and the authors, or perhaps it would be more correct to say the accomplices, of that outrage are to be severely punished. Already the bodies of two hundred Venizelists who were assassinated during the riots have been recovered—nearly all of them Cretans, mostly stabbed to death. Several of the bodies are those of children—a sufficient proof that the Royalist faction did not discriminate in their slaughter.

A satisfactory announcement has been made as to the health of the British troops at Salonika. Our forces, which suffered heavily from malaria on the Struma, which they had to evacuate some weeks ago, have now been provided with efficient medical care, which was somewhat difficult to seek a year ago. Statistics as to malaria and dysentery issued by the War Office are highly satisfactory, and we have the word of Lord Granard, who returned from Salonika recently, that the sick are now as well tended there as on any other front. In view of a certain amount of disquietude on the point recently, this assurance is highly satisfactory.

A curious report comes from Copenhagen to the effect that Turkey is intending to raise a loan in Scandinavia. That Turkey would raise a loan anywhere may be readily believed, and that Scandinavia, which knows something of war profits, has money to lend is also possible. But Turkey is not precisely a country to which everybody wishes to lend at this moment, and Denmark has not such great interests in Asia Minor that she is likely to go out of her way to oblige a poor customer. Turkey has already had large sums from Berlin to finance her share in the war, and in return for those loans she has been compelled to grant Germany the right to full commercial exploitation of her territories for a period of years. An undertaking of that kind would scarcely seem to be an inducement to neutrals to lend money to the Ottoman Empire.

The Jewish problem in Rumania is in a fair way to solution. M. Take Jonescu, in a late sitting of the Chamber at Jassy, has made it clear that the reform was decided upon in August, 1914, and he added that equality before the law, when the new law is passed, was not enough, but that efforts should be made to promote fraternity between the Jews and Christians. On that it must be said that the efforts will fail unless they are seconded by both sides, for problems which are settled politically may still exist in a social aspect.

A piteous statement was made by a Slovene deputy in the Reichsrath as to the systematic extermination of the Serb population. "Go to the Balkans," said Dr. Otokar Ribar, "and you shall see how former flourishing towns and villages are now mouldering ruins. Not military necessity, but the deliberate will of authorities has devastated our lands. Our unhappy people have been scattered to the winds; from whole districts women and old men and children have been carried off. From the vicinity of Nish alone the Bulgarians have carried away 30,000 people to the deserts of Asia Minor. It is a war of extermination. The Allies talk of a restoration of Serbia and the unification of the Serbian race. Serbia they may save, but not the Serbs or the Southern Slavs, for there will be none left to rejoice in the blessings of peace." Unhappily, there is too much truth in this dark picture.

The Russian offensive progresses, a large number of prisoners have been taken on the Eastern Galicia front, and Halicz, the ancient capital of Galicia, has been captured. The Germans have admitted the check, which has caused some despondency in Berlin, as an indication of the failure of Germany to obtain a separate peace and so reduce the number of her enemies. The enemy Press is so carefully controlled that it is difficult to know what the feelings of the people are with regard to the war, but from the depression caused by the failure to detach Russia it may be assumed that very high hopes were entertained of the possibility of that enterprise. It is now definitely seen that it has been an intrigue for nothing.

One consequence of the failure, reinforced, it is true, by anger at the reprehensible slowness of England in admitting defeat by the submarine war, is the Ministerial crisis in Berlin, and a discussion whether peace can be concluded after all without indemnities or annexations. We shall do well to take this whole business with a grain of salt; it is not a month ago since the Majority Socialists insisted on annexations, and many Germans are demanding indemnities as an alternative to national bankruptcy. The Minority Socialists, however, have got a little further. The latest revised programme issued by that party—is it the fifth or sixth?—admits that the creation of a Great Serbia by the reunion of the Serb race would be the best means of producing stable political conditions in the Balkans; it also admits the right of Prussian and Austrian Poland to independence. Since this programme would involve the liberation of West Prussia as well as Posen, and the retrocession of Danzig to the Poles, it will be resisted to the last by the German Government. It is true that a straw shows which way the wind blows, but when, as in this case, the Minority Socialists have no more weight than a straw, it does not carry things much further.

The Russian evacuation of Mesopotamia is announced. It is three months since General Baratoff's force effected a junction with the British, but the communications have never been secure. It would appear that the Russian force was not large, and it has now retreated across the mountains to the Russian frontier. The incident is unfortunate, since it will add to the weight of the British task in the Middle East, but it is useless to exaggerate its significance. From the British force comes the news of a further attack on the enemy by a mobile column of aeroplanes and armoured cars, which punished the Turks heavily.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 24.

H.H. The Sultan.

H.H. the Sultan went down to Alexandria for a few days, during which he gave numerous audiences at Ras el Tin Palace. He returned to his estate at Gabaris on Tuesday. Before he left Alexandria his Highness sent the Governor a sum of one thousand pounds, to be distributed amongst the poor of the city on the occasion of the fast of Ramadan. He also made a contribution of five hundred pounds towards the expenses of the three students whom the Egyptian University is sending to Europe to complete their studies. His Highness has, in addition, given two hundred pounds to the fund which is being raised in aid of the French Red Cross, and when he heard that the poor, to whom his Ramadan gift was to be distributed, would include some Russian refugees, his Highness, with characteristic generosity, ordered an additional sum to be sent to the Governor for special distribution to those refugees.

The Fast of Ramadan.

The fast of Ramadan started on Wednesday, the 20th. This year the new moon was first seen at Qena, in Upper Egypt, and the fact was announced by telegram from the Prime Minister to the Mahkama Sharia in Cairo. The usual ceremony of attesting the appearance of the new moon, which inaugurates the commencement of the 30 days' fast, did not, therefore, take place here. This year Moslems will not suffer as much as they usually do when the fast falls in the summer months, for we are having abnormally cool weather. Indeed, it is so cool that the cotton is likely to suffer very much, and the ravages of the cotton-worm threaten, as a result, to become serious.

With regard to the manner in which the commencement of the Ramadan fast is determined *i.e.*, attestation before the religious Court that the new moon has been seen with the naked eye, several Moslems have written to the Press pointing out that this practice is liable to lead to errors, and that by far the best plan would be to accept the evidence as available from data supplied by the Egyptian Observatory. There is no doubt that these critics are quite right. It has happened on more than one occasion in the past, that Egypt and the Sudan have commenced the fast on different days, because the new moon was visible in one part before the other, and unless some more scientific method is generally adopted the confusion is certain to recur in the future. It is not for a non-Moslem to interfere in such a matter, of course, but it may be pointed out that the Jews, whose religious fixtures are mostly based on the movements of the moon, rely entirely on astronomical observations, and that it is merely custom handed down through centuries, and not Islamic law, that has dictated that the new moon must have been seen with the naked eye. It is, however, a distinct sign of the times that Moslems should suggest that the antiquated method of fixing the beginning of the fast, and consequently of other religious festivals, should be abandoned, and that recourse should be had to the generally recognised method for computing dates which modern science has put at the disposal of the world. It is, indeed, only a few years since evidence by telegram, even from their own representative, such as was accepted this year, was rejected as inadmissible by the Moslem religious authorities of Egypt.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

The Pilgrimage to Mecca is to take place as usual this year, and the Sultan has reappointed Lewa Fatin Pasha as Emir-el-Hag. It is understood that arrangements similar to those in force last year will be made, and that the same high fees will be charged. There is every likelihood that the applications for permission to go to Mecca will be greater than a year ago. The people are very much better off, and can easily afford the high fees, whilst the facility with which the last pilgrimage was carried out will encourage the more timorous to venture this year. The great difficulty confronting the Egyptian Government will, of course, be the transport by sea to Jedda, and it may quite possibly be necessary to introduce special measures to restrict the caravan to proportions for which accommodation will be available.

The Press of Egypt.

Apropos of the regulations made by the military authorities with a view to reducing the local consumption of paper, it is interesting to note that no fewer than one hundred and eleven newspapers and periodicals are published in Egypt; of these sixty-nine are issued in Cairo and thirty-three in Alexandria. A year ago the total was ninety-two. The present number is divided up as to sixty-two newspapers, of which twenty-three are in Arabic and thirty-three in a European language, and forty-nine reviews, of which thirty-eight are in Arabic and eight in a European language. According to Silva White, in 1899 the total number of journals and periodicals published in this country was a little over thirty, of which half were issued in the vernacular. Even allowing for the extension of education, one cannot help feeling that Egypt is over-supplied with newspapers. When the statistics are published for the 1917 Census it will be interesting to see in this connection what the proportion of literates is, and how it compares with the number of papers in circulation.

The Philippides Case.

The Philippides case, to which much space is daily devoted by the local press, is still before the Cairo Assizes. So far, only the witnesses for the prosecution and one or two for the defence have been heard. It is expected that the case will last another week at least.

MAILS LOST AT SEA.

The Postmaster-General announces that the following mails have been lost at sea through enemy action :—

(1) A parcel mail for the Salonika force, containing parcels for that force which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between 6 p.m. on June 12 and noon on June 17.

(2) Mails for the Egyptian expeditionary force, containing letters, packets, and newspapers (but not parcels), which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between 3.30 p.m. on May 31 and 2.30 a.m. on June 4, and letters only which were received for despatch between 3.30 p.m. on June 7 and 2.30 a.m. on June 9.

(3) Mails for Egypt, Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, and Reunion, containing correspondence which reached the General Post Office, London, for despatch as follows :—

Destinations.	Dates on which lost correspondence was received at General Post Office.	
	Letters.	Printed matter.
Egypt and Seychelles	June 1, 2, and 8	May 31 to June 2 and June 7 and 8
Mauritius	May 30 to June 8	May 30 to June 8
Madagascar, Reunion, etc.....	May 20 to June 8	May 20 to June 8

(4) Letter and parcel mails from Australia, Ceylon, Aden, and Egypt, which left Adelaide on May 22, Fremantle on May 27, Colombo on June 13, Aden on June 22, and Port Said on June 30.

EGYPT'S PAPER SHORTAGE.

The Egyptian Press Bureau announces that for the present it has been decided not to enforce Regulation No. 5, limiting half piastre newspapers on four days in the week to two pages. It is evident, therefore, that the shortage of paper is not so great in Egypt as had been feared.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Hot Season and Olympus.

Early in June, as a rule, the High Commissioner moves to Mount Troödos. Government House, or "Cottage," as it calls itself, is situate in a pleasant site, on a mountain slope well surrounded by pines, some way below the military camp. The offices of the Chief Secretary and Staff are across a deep ravine, through which runs the Kreos Potamos, or "cold river," a little mountain torrent which carries a good flow of water all through the year. It is pumped up by steam power to the camp and other points. The office of the Chief Secretary, and a few other privileged officials, migrate annually to the cool and invigorating heights. The judges of the Courts, who in the matter of pensions enjoy great advantages over their civilian confrères, can also obtain a good holiday every year out of a six weeks' mid-summer vacation. All other officials, including the District Commissioners and heads of departments, who enjoy no such vacation, must swelter in the plains throughout the long and trying summer. The day will, no doubt, come when the health of other hard-working officials will be considered as well as those of the one department which regularly enjoys this change every year. Justice will see to it that others, too, will get some chance of a periodical recuperation on Troödos, or some of the other heights. Troödos may be regarded as a miniature Simla, and criticism of the Indian system, as regards some aspects of the far-famed resort, may be extended in due course to other places, not excluding Cyprus.

Debates in the Legislative Council.

Discussions on a variety of proposed measures have been continued. There is no lack of ability in the group of elected representatives. Several of the new members have contributed largely to the interest of the debates. Among them are Dr. Zannetos, of Larnaca, M. Sevéris, of Kyrenia, M. Locs Loïsou, and M. Nicolaïdes, of Papho, all vigorous champions of their electoral divisions. Of the old members, M. Theodotou, of Nicosia, M. N. Lanitis and M. Evgenios Zeno—the two latter of Limassol—all good speakers, have maintained the decidedly high level of debating energy. M. Theodotou is one of the ablest of the Greek members, and has often used his influence and oratorical power in a good cause outside the Council. He has spoken and written vigorously—e.g., in support of a strict policy of forest preservation and development, and of the Goats Law, fully explaining to the people how island interests, including those of agriculture, stand in need of these measures. He is also a strong promoter of ecclesiastical reforms. Of the three Turkish members, Irfan Bey, of Nicosia, is the most prominent. He keeps a watchful eye on Greek movements, and has contributed much to the interest, the direction, and, it may be added, to the liveliness of the proceedings.

Ban on Cyprus News.

Government has prohibited the despatch of any Cyprus newspapers out of the island for some reason not yet revealed. Why island intelligence should be thus suppressed it is difficult to see. A vigorous censorship is exercised, and any articles or paragraphs to which objection is taken are not passed for publication. Accordingly, sometimes papers appear with blank columns, or spaces, indicating that such objection has been encountered. As it is, the papers contain a very bare record of island events, with comments generally of a mild enough description. There is little enough to talk or write about at the best of times in this quiet, sea-girt corner of the Levant; and wonder is often expressed how so many Greek papers can manage to exist in so small a community. Why this scanty information should not be allowed to be communicated outside the island is quite unintelligible. It could hardly be of use to "the enemy." For three years of war papers have been sent abroad freely, but now, for some unaccountable reason, they seem to be regarded as dangerous, and can only circulate in Cyprus. Editors cannot add to their very limited number of subscribers. They are obliged to notify those abroad that they must conform to the new rule. Cypriots are widely scattered in almost every part of the world, and a considerable number are, no doubt, glad to keep in touch with island affairs. They are now cut off from this source of information by what seems a very uncalled-for and arbitrary act. No distinction is made between papers that are moderate in tone and others which are generally more outspoken in their criticism of Government.

One thousand members of a mass meeting of Greek Liberals in New York signed a pledge to fight against the common enemy of the world—Germany. A resolution was adopted conveying to President Wilson "our soldiers' determination to redeem our national pledges and to stand true to our treaties by supporting M. Venizelos in his ennobling task of arraying the forces of Greece against the common foe."

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

BY JOSEPH OFFORD.

Early in this year Sir William Willcocks delivered a long and important lecture at the Institut Egyptien, in Cairo, upon the "Hebrew Story of the Plagues in Egypt and of the Exodus." In this lecture he utilised his great knowledge of the water supply of the country in both ancient and modern times, and of its natural history, to illustrate the Old Testament narrative; and upon the publication of his address in full we hope to summarise its more important elucidations.

He has returned to the rather speculative theory of the elder Brugsch Pasha, that the Israelites went out, not by way of the Red Sea, but along the Mediterranean littoral by Pelusium; and that the pursuing Egyptians perished in the Sebonic lake. This gave rise to some discussion, and H.H. Prince Ahmed Fouad requested M. G. Daressy, secretary of the Service of Antiquities, who has frequently published notes upon old Egyptian material throwing light upon the Exodus, to place his views before the Société Sultanienne de Geographie. M. Daressy is resolutely opposed to this idea of a northern route of the Exodus march, not because it is directly contradictory of the Exodus narrative, wherein we are expressly told Moses was forbidden to lead away the people by the road of the country of the Philistines; although he properly quotes this interdiction, but from his knowledge of the geography of the Delta in ancient times, as revealed by old Egyptian records. He showed that the natural features of the north-east corner of Egypt were now quite different from what they must have been under the Pharaohs. Lake Menzaleh was first formed—probably by a fall in the land level—in the sixth century A.D., and that part of Egypt had in early times to be, and was, irrigated, producing excellent crops. Therefore, in that direction there was no "Lake of the Reeds" or Yam-souph, so particularly mentioned as being passed by the Israelites.

M. Daressy quoted four passages, showing that the Yam-souph was close to the northern projection of the Red Sea, above Suez. He said, "The only reasonable explanation of the Exodus story is that the people came out by way of the Wadi Tumilat, and so by way of the lagoons then existing about the site of Lake Tirusah and the Bitter Lakes, which latter were then naturally (not by canal) connected with the Gulf of Suez. They then escaped after the crossing into the Sinai desert, where the Egyptians deemed it useless to follow them. He terms the theory that the Yam-souph was identical with the modern Menzaleh Marshes, *une invention du pédantisme allemand*, which we should not accept. No one is better qualified than M. Daressy to know all the points concerning the question the Egyptian monuments and papyri disclose, and he is in entire agreement with Sir Hanbury Browne, who, like Sir W. Willcocks, is an eminent Egyptian irrigation engineer.

AUSTRIA IN THE NEAR EAST.

A valued correspondent writes:—As a specimen of perfect Italian literary composition it would be difficult to surpass the "Commemorazione del Socio Straniero Gaston Maspero," delivered by Professor Dr. Evaristo Breccia at the Accademia dei Lincei last April. As curator of the Alexandria Museum, Dr. Breccia was for several years in constant official intercourse and amicable correspondence with Sir Gaston Maspero. The latter's family was of Lombardian origin, and therefore it was appropriate that a memorial of him should be contained in the records of the senior Italian Academy.

Particularly interesting is the following paragraph from one of Maspero's last letters, sent on the occasion of the birth of a son to Dr. Breccia, which gives Maspero's views upon the rôle of Austria in the Near East in the past. Speaking of the boy, he wrote: "Il grandira je l'espère dans des temps moins troublés que les nôtres, et il sera citoyen d'une Italie prospère, délivrée enfin complètement de ce cauchemar des Tedeschi. Je me demande vraiment quel service a jamais rendu à l'humanité cette dévote Autriche tant cherie du Pape. Elle n'a rien inventé, rien produit qui fût utile ou glorieux? Elle à toujours opprimé et proscrit ce qui était libre ou généreux; elle n'a été qu'un rapace cousant sans cesse l'un à l'autre des bouts de province dont elle ne savait pas s'attacher les populations. C'est la survivance dans l'Europe actuelle d'un état des choses antérieur, qui ne trouve quelque analogue que dans l'autre rapace d'Allemagne. Tout cela devrait disparaître; mais Allemands du Nord ou du Sud, Autrichiens, Hongrois, ont ils un esprit capable de se perfectionner selon les idées du jour. J'en doute beaucoup; ils pourront être battus, reduits à l'impuissance, jamais amendés. Barbares ils sont né; barbares ils resteront jusqu'à la fin des temps, et ils persisteront à s'enorgueillir de leur barbarie, quelques progrès matériels qu' ils puissent encore réaliser par la suite."

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Medical Arrangements at Salonika. July 10.

The Earl of Dunraven asked the Secretary for War whether he could make any announcement as to any change—made or in contemplation—in the disposition of the sick and wounded of our Salonika force? There were rumours that the hospital base at Malta was going to be discontinued, and that the personnel of the staff were going to be transferred to Salonika. Some unrest had been caused by these rumours. Malta might be described as almost unique for hospital purposes; the accommodation and the arrangements were as perfect, humanly speaking, as they could well be. Salonika was, to use a very mild term, unhealthy. The hospitals were very far removed from the town or fort, and he was afraid he must say that the wounded there must be accommodated in huts or under canvas, which were insufficient to protect against the sun in summer or blizzards in winter. Also, he should like to know what provision was being made for convalescents in the neighbourhood of Salonika, and if a change in the arrangements was to be made, had it the approval of the responsible medical and military authorities at home? He did not suggest that any repetition of Mesopotamia conditions was going to happen in Salonika, but at the same time he wanted to know whether everything possible had been done to ensure that there should be no unnecessary suffering.

The Earl of Granard said that he had been in Salonika from the first, and only left there a short time ago. The question of hospitals had been considered by the Commander-in-Chief. There were certain hills at the back of Salonika in the vicinity of which the Commander-in-Chief had placed six or seven camps, which were amply supplied with water, and they were approved by the medical authorities, and there was every reason to believe that the soldiers who had contracted malaria in the low-lying districts would benefit by their stay there, and would return to the front line absolutely cured. There was now every reason to hope that the condition of the sick and wounded at Salonika compared favourably with that obtaining in any other expeditionary force. In company with the Commander-in-Chief he had visited every hospital in Salonika on very many occasions, and it was perfectly true to say that every precaution had been taken, and that the sick and wounded in the Salonika command were looked after as well as, if not better than, anywhere else.

The Earl of Derby (Secretary for War) said that, owing to the brutal submarine policy of the Germans in sinking hospital ships, the whole hospital system had to be changed, and, instead of sending the sick and wounded to Malta and Egypt and shipping as many as possible home, it became necessary to shift the majority of the hospitals from Malta to Salonika. In addition, something like seven general hospitals had been sent out from this country since the policy of torpedoing hospital ships was instituted. We had also a convalescent camp at Corfu, and there were other arrangements which it was obviously better that he should not mention. He was assured by the medical officers that everything possible was being done for the comfort and convenience of the sick and wounded, and when the history of the campaign came to be written, it would be found that the medical department of the War Office had endeavoured to do everything that could be done.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mesopotamia Report. July 5.

Mr. Joynson Hicks: Will the Government give the House any indication as to what steps they propose to take in consequence of the report of the Mesopotamia Commission?

Mr. Bonar Law: I am sure the House will realise that the Government cannot take action without very careful thought in this matter, for it involves everything which people regard as of value in the case of the individuals concerned. We are considering it, and I do not know whether it would be possible to give any indication before the debate, but we shall do so then.

Mr. Joynson-Hicks: Would it not be better that the debate should be adjourned until we have definite information from the Government as to the steps they are going to take? Otherwise the debate will wander over large sections of opinion without any definite result.

Mr. Bonar Law: I do not think there is any danger of that happening, because some member of the Government will speak very early in the debate and give an indication of what will be done.

July 6.

Sir J. D. Rees asked whether, in view of the comprehensive character of the Mesopotamia Report, of the number of constitutional and other questions of public interest involved, and of the many individuals whose reputations were at stake, two days would be given for the debate on the Mesopotamia Report.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he had already stated that the amount of time to be given to the debate must rest with the House.

July 10.

Mr. King (L, Somerset, North) asked the Leader of the House whether any disciplinary notice had been taken of those officials and persons who had been censured in the Mesopotamia Report, and, if not, whether the decision to do so would be announced before Thursday, or whether it was the policy of the Government to wait and see what the debate in this House might produce.

Mr. Bonar Law: I propose to make a statement after questions to-morrow as to the intentions of the Government in this matter.

[Mr. Bonar Law's statement was made on July 11, and the substance of it is reproduced in the "Notes of the Week."]

Mesopotamia and the Dardanelles. July 9.

Mr. Bonar Law replied in the negative to a question by Mr. Lynch, whether as the result of the Mesopotamia Report, the Prime Minister would announce the resignation from office of all members of the Government implicated and of all officials whose administration had been censured.

Replying to Mr. G. Faber, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Committee of the Cabinet, which during October, 1915, was known as the Dardanelles Committee, was attended by Mr. Asquith, Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Balfour, Sir Edward Grey, Earl Kitchener, Earl Curzon, the Marquess of Crewe, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Mr. Churchill, the Earl of Selborne, and himself. At the beginning of November, 1915, the Dardanelles Committee was superseded by the War Committee, which was composed of Mr. Asquith, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Lloyd George, Lord Kitchener, Mr. Balfour, and himself.

Sir J. Jardine asked what advice was tendered by Lord Kitchener as to the advantage or otherwise of an advance from Kut-el-Amara to Baghdad.

Mr. Bonar Law: The proceedings of the Cabinet have always been secret, and I regret that I cannot give the information asked for.

The Indian Army. July 10.

Major H. Terrell asked whether the statement of the deficiency in the personnel and equipment of the Indian Army submitted by General Sir O'Moore Creagh on January 30, 1914, and the report submitted by him in 1911 of the reasons which, in his opinion, made the reduction in the Indian Army he was ordered to make unwise would be laid on the Table before the debate on the Mesopotamia report.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Secretary for India): The statement to which the hon. member refers, is, I presume, a memorandum by Sir O'Moore Creagh on the reports of the Army in India Committee. I am not sure what statements are referred to as "the report submitted by him in 1911." The reports of the Army in India Committee itself have never been published and cannot be published now. It is impossible that I should publish comments upon them.

Major H. Terrell also asked for the production of the confirmatory report of Surgeon-General Babtie mentioned in telegram H 5620 of June 16, 1915, set out in page 74, par. 53, of the Mesopotamia Report.

Mr. A. Chamberlain: The report itself was not sent home. The gist of it, according to the Commission, is contained in the Viceroy's telegram of June 16, 1915.

Questions to Commissioners. July 5.

Commander Bellairs asked for the Speaker's ruling as to the rights of private members to put questions concerning the actions of Royal Commissions, Commissioners, or Committees. On Monday he had asked at the Table to whom he could address a question arising out of the Mesopotamia Commission, as to why Sir William Meyer did not give evidence before the Commission. He was told that he could not address any question on the subject to any Minister or to any member of the Commission.

The Speaker said that in olden days there was not so much rigidity about questions, and questions were permitted to members of Royal Commissions and of Committees. During the last five or six Parliaments no such questions had been allowed. The reason was obvious. Royal Commissions were appointed by the King, and it would be very improper if their members gave information to the House before they reported to his Majesty. It was, moreover, quite a fortuitous thing to have a member of the House on a Commission. He thought that it would be very undesirable to amend the practice. It was better to follow the rule which obtained in regard to Select Committees—namely, that when a matter had been referred to a Select Committee, no questions were permitted until it had reported. When the matter came up for debate, hon. members could put questions to any members of the Commission who might happen to be present. But to allow to appear on the paper questions addressed to members of Royal Commissions would be an innovation which was quite contrary to the practice of the last forty-five years.

America and the War. July 10.

Mr. King asked whether the United States were now at war with Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey respectively; and, if not, whether, in order to complete the unity of the Allies, representations had been made to the United States on this matter.

Lord R. Cecil: The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I find myself in theory heartily in sympathy with a correspondent of the *Busreh Times* who enters a plea for the much-abused town which has played such a prominent part in the life of the Indian Expeditionary Force "D." He points out that probably Mandalay and the Irrawaddy came in for a similar amount of grousing in their time, but the veterans of the Burmese War, in a retrospective mood, would be far more likely to remember "when the mist was on the rice fields and the sun was setting low" than the numerous abominations that loomed so large at the time of their sojourn. So, too, the correspondent thinks, will it be with Busreh, and pending the moment when Mr. Rudyard Kipling or somebody else tackles the subject, he enumerates some of the town's "points." After all, he says, there are beautiful aspects here. "A broad river flowing like oil, a crimson grey sheen on the waters, the smoke of the shipping hanging low, the rattle of the winches stopped while the evening meal is prepared, the pleasant smell of cooking mingling with the all-pervading stench of the incinerators, and even the rascally bellamchi looking quite picturesque as he pulls his way home across the river."

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The idea is all right, but different men will fit in the details in different ways. Undoubtedly the river dominates the picture. For me, a waterway must entirely belie its name, if it is to be devoid of all charm, and in the category I am prepared to include everything from the Pet and Pem in Cambridge, to the Mersey, the Bistritza, or Singapore harbour. True, Busreh's creeks have to do duty as laundries and drains, as well as waterways, but there is plenty that is picturesque in the place. The narrow, tortuous streets, the natives—but I am exposing myself to the taunt that my point of view is that of a very temporary visitor and that I know nothing of Busreh in the light of a year or more of active service. It is so. But the correspondent of the *Busreh Times* is right.

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To the most inveterate grouser in the Mesopotamian Force *olim meminisse juvabit*. I can only recall one place which I resolutely refuse to credit with a single redeeming feature. It would never do to name it in case some kind reader wished to challenge my obsession. But I remember that I thought all the more of the few fellow-countrymen on board the foreign ship I boarded when they subsequently explained that the reason why they could not bring themselves to speak to me for a couple of days was that they felt certain that no respectable Englishman could ever be found in such a place. It is fair to add, perhaps, that the nearest approach to a redeeming feature was the discovery of a foreign banker who refused to have any "truck" with an absolutely unchallengeable Letter of Credit that held good the world over, but cheerfully cashed a £20 cheque on a London bank without even the shadowiest guarantee of the bona fides of myself, the cheque, or the bank.

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It is hard to refrain from moralising upon the Mesopotamia Report. In all that concerns the Government of India, or any Government for that matter, the system and the personal factor crop up at every turn. Throughout the Civil Service efficiency is much less sought out or required than the capacity to please one's superior, and as practically everyone in the higher grades is "out for a quiet life," and for the avoidance of anything likely to disturb the even tenour of his progress to the Honours List and Retirement, the subordinate inevitably drops into the same groove. The higher you go and the nearer you get to the double goal the more natural is it that you should make a particular point of falling in with your superior's wishes. By the time, say, the Viceroy's Council is reached there is little likelihood of "a plain Mr." sticking up for the rights of his position. Suicide would be hardly more suicidal. In peace times these things, like sugar and the bread supply, pass unnoticed. Then comes the severe test of war, and is it to be wondered at that there is not a man amongst the lot to rise to the occasion?

CORSAIR.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

ITALY AND THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

SIR,—Permit me, as a Jugoslav from Dalmatia, to briefly comment upon the article, "Italy and the Balkans," by Mr. F. Bonavia.

The writer of the article in question alleges that Dalmatia has for twenty centuries been, first Roman and then Venetian, and in any case during all that time a Latin country. It is truly strange that he can make this allegation when it is contradicted by history.

Does your contributor realise that the Croatian kings ruled and were crowned in Dalmatia, and so on? Does he realise that Dalmatia always opposed armed resistance to any unrequested domination, whether Venetian, Turkish, or Magyar. Venice never possessed the whole of Dalmatia. The coast towns which were subject to the republic were eternally at war with the Venetians. That the Dalmatian towns, and above all Zadar (Zara), were not in favour of the Venetian domination is proved by the fact that they were continuously at war with the republic, and by the other fact that when Venice took part in the Crusades she engaged the Crusaders' forces in the first place to subjugate the Jugoslav Catholics in the Dalmatian towns.

When the Republic of Venice desired the people of Dalmatia to understand her laws and enactments she found herself obliged to have the latter translated into Serbo-Croatian.

It is not true to say that Dalmatia lamented the fall of the Republic of Venice; on the contrary, her people breathed more freely after shaking off the bonds of the Venetian Signoria, who used to employ the natives of Dalmatia as galley slaves. Even as Dalmatia recalls with bitterness the days of Venice, she gratefully cherishes the memory of that era when she was under the French administration. Several times in the sittings of the Dalmatian Sabor (Diet), when the Jugoslav deputies reproached the Austrians with their bad government, they have held up the French era as an example, but never the Venetian.

The few Italians who live in Dalmatia—2 per cent. of the population—are not only in no way ill-used by the Austrian Government, but rather favoured at the expense of the Jugoslavs. The only municipality in Dalmatia in Italian hands is Zadar (Zara), where the local officials, who have Italian sympathies, artificially keep the municipality in Italian hands. As proof that the Government is not hostile to the Italians, the fact may serve that the Jugoslav municipalities of Sibenik (Sebenico), Spljet (Spalato), Dubrovnik (Ragusa), etc., were dissolved and their representatives imprisoned, while the Italian municipality of Zadar (Zara) has remained scatheless under its Italian mayor.

A further proof of the Jugoslav character of Dalmatia is the fact that of the eleven representatives which Dalmatia sends to the Vienna Parliament, and which are elected on the principle of universal secret suffrage, the whole eleven are Jugoslavs. The Italian candidate for the district of Zadar (Zara), Dr. Bozitch (the very name proves him to be a Jugoslav renegade), had to speak in the Serbo-Croatian language when canvassing the electors in the immediate neighbourhood of Zadar.

The solution of the Dalmatian question and of the question of the whole Eastern shore of the Adriatic, if Italy does not want to acknowledge their Jugoslav character, can be accomplished fairly and justly, if the population itself is permitted to decide its future.

Italy, who owes her freedom and unity to the principle of nationality, should not dare to trample upon her own past. Instead of opposing the liberation and unification of the Jugoslavs and demanding Jugoslav territory; instead of copying Austria's example of *divide et impera*, she ought rather to help the Jugoslavs to achieve their liberation and unification, and to unite with them in friendship against their common enemies—the Germans. Thus she will walk in the way pointed out to her by her father, the great Mazzini.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
DR. MICHAEL MICIC,
Town Councillor of Dubrovnik (Ragusa) and Member of the Jugoslav Committee.
45, Stanhope Gardens, London, S.W.7.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WAR PICTURES.*

Among the myriad books inspired by the War, this glowing volume calls for special notice. A gallery of picturesque sketches, of brilliant not garish colour, illustrative of many and various phases of world-shattering strife, more vividly perhaps than a recital of events in ordered sequence it creates an impression of reality. The mean is judiciously preserved. While details of horrors are not too grossly accumulated, there is no suggestion that war is other than awful, soul-rending beyond the power of words. So grave, so austere, so mighty is the theme, that a style, elsewhere luxuriant, florid, flamboyant, is here appropriately vigorous and efficient. The writer has risen to the height of the great argument, and has achieved an artistic work of marked distinction.

Whether by luck or, more probably, by good management, Mr. Scott O'Connor saw an amazingly large part of the battle area on hill and plain. Wherever he went Statesmen, Generals, Subalterns did their best to make his path, if not smooth, at least practicable as well as exciting and instructive. With few exceptions, of which our Fleet and the armies of Russia are most to be regretted, our author saw the Scene of War on every front.

A very pleasant prelude gives a glimpse of classic seas and of Athens under war conditions, with a more extended view of Salonika. There Mr. Scott O'Connor saw and spoke with M. Venizelos; rode to visit outposts with General Mahon; and in an aeroplane hovered over the trenches of the Allies. We cross to Italy, and are charmed by interludes at Rome, Venice, and many a smaller town. Vicenza shall be named, if only for its salutary law imposing a fine of fifty francs on anyone found in the street during an air raid. "This fine has been more potent than the fear of death." And now we come to matter of enthralling interest, sketches of actual conflict drawn with admirable verve and vigour. In the Trentino and in the Dolomites our traveller was in the forefront of the battle, and learned to estimate at the highest value the almost superhuman efforts of the Italian Army. We quote a characteristic passage:—

"He [a young Italian officer] left upon me a vivid impression of the splendid spirit of the Italian soldiery. He claimed that no troops in the world could have done better, and that few have had to face such extraordinary difficulties and hardships as the Italian Alpini. Guns have been hauled up sheer precipices, 'far more difficult than those which you see there,' pointing to the almost vertical Dolomitic crags about Pasubio; wounded men have been sent down from almost inaccessible peaks, suspended from the telephone wire and fired at by the Austrian riflemen, as men fire at game. . . . There have been times when detachments of the Alpini have been left in the snow, in mid-winter, under a storm of Austrian shells, with only their marching kit, for three days and nights, unable to stir, while the Austrians have literally swept the snow from about them with their searching fire. They have been frost-bitten in June, and cut off from their base by violent storms in the mountains; and they have been gay and cheery and resourceful and tireless through it all, the men from Sicily and the South entering into this unique life with as much zeal and dash as the most hardened Piedmontese."

On the Western Front, kindly welcomed and sped on his hazardous course by Sir Douglas Haig himself, Mr. Scott O'Connor saw the Tanks in the first flush of their glad youth and many thrilling spisodes of battle. Let him again speak his own words:—

"We can see the white seamy lines of the trenches, the black smoke-fountains of the falling shells, the sudden flame of the guns in the brilliant sunlight, and then from time to time the receding harvest of battle, the captives and the wounded. . . .

Such was the Battle of the Somme as I saw it in the course of one eventful day. Its ultimate impression that survives is of some vast material force at work, some mighty organization—of a war of munitions, transport, apparatus; but side by side with these mechanic things, inspiring the Frankenstein monster with human passion and life, were a gallantry and valour unsurpassed—if they have ever been equalled—in the history of the world; cold and unmoved here in the second line; fierce and pitiless there in the couloirs and avenues of Death; genial and tolerant once the point of victory has been reached, the enemy beaten."

Somewhat later, but still on the Somme, occurred an incident illustrative of the risks of even the civilian observer:—

"As I stood here, absorbed in its detail, I saw approaching me, racing across the grey waste, like some footballer dashing for his goal, a small black creature, clearly visible, swaying from side to side, yet furiously intent upon its course. I dropped into the trench to the sound of a smashing explosion; a shower of mud, and a heavy fall as de G——, who had been following us, rolled over at my feet."

Perhaps the finest sections of the book are those devoted to France at war by sea and land, a noble appreciation of her splendour and resolve. The spirit of the nation, her anguish, the death-despising valour of her sons and daughters are painted with restraint but with throbbing human feeling.

A meeting with Marshal Joffre, of whom there is a life-like sketch; a visit to Toulon, with its fortifications and munition works; a voyage to Malta in a French cruiser through waters stiff with submarines, are incidents sufficiently inspiring but pale in comparison with the lurid glow of the battle front. The culmination of tragic intensity is the picture of havoc and desolation at Rheims, at Arras, at Senlis. For one sombre sketch of the Cathedral at Rheims, still in these later days the object of barbarian fury, we must find space:—

"Its rich and splendid portals are hidden behind sandbags that time and weather have turned to mildewed black; its great rose-windows, that were once the pride of the world, gape in their empty sockets like the eyes of the blind; the statues and columns on its front are shattered and twisted as if in a convulsion of pain; the knees of its Christ over the northern portal are broken. His face is torn away; its saints, apostles, and kings; its soaring towers, its vaulted roof; its centuries of toil, the willing labour of men to whom their work was like a prayer—all these, and more than these, are involved in the tragedy of destruction. A nail has been driven here into the very heart of France."

Egypt was twice visited: once early in 1916, when the writer had as fellow-passenger the great-hearted warrior Sir Pertab Singh, of whom there are delightful reminiscences, and when there still lingered relics of the forlorn attack on the Canal; a second time, a year later, when he was privileged to plunge into the desert on the way to Palestine. From El Mazar he rode to an encampment of our cavalry from beyond the seas, and was bidden to accompany their Brigadier to inspect outlying pickets:—

"We did so, and for my own part I was rather surprised that I ever got there, for this General of sixty rides with the fiery speed of a Rupert, and looks, when he is in the saddle, more like a centaur than a British officer. He carried me over those sand-hills that follow each other in long waves, mountainous upon one side, like the blade of a sword or the inside of a wave upon the other, at the rate of a whirlwind. It was an uncomfortable journey, but I found some consolation in the sight of his superb unbending figure and in the group of officers, some twenty in number, who rode beside him—colonels and aides-de-camp—their emu plumes fluttering in the breeze, the very pattern of Chivalry. Every one of these men rode with the grace of a cavalier—the southern warmth of Australia lending to the heavier British stock, from which they have sprung, the lightness and flexibility that are their special characteristic. There is, I should think, no cavalry in the world the natural equal of these splendid horsemen."

Perhaps it is ungracious to say that the section devoted to Mesopotamia, which our author saw only vicariously, might with advantage have been omitted. Though interesting in itself, it is not in keeping with the rest, and mars the composition.

We have reviewed this book at length because it seems to us to be a work of permanent interest, which may be read not once and twice with pleasure and profit. Written with unimpeachable good taste, it should realise the author's hope that it may help, if help be needed, to preserve the admirable fellowship between ourselves and our Allies, between all the peoples of the British Empire. To us it sounds a special appeal as the work of one holding a worthy place in the ranks of men at once of action and of letters who have served the State in the East.

* "The Scene of War." By V. C. Scott O'Connor (Odysseus). (Edinburgh and London: Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 5s. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

At a recent meeting at Khartoum, presided over by General Stack, the Acting Governor-General of the Sudan, it was decided "that a scientific journal be started dealing with Sudan anthropology, languages, geography, natural history, and other sciences." The journal, to be known as *Sudan Notes and Records*, will be edited by Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education, and will be published quarterly. Correspondence or subscriptions (10s. 6d. per annum) should be addressed to Mr. R. Wedd, Lands Department, Khartoum.

Mr. E. S. Thomas has now published his fourth edition of his short guide to the chief exhibits of the Cairo Museum of Antiquities. One of the idiosyncrasies of the Cairo Museum is that the situation of the exhibits is frequently changed, thus soon causing any existing guide-book to become obsolete. The fact that Mr. Thomas has been obliged to bring out four editions is an eloquent proof of the activities of the curators in this connection.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Immortal Gamble: and the Part Played in it by H.M.S. "Cornwallis." By A. T. Stewart, Acting Commander, R.N., and the Rev. C. J. E. Peshall, B.A., Chaplain, R.N. (London: A. and C. Black, Ltd. 6s. net.)

Russian Poets and Poems. Vol I. "*Classics.*" By Mme. N. Jarintzov. (Oxford: Blackwell. 10s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. July.	1917. June.		1335. Ramadan	5677. Tamuz
13	30	Friday	23	23
14	July 1	Saturday.....	24	24
15	2	Sunday	25	25
16	3	Monday	26	26
17	4	Tuesday	27	27
18	5	Wednesday	28	28
19	6	Thursday	29	29

The Earl of Bessborough has left London for Birmingham.

A total eclipse of the moon was plainly visible at Cairo on Wednesday evening of last week.

It is announced from Athens that 134 generals, colonels, and lieutenant-colonels have been relieved of their duties.

The Serbian Minister was among the diplomatic visitors to Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on Tuesday afternoon.

A telegram from Sofia states that the Dutch Minister there has been charged with the protection of Greek interests in Bulgaria.

Prince Nicholas and his family and Prince Christopher have left Greece for Italy on board the Greek Royal yacht Amphitrite.

An Athens message received through Reuter's Agency states that Captain Criezis, Naval Attaché at the Greek Legation in London, has been recalled.

According to a telegram from Amsterdam, the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* says that Prince George of Greece has arrived in Berlin and is staying at the Hotel Continental.

Earl Grey, who returned to South Street, Park Lane, on Tuesday morning from Buckhurst, Sussex, is making but slow progress towards recovery from his long illness.

La Bourse Egyptienne has ceased its Sunday issue, announcing at the time that this was the prelude to more drastic measures of economy. It has now raised its price to P.T.1, and continues to appear in its ordinary size.

Lord Basil Blackwood, Grenadier Guards, is officially reported as missing since July 3. He is the second surviving son of the first Marquess of Dufferin and Ava and of the Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava.

A mission composed of Mussulmans from Tripoli, Cyrenaica, Erythrea, and Italian Somaliland has arrived at Jeddah to study the question of the pilgrimages to the Holy Places undertaken by Mussulman subjects in the Italian colonies.

General Sarrail arrived in Athens on July 4, and was met at the station by M. Venizelos and M. Jonnart. It is understood that his visit is connected with the future co-operation of the Greek Army with the Allied troops based on Salonika.

According to the *Morning Post's* Stockholm correspondent, it is understood that the Swedish Government has received a request from the authorities at Washington to obtain particulars of the cruelties committed by the Turkish troops in Armenia and Mesopotamia.

A Greco-Entente entertainment took place at Athens on Tuesday night for the purpose of promoting the fraternization of Greek and French officers. M. Venizelos and the other members of the Cabinet, Admiral de Gueydon, and the Diplomatic body attended.

The funeral of Dr. John Stuart Campbell, who died at Jassy of a disease contracted in the practice of his profession, took place there on Friday last. It was attended by many distinguished Roumanians, and M. Duca, the Minister of Education, delivered a warm tribute to his devoted self-sacrifice.

M. Jonnart, the Allies' High Commissioner at Athens, arrived in Rome on Monday from Greece. He reached Paris on Wednesday and will take part in the forthcoming conference on Balkan affairs. During his abence from Athens M. Clausse, Counsellor of Embassy, will represent M. Jonnart and receive his instructions.

The value of the estate of Major Arthur Austen Macgregor Layard, R.E., of Victoria Road, Kensington, who took part in the actions of Hasheen and Tamai and with the Sudan Expedition in 1885, and died as the result of injuries received in a motor accident on June 5, has been returned at £20,433.

An address on "Mesopotamia and the Baghdad Railway" will be delivered to the members of the London Chamber of Commerce by Mr. F. Faithfull Begg in the Council Room of the Chamber on Monday, July 16, at 2.30 p.m. The Right Hon. Lord Desborough, K.C.V.O., President of the Chamber, will preside.

Mr. George Stokes, who recently died at Lichfield, in his seventy-fourth year, joined the Staffordshire Militia as a drummer-boy when only ten years of age, and a year afterwards was sent to Corfu and Cephalonia and served during the Crimean War. At the age of fifty-eight he went out to South Africa, and, when he returned in 1907, he had a record of over fifty-three years' continuous service

The War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John has added to its laurels by its latest achievement in Egypt. In the summary of the work done in that country it is announced that "Red Cross stores and comforts are now being delivered by aerial service. An aeroplane leaves a certain point in the Canal zone daily and carries such Red Cross comforts as fans, fly whisks, chocolate, gramophones, etc., to outlying medical units in the desert."

According to *The Times'* Athens correspondent, the journal *Hestia* states that the Government intends to undertake immediately extensive agricultural work in Macedonia. It is said that the grain and vegetable crops are expected to equal the yield in Thessaly. The Allies will probably be asked to lend prisoners of war for this purpose, as 8,000 additional labourers may be needed. As many as 900,000 acres are to be placed under cultivation. The result of this effort will naturally be of great value to the Macedonian Army.

The total subscriptions received by the Lord Mayor for the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund up to June 30 amounted to £445,000. The cost of the collection and administrative expenses are returned at 1¼ per cent. Applications are being received from disabled officers and men of the Navy and Army for the provision of hand-propelled chairs and surgical appliances. A scheme for the endowment of Kitchener scholarships is under consideration by the Council. Communications regarding the fund should be addressed to Sir Hedley Le Bas, joint hon. secretary, 34-35, Norfolk Street, London, W.C.2.

M. Joannes Gennadius has now received official confirmation from Athens of his appointment as Greek Minister under the Venizelist Government to the Court of Saint James. In December last M. Gennadius, who has represented Greece in London for many years, resigned his position on finding himself not in sympathy with the policy of ex-King Constantine's Government. Shortly afterwards the British Government decided to recognize diplomatic representatives of the National Government established at Salonika by M. Venizelos, and M. Gennadius was officially informed by the Foreign Office of his recognition as accredited representative of that Government.

The opening of a new Y.M.C.A. hut at Mürren by Lady Rumbold, wife of the British Minister at Berne, was a gala occasion for the interned British prisoners of war.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Picot, who is in charge of all the British prisoners interned in Switzerland, took the opportunity, we learn from the *Morning Post*, to give the men the latest information regarding the repatriation proposals. He said:—"A small number of men have been selected by the Swiss doctors for immediate repatriation, and they will proceed to England very shortly. This is under the old system of repatriation, which has already been replaced by a much wider scheme affecting only France and Germany at present. . . . The agreement arrived at between France and Germany applies to the following classes of interned men, the general principle followed being that the sick and wounded whose re-establishment to health is not likely to take place within one year, and whose validity has diminished by about 50 per cent., will be repatriated:—

"(1) All those who have lost one member, at least a hand or a foot; (2) all suffering from a grave infirmity which is not likely to disappear within one year, with or without operative treatment—for instance, complete or partial ankylosis or paralysis, diminishing by about three-quarters the use of a shoulder, elbow, wrist, leg, knee, or foot; (3) mutilation of the face, mouth wounds, head wounds causing epilepsy; (4) cases of wounds in the vertebral column, throat, abdomen, etc.; (5) tuberculosis where a cure in Switzerland is not likely to be useful; (6) diseases affecting respiration, the heart, digestion, and grave neurasthenia; (7) blindness; (8) deafness of certain degree; (9) mental cases; (10) malaria cases, serious; (11) kidney troubles; (12) tuberculosis (cured).

"This scheme, which is already in operation for France and Germany, has been sent, at the request of the Swiss Government, to the Home Government. The Swiss Government has asked whether his Majesty's Government will agree to the scheme, and it is probable that an answer will be received in about a fortnight. If the assent of his Majesty's Government be given, it is calculated that 15 per cent. of those now interned in this country will be repatriated. . . . Six hundred and fifty French tuberculosis cured cases have already left Switzerland for France."

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lewa C. E. G. Blunt Pasha, D.S.O., Reserve of Officers, has been granted the temporary rank of colonel whilst employed as Director of Supplies, Egyptian Army.

The Minister of Public Works has approved the promotion of Mr. Hindmarsh, Director of Works, 2nd Circle of Irrigation, to the post of Inspector of Irrigation. He will be transferred to the Sudan.

According to *Al-Mokattam*, it has been decided to appoint Mr. Bury (Inspector of Irrigation in the Sudan) Inspector of the 2nd Circle of Irrigation, in place of Mr. Bulkeley, who has been transferred to the Projects Department.

Kaimakam E. G. Rainsford-Hannay Bey, Acting Director of Military Works, has been granted leave of absence expiring on August 25, and Kaimakam T. A. Nicholas Bey, Sudan Veterinary Department, and C. R. K. Bacon Bey, Officer Commanding 15th Sudanese, have been granted leave of absence expiring on August 23.

The following Consular appointments have been made :—

Harold Eustace Satow, Esq., to be his Majesty's Consul for the Province of Thessaly, to reside at Larissa.

Clifford Edward Heathcote-Smith, Esq., to be his Majesty's Consul at Salonika.

Lieutenant Terence Vincent Brenan to be his Majesty's Vice-Consul at Birjand (Persia).

William Richard Howson, Esq., to be his Majesty's Consul for the District of Bunder Abbas up to the Khamir Boundary, the Districts of Shamilat and Minab, and the Islands of Hormuz, Larak, Kishm and Henjam, to reside at Bunder Abbas.

OBITUARY.

The death of Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency took place suddenly on the 5th inst. at Woodend, Studland, Dorset. He had succeeded his father as the fourth viscount in 1902. Formerly a captain in the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, Willoughby de Montmorency served in Burma, 1891-2 (medal with clasp), the Tirah Expedition, 1897-8 (medal with two clasps), and the Nile Expedition, 1899 (medal with clasp). In 1916 he married Mabel Augusta, Mrs. Pearson, daughter of the late C. L. Throckmorton.

The death took place at Cairo on Wednesday evening of El Lewa W. B. Drury Pasha, R.N.R., Director of Steamers, Sudan Government. Drury Pasha has been connected with the Egyptian Army since 1902, when he served in the Sudd Cutting Expedition in the Bahr El Ghazal. He was subsequently appointed Controller of Harbours and Lights, Sudan Government, at Port Sudan, which post he filled until 1913, when he was appointed to succeed Lewa E. E. Bond Pasha, C.M.G., as Director of Sudan Government Steamers.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

HENLEZ.—On Wednesday, July 4, at Haddon-Kodaikanal, South India, the wife of Commander C. B. Henlez, A.D.C., R.I.M., Port Officer, Aden, of a son.

SMITH.—On July 7, at Chinthurst Hill, Guildford, Lady Elisabeth Smith, wife of Sir Henry Babington Smith, of a daughter.

VERNON-JARVIS.—On the 13th inst., at Cairo, Itala, wife of Bimbashi Vernon-Jarvis, of a son—Eric Horace Anthony.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE.

The marriage between Major H. A. Wernher and Countess Zia de Torby will take place quietly, owing to the war, on Friday, the 20th inst., at half-past two o'clock, at the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace. The limited accommodation of the chapel only allows of near relatives and a few friends being present.

MARRIAGES.

HOLMES—DUNSFORD.—On July 4, at the British Consulate and the R.C. Church, Citadel, Cairo, Egypt, Major Maurice Gerald Holmes, A.S.C. (tempy.), son of Mr. Edmond Holmes, late Chief Inspector of Schools, and Mrs. Holmes, to Ivy, only child of Brigadier-General F. P. S. Dunsford and Mrs. Dunsford, Continental Hotel, Cairo.

NOLL—WALKER.—On June 14, at the Cathedral, Gibraltar, by the Very Reverend the Dean, Lieutenant Maurice G. Noll, R.N.V.R., only son of Eng. Captain G. W. Noll, R.N., and Mrs. Noll, of West Southbourne, to Gwendolen Edith, younger daughter of Admiral and Mrs. T. P. Walker, of 69, Prince Edward's Road, Gibraltar, and Homeleigh, Woking.

DEATH.

HADDEN.—On July 4, in Cairo, from typhoid, Eleanor Fanny (Nellie), second daughter of the late C. S. Hadden, of Rossway, Herts, aged sixty.

DIED OF WOUNDS.

SYKES.—On June 29, at a casualty clearing station, of injuries received flying June 23, Lieut. Harold Keith Sykes, Royal Fusiliers, Royal Flying Corps, dearly-loved eldest son of the late Mr. J. D. Sykes, of Woking, and Mrs. Sykes, 109, Ebury Street, S.W., and grandson of the late Patrick Keith, Esq., of London and Algiers, aged twenty-five.

SERBIAN TREASON TRIAL.

A semi-official *communiqué*, issued at Corfu on July 6, Reuter's correspondent announces, gives a number of details regarding the high treason trial for which two Serbian officers and an Austrian subject were shot on June 26 outside Salonika. The prisoners were members of a secret society called "Union or Death." It was shown that one of the objects of the society was the establishment of a purely military *régime*, and that a propaganda was carried on in the army against the policy pursued by the Crown Prince and the Serbian Government, though all the society's efforts to bring about disorders and risings failed owing to the patriotism of the army and the people. The society's programme included the removal by force of the Crown Prince and M. Pashitch, the Premier, who were described as "blindly attached to the Entente Powers."

WHERE TO STAY.

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Open all the year round.

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Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

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FRIDAY, JULY 13, 1917.

PERSIA'S PROBLEM.

All eyes in Persia at the present moment are directed towards Petrograd. Not even in Russia itself, it is safe to assume, has the revolution aroused greater hopes than it has among the inhabitants of Northern Persia. As far as they are concerned, there is no need to wait until the end of the war for putting into practice the policy of "no annexations." Russia's hold on Azerbaijan during the old régime was hardly distinguishable from annexation, and if the Provisional Government is sincere in its protestations, it will lose no time in restoring this Persian province to its rightful owners. Such, indeed, is the line of argument current throughout the north of Persia. That it should be so will evoke no surprise. In its practical application to the settlement of Europe and Asia Minor after the war the theory of "no annexations" may be susceptible of modifications that have not yet occurred to the minds of the "Maximalists" of Petrograd; but these modifications will not be applicable to Persian territory, where the principle of nationality provides only one possible solution. Some such thoughts would seem to have occurred to the Russians on the spot in Azerbaijan; for we hear of the establishment of most cordial relations between Persians and Russians, of even the fraternisation of the inhabitants with the army of occupation. Where a few years ago the Russian military authorities prohibited the holding of elections, meetings have taken place with full Russian approval to demand the restoration of the Persian Parliament, and elections may even now be in full swing. It is impossible to withhold sympathy from the Persians in the aspirations which events in Russia have naturally kindled amongst them. The hand of autocratic Russia lay heavily upon them, and often it made itself felt through the local bureaucrats more harshly than the Central Government may have intended. Any hopes founded on the association with Russia of a more liberal-minded Britain had long since been dissipated, when it was realised that the effect of the 1907 Agreement was to make Russia not only the predominant partner, but the sole dictator of any policy that might be applied in the joint name of the protecting Powers. The revolution has swept the former Russian régime away, and left in its place wonderfully vocal exponents of the principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity.

The new orientation of the Allies' war views which is understood to have been called for by Russia will, we may hope, enable the British and Russian Governments to revise their Persian policy. The lines that we should like to see that policy follow have frequently been set forth in the pages of THE NEAR EAST. They may not conform entirely with the views that are now prevalent in Persia, where probably the sudden swing of the pendulum has disturbed the popular balance almost as violently as it has done in Russia. Public attention will at once be centred on the Mejliss, and it will seem as if only the reintroduction of a full democratic Constitution was required to bring the millennium to Persia. The real friends of the country will feel compelled to utter a warning against this optimistic view. By all means let the Persians enjoy free institutions and be allowed to work out their own salvation; but they will reach more quickly the goal at which they are aiming, if they make up their minds to hasten slowly. Democracy, as General Smuts has reminded the Russians, means work. In Persia's case, in particular, there is a considerable amount of hard work in store before the country can win through—so much work, indeed, that it may even be doubtful whether the more enlightened Persians, who will be required to put their shoulders to the wheel, will have any time for talk in the Mejliss. Successful government, under whatever name it passes, rests upon two indispensable foundations—order and finance. At the present moment the Persians are quite unable of themselves to supply either of these essentials; consequently, if the State edifice is to be constructed entirely by Persian hands, it will either be without foundations, or it will rest insecurely on a base with which it has no real connection. For this reason we should prefer to see Persia still looking, of her own accord and more trustfully than hitherto, to the protecting Powers for guidance and material help in the work before her. She will do no good by refusing to face facts. These, in so far as she is concerned, are that, for one reason or another, the country has for a long time been given over to disorder and lawlessness; the exchequer is empty, and past experience does not afford her any confidence that she has ready to hand a supply of officials capable, without supervision, of administering the country on sound and honest lines.

In common with the Persian Liberals we hope that the Russian revolution will effect a great change in Persia's fortunes. Certainly the time has come for Great Britain to free herself from the strange subservience which for so many years prompted her to acquiesce in the application to the Persians of a policy distasteful to her and contrary to her traditions. In winning Russian approval now for a more liberal attitude towards Persian affairs the British Government will be pushing at an open door; but it must have ready a cut-and-dried policy, and be prepared to commend it with conviction to the approval of the Russian Government. The Persians will naturally be a party to any new arrangement. Complete unanimity between the three countries ought not to be difficult to attain, if the Persian Government bears in mind that it is dependent on Great Britain and Russia both for the maintenance of law and order in the land, and for the replenishing of the exchequer. How far Persia has yet to travel before she can stand alone is proved by General Sir Percy Sykes's experience in the formation of the new gendarmerie. It was not merely the extension of the European war to Persia that was responsible for the condition of things which he was called upon to remedy. German intrigue had enveloped the land, and hostility to Russia supplied a fruitful field for the machinations of German agents; but at the root of all the trouble lay the age-long absence of any real control over the country by the Teheran Government. Before the latter can hope to exercise its functions adequately it must allow a disposition towards law and order to be inculcated by the agency of a gendarmerie and militia under foreign organisation, and it must pass through a long course of instruction in the science of financial administration. Until Persia is opened up by means of more adequate communications the efforts of the Teheran Government will be largely stultified. Foreign enterprise will be needed to achieve this end, and it will need a fairly free hand. Persian patriots, therefore,, while urging their country's claims for generous and sympathetic treatment, will do well to remember the limitations under which they start on the laborious task of building up an independent State. What is most required is real hard work, and anyone who will contribute this, be he Persian, British, or Russian, is likely to do the country more good than those who only contribute words to the solving of Persia's national problem.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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ITALY AND THE BALKANS.*

THE PROBLEM OF DALMATIA.—II.

The latest Austrian statistics give an overwhelming majority of Slavs in Dalmatia. The Slavs themselves are not satisfied with this majority, and maintain that the statistics favour the Italians. The electoral returns seem to show that, far from being favoured, the Italians in Dalmatia have been under-estimated by two-thirds. But if the policy of persecution, of intimidation, and violence pursued by Austria during the last fifty years is not to be allowed to obtain its object, if the great democracies of the world are not to let crime go unpunished, it will be necessary to consider not the statistics of to-day alone, but the statistics of the last fifty years, and to inquire very carefully into the astonishing changes which have taken place. Even in 1880 all the municipalities of the largest Dalmatian cities were Italian. To-day the capital alone—Zara—has an Italian corporation. Even Ragusa had until the turn of the century a municipality which consisted half of Italian and half of Serbian representatives. Now Ragusa, like Spalato since 1883, like Sebenico and Trau, is entirely in the hands of the Croats. In the Dalmatian Diet of 1861 the Italian party had thirty members against thirteen more recently. When the Venetian Republic fell the Dalmatian cities showed in unmistakable manner their attachment to the State which had carried on the traditions of Rome extending over a period of twenty centuries. What has happened in the last fifty years to change the national character of the province? Simply this: the Austrians, to justify their possession in the face of Europe, which demanded a national base for the State, decided upon a crusade to denationalise the whole of the Italian provinces, a crusade which sometimes was childish and futile, as when the Austrian authorities cut a Venetian lion from one of the city walls of Monfalcone, but more often was bloody and violent.

The notion originated with Radetzky. But it was not adopted at once, for Austria had still hopes of recovering Venice and possibly the Milanese, in which case there would have been one more nationality to steady the political balance of the empire. When the statesmen of Vienna realised that Italy was more likely to claim what belonged to her by right than to lose a part of what she held, they embarked on their new policy, which is the exact counterpart of the policy carried on by Germany in Alsace-Lorraine and attempted in a necessarily modified form in Belgium since the occupation. Europe demanded that the people should choose their government. Austria and Germany—autocracies—undertook to provide the kind of people that would be faithful to them. The experiment has not been altogether successful in Dalmatia, for part of the Slavs now demand separation. But the Croatian Slav is still one of the mainstays of the monarchy, and in the meantime the Italians were sacrificed.

How Austria respected the wishes and aspirations of her people is shown by the manner in which the elections for the Diet were carried on in Dalmatia. The preparation consisted in a series of acts of brutal violence to intimidate the Italian electors. Flourishing vineyards were destroyed, trees cut down, fields ready for the harvesters trampled upon, electors shot at and stoned. The electoral commission worked protected by the soldiers' bayonets. One of the Austrian officials, unaware that a Croatian victory had been ordered from Vienna, reprimanded the authors of some gross fraud. He was immediately suspended, and the campaign was carried on with greater violence, with contemptuous disregard of all equity and justice. When it became apparent that the victory would go to the Italians unless new subterfuges were resorted to, the Slav electors were recalled and made to impersonate voters long dead. The Italians discovered the fraud, and obtained and produced death certificates; the commission refused to listen to them. But victory still hung in the balance. The special Viennese envoy had to resort to open violence. He began by teaching the Slav from the country to make the road dangerous for the Italian electors. He ended by ordering or countenancing a charge of two battalions of Tyrolese chasseurs to disperse a few hundred Italians who were waiting their turn to enter the polling booth. Is it surprising if the result gave a Diet in which the number of the Italian representatives fell from thirty to thirteen? Nor was the method adopted to win over the municipal government essentially different. When Spalato passed over to the Croatians in 1883 a couple of warships kept their guns trained on the town, while patrols of soldiers and sailors prevented Italian electors from reaching the voting stations. Italian votes were cancelled, clocks were tampered with to hasten or suspend the closing hour as the election seemed to go in favour of or against the Croatian party. The Austrian "prefect" ordered all the Government employees to vote for the Croatians, and the Slav bishop issued a similar command to his dependents. Thus gradually all the civic government fell into the hands of the protégés of the Austrians. A few years ago the islands of Brazza, Lissa, Werbosca, in Lesina, still held out. To-day the capital —Zara—stands alone.

To capture the municipal government was essential to the success of the Austrian plan. The municipality alone is sufficiently powerful to protect the city and the surrounding district from the attacks of the government party. To drive away or convert forcibly the Italians, it was necessary to control schools and churches. This could not be done as long as the town authorities had the means to open new schools and the power to protest against a political campaign carried on from the pulpit. When the control of the city government was secured church and schools were used with unparalleled unscrupulousness to sow hatred and distrust of all Italians. There are cases on record where the Croatian priests (the bishops of Trieste and Veglia are Slavs) have refused to administer baptism and the last sacraments of the Church to Italians because they were Italians. A funeral procession was refused admittance to church, and denied permission to enter the cemetery for the same reason. A few years ago the Bishop of Veglia, Monsignor Mahnic, issued an order that religion was to be taught in all the Quarnero Croatian islands irrespective of the nationality of the students and of their inability to understand the language. But the schools' council had still some power over which the Government's hand did not stretch, and it exercised it by substituting for the priests lay teachers able and willing to teach religion in the only tongue the pupils spoke and understood. At the close of the scholastic year the bishop retorted by excommunicating both teachers and council, a procedure which the Crotian clerical paper, *Pucki Prigateli*, described as an excellent manœuvre. Another teacher was arrested and tried because he happened to use Latin instead of Croatian when singing the "Tantum ergo." When a religious body from Slav Zagabria asked permission to open a school at Pola, the authorisation was granted immediately, but the friars of Pirano, when they made a similar request, received a sharp denial, because they were of Italian nationality. Such examples could be multiplied indefinitely, but enough has been said, perhaps, to prove at least that the power which inspired this policy of extermination against the Italians of the Irredenta is hardly likely to have "cooked" the statistics in order to favour the Italians at the expense of the Slavs. The Italians of Dalmatia, says Gayda, contributed 30 per cent. of the provincial taxes in 1911, yet the Budget did not give them a single school in which their children could receive their education in the language of their fathers. The Austrian Minister of Education, after many petitions, acknowledged in 1886 that "the conditions required by the law for the institution of an Italian school at Spalato exist without doubt," and the Imperial tribunal confirmed the Government's statement, and yet the school was not established.

F. BONAVIA.

(To be continued.)

* The first of these articles, in which the writer states the Italian case regarding the future of Dalmatia, appeared in THE NEAR EAST of July 6.

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THE MESOPOTAMIA CAMPAIGN.

DESPATCH FROM SIR STANLEY MAUDE.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* issued on July 10 contains a despatch from Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude, Commander-in-Chief, Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force, describing the operations carried out by him in the period extending from August 28, 1916, when he assumed command, until March 31 last, three weeks after the fall of Baghdad.

The enemy's plan appeared to be to contain our main forces on the Tigris whilst a vigorous campaign, which would directly threaten India, was being developed in Persia. There were indications, too, of an impending move down the Euphrates, towards Nasariyeh. To disseminate our troops in order to safeguard the various conflicting interests involved would have relegated us to a passive defensive everywhere, and it seemed clear from the outset that the true solution of the problem was a resolute offensive, with concentrated forces on the Tigris, thus effectively threatening Baghdad, the centre from which the enemy's columns were operating. Such a stroke pursued with energy and success would, it was felt, automatically relieve the pressure in Persia and on the Euphrates, and preserve quiet in all districts with the security of which we were charged.

That was the principle which guided the subsequent operations, which are grouped into eight phases :—

(1) Preliminary preparations, from August 28 to December 12.

(2) The consolidation of our position on the Hai, from December 13 to January 4.

(3) The operations in the Khadairi Bend, from January 5 to 19.

(4) The operations against the Hai salient, from January 20 to February 5.

(5) The operations in the Dahra Bend, from February 6 to 16.

(6) The capture of Sanna-i-yat and passage of the Tigris, from February 17 to 24.

(7) The advance on Baghdad, from February 25 to March 11.

(8) The operations subsequent to the fall of Baghdad, from March 12 to 31.

Before active operations could be undertaken, however, with reasonable prospect of success, a vast amount of preliminary preparations had to be carried through. By the end of November these preliminary preparations were well advanced. A steady stream of reinforcements had been moving up the Tigris for some weeks, and drafts were joining their units, making good the wastage of the summer. The troops had shaken off the ill-effects of the hot weather, and their war training had improved. Stores, ammunition, and supplies were accumulating rapidly at the front, communications were assured, and it seemed clear that it was only a matter of days before offensive operations could be justifiably undertaken. Training camps which had been formed at Amarah were broken up, and the general concentration upstream of Sheikh Sa'ad was completed.

It was decided, first, to secure possession of Hai ; secondly, to clear the Turkish trench systems still remaining on the right bank of the Tigris ; thirdly, to sap the enemy's strength by constant attacks, and give him no rest ; fourthly, to compel him to give up the Sanna-i-yat position, or in default of that to extend his attenuated forces more and more to counter our strokes against his communications ; and, lastly, to cross the Tigris at the weakest part of his line as far west as possible, and so sever his communications. In carrying out this programme our extended line offered good opportunities for making successful feints to cover our real intention.

Resumption of Operations.

The despatch details the operations for the consolidation of our position on the Hai, by which we (a) secured a position whence we could control that waterway and directly threaten the enemy's communications west of Shumran ; (b) rendered Nasariyeh safe against a hostile movement from the Tigris down the Hai ; (c) increased the possibility of obtaining supplies from the prosperous districts on the middle Hai, and rendered it correspondingly difficult for the enemy to supply himself from there ; (d) interposed between the Turks and their adherents at Shattra.

The next operation was to clear the Khadairi bend, which was a menace to our communications with the Hai. This was accomplished by Lieut.-General Cobbe by January 19.

Lieut.-General Marshall then took a hand in the reduction of the Hai salient, the extensive trench system which the Turks held astride the Hai River, near its junction with the Tigris. The operations lasted from January 20 to February 5, and were successfully concluded. During this period the splendid fighting qualities of the infantry were well seconded by the bold support rendered by the artillery, and by the ceaseless work carried out by the Royal Flying Corps.

The clearing of the Dahra bend followed, from February 6 to 16. It was brilliantly carried out, after severe fighting, and thousands of prisoners were captured. The enemy (General Maude continues) had now, after two months of strenuous fighting, been driven entirely from the right bank of the Tigris in the neighbourhood of Kut. He still held, however, a very strong position defensively, in that it was protected from Sanna-i-yat to Shumran by the Tigris, which also afforded security to his communications running along the left bank of that river. The successive lines at Sanna-i-yat, which had been consistently strengthened for nearly a year, barred the way on a narrow front to an advance on our part along the left bank, whilst north of Sanna-i-yat the Suwaikieh Marsh and the Marsh of Jessan rendered the Turks immune from attack from the north. On the other hand, we had, by the application of constant pressure to the vicinity of Shumran, where the enemy's battle line and communications met, compelled him so to weaken and expand his front that his attenuated forces were found to present vulnerable points, if these could be ascertained. The moment then seemed ripe to cross the river and commence conclusions with the enemy on the left bank. To effect this it was important that his attention should be engaged about Sanna-i-yat and along the river line between Sanna-i-yat and Kut, whilst the main stroke was being prepared and delivered as far west as possible.

The capture of Sanna-i-yat position, which the Turks believed to be impregnable, is fully described in the despatch. It was accomplished after a fierce struggle, in which our infantry, closely supported by our artillery, displayed great gallantry and endurance against a brave and determined enemy.

The Advance on Baghdad.

Then began, on February 25, the pursuit of the Turks which resulted in the occupation of Baghdad on March 11. Early in the morning of February 25, the cavalry and Lieutenant-General Marshall's force moved north-west in pursuit of the enemy, whose rearguards had retired in the night. The gunboats also proceeded up-stream. Our troops came in contact with the enemy about eight miles from Shumran, and drove him back, in spite of stubborn resistance, to his main position two miles further west, where the Turks, strong in artillery, were disposed in trenches and nalas. After a severe fight, our infantry gained a footing in the enemy's position and took about 400 prisoners. The cavalry on the northern flank had been checked by entrenched infantry, and were unable to envelop the Turkish rearguard. The Royal Navy on our left flank co-operated with excellent effect in the bombardment of the enemy's position during the day. On the 26th one column, following the bend of the river, advanced to force any position which the enemy might be holding on the left bank of the Tigris, whilst another column of all arms marched direct to the Sumar bend in order to intercept him. His retreat proved, however, to be too rapid. Stripping themselves of guns and other encumbrances, the Turks just evaded our troops, who had made a forced march across some eighteen miles of arid plain. Our cavalry came up with the enemy's rear parties and shelled his rearguard, entrenched near Nahr Kellak.

The pursuit was taken up by the gunboat flotilla, which, proceeding upstream full speed ahead, came under very heavy fire at the closest range from guns, machine-guns, and rifles. In spite of casualties and damage to the vessels the flotilla held on its course past the rearguard position, and did considerable execution among the enemy's retreating columns. Further upstream many of the enemy's craft were struggling to get away, and the Royal Navy pressed forward in pursuit, capturing in turn the armed tug "Sumana," the Turkish steamer "Basra," full of troops and wounded, H.M.S. "Firefly," which had been taken from us during the retreat from Ctesiphon in 1915, and the "Pioneer." Our gunboats were in touch with and shelled the retreating enemy during most of the 27th, and his retirement was harassed by the cavalry until after dark, when his troops were streaming through Aziziyeh in great confusion.

The pursuit was broken off at Aziziyeh (fifty miles from Kut and half-way to Baghdad), where the gunboats, cavalry, and Lieutenant-General Marshall's infantry were concentrated during the pause necessary to reorganise our extended line of communication preparatory to a further advance. Lieutenant-General Cobbe's force closed to the front, clearing the battlefields and protecting the line of march. Immense quantities of equipment, ammunition, rifles, vehicles, and stores of all kinds lay scattered through-

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out the eighty miles over which the enemy had retreated under pressure, and marauders on looting intent did not hesitate to attack small parties who stood in their way.

On March 5 the supply situation having been rapidly readjusted, Lieut.-General Marshall marched to Zeur (eighteen miles), preceded by the cavalry, which moved seven miles further to Lajj. Here the Turkish rearguard was found in an entrenched position, very difficult to locate by reason of a dense dust storm that was blowing and of a network of nalas, with which the country is intersected. The cavalry was hotly engaged with the enemy in this locality throughout the day, and took some prisoners. The enemy retreated during the night. The dust storm continued on the 6th, when the cavalry, carrying out some useful reconnaissances, got within three miles of the Dialah river, and picked up some prisoners. The Ctesiphon position, strongly entrenched, was found unoccupied. Lieut.-General Marshall followed the cavalry to Bustan (seventeen miles), and the head of Lieut.-General Cobbe's column reached Zeur. On the 7th our advanced guard came in contact with the enemy on the line of the Dialah river, which joins the Tigris on its left bank, about eight miles below Baghdad. As the ground was absolutely flat and devoid of cover it was decided to make no further advance till after sunset. Our gunboats and artillery, however, came into action against the hostile guns.

General Maude then tells the story of the Dialah fight and the crossing of the Tigris, with which will ever be associated the heroic stand of a company of the Loyal North Lancashires on the right bank of the Dialah.

On the 8th a bridge was constructed across the Tigris, half a mile below Bawi, and the cavalry, followed by a portion of Lieut.-General Cobbe's force, crossed to the right bank in order to drive the enemy from positions which our aeroplanes reported that he had occupied about Shawa Khan, and north-west of that place, covering Baghdad from the south and south-west. During the forenoon of the 9th Shawa Khan was occupied without much opposition, and aeroplanes reported another position one and a-half miles to the north-west, and some six miles south of Baghdad, as strongly held.

On the morning of the 10th our troops were again engaged with the Turkish rearguard within three miles of Baghdad, and our cavalry patrols reached a point two miles west of Baghdad railway station, where they were checked by the enemy's fire. A gale and blinding dust storm limited vision to a few yards, and under these conditions reconnaissance and co-ordination of movements became difficult. The dry wind and dust and the absence of water away from the river added greatly to the discomfort of the troops and animals. About midnight patrols reported the enemy to be retiring. The dust storm was still raging, but following the Decauville railway as a guide our troops occupied Baghdad railway station at 5.55 a.m., and it was ascertained that the enemy on the right bank had retired upstream of Baghdad. Troops detailed in advance occupied the city, and the cavalry moved on Kadhimain, some four miles north-west of Baghdad, where they secured some prisoners.

On the left bank of the Tigris Lieut.-General Marshall had, during the 9th, elaborated preparations for forcing the passage of the Dialah. At 4 a.m., on the 10th, the crossing began at two points a mile apart, and met with considerable opposition, but by 7 a.m. the East Lancashires and Wiltshires were across and had linked up with the detachment of the Loyal North Lancashires, which had so heroically held its ground there. Motor lighters carrying infantry to attack the enemy's right flank above the mouth of the Dialah grounded lower down the river, and took no part in the operation. The bridge across the Dialah was completed by noon, and our troops, pushing steadily on, drove the enemy from the riverside villages of Saidah, Dibaiyi, and Qararah —the latter strongly defended with machine-guns—and finally placed the enemy's last position covering Baghdad along the Tel Muhammad Ridge. During the night of the 10th-11th close touch with the enemy was maintained by patrols, and at 1.30 a.m. on the 11th it was reported that the Turks were retiring. The Tel Muhammad position was at once occupied, and patrols pushed beyond it, but contact with the enemy was lost in the dust storm.

Early on the 11th Lieut.-General Marshall advanced rapidly on Baghdad and entered the city amid manifestations of satisfaction on the part of the inhabitants. A state of anarchy had existed for some hours, Kurds and Arabs looting the bazaars and setting fire indiscriminately at various points. Infantry guards provided for in advance were, however, soon on the spot, order was restored without difficulty, and the British flag hoisted over the city. In the afternoon the gunboat flotilla, proceeding upstream in line ahead formation, anchored off the British Residency, and the two forces under Lieut.-Generals Marshall and Cobbe provided for the security of the approaches to the city, being disposed one on either bank of the river.

The nature of the operations, General Maude adds, has been as varied as it has been complex, and the training of the troops has been tested, first in the fierce hand-to-hand fighting in trench warfare round Kut and Sanna-i-yat, and later in the more open battles which characterized the operations in the Dahra bend, the passage of the Tigris, the advance on Baghdad, and the subsequent actions. From this ordeal they have emerged with a proud record, and have dealt the enemy a series of stinging blows, the full significance of which will not be easily effaced. British and Indian troops, working side by side, have vied with each other in their efforts to close with the enemy, and all ranks have been imbued throughout with that offensive spirit which is the soldier's finest jewel. The operations have involved long hours and strenuous work, as well as great responsibilities, for commanders and their staffs, but by sheer hard work and a determination to succeed they have risen superior to every obstacle and compelled success.

The despatch closes with the following tributes to the services of Sir Stanley Maude's chief assistants :—

Lieut.-General W. R. Marshall has commanded his troops with determination and judgment. His quiet, imperturbable manner, his coolness and decision, inspire confidence among his subordinates, whilst his bold methods and intelligent appreciation and rapid execution of orders have been of the greatest value.

Lieut.-General A. S. Cobbe has commanded with marked ability. Always methodical and thorough in his plans, he brings to bear upon their execution a complete knowledge of the details of his profession. These qualities, added to a thorough grasp of the possibilities and limitations of the various arms, have enabled him to make the most of his opportunities wherever severe fighting has been involved.

Major-General A. W. Money, Chief of the General Staff, has carried out his responsible duties most competently. He has not spared himself in giving me every assistance, and his knowledge of Indian, and, indeed, Eastern, conditions has frequently been of great value to me.

Of Major-General G. F. MacMunn, Inspector-General of Communications, it is not too much to say that his responsibilities have been immense. The repeated calls made on him by me during these protracted operations have never once failed to elicit a satisfactory response, and the thoroughness and elasticity of his organization was never better exemplified than in the efficiency maintained on the lines of communication during the rapid advance on Baghdad, and subsequent to our arrival at that city. Optimistic by nature, he readily brushes aside obstacles, whether imaginary or real.

This despatch would not be complete without a reference to the valuable services rendered to the Army by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Percy Cox and the political officers working under his direction. His advice has been invaluable to me on many occasions, and the tranquil state of the country from Baghdad to Basra at the present time is in itself an additional testimony to his already well-established reputation.

THE ANGLO-HELLENIC LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League was held on July 5 at King's College, London, Dr. Pember Reeves presiding. In the course of his remarks the chairman said that he did not think a league founded to promote good feeling between Greece and England could have found itself in a more awkward plight than the Anglo-Hellenic League did between May, 1916, and May, 1917. But the sky had now cleared. Now that there was no sinister influence between the Greek people and Venizelos, they would trust him and give him the support he wanted. The statesmen of the Entente should have the same trust and confidence. They should not only trust Venizelos to act wisely when acting on his own responsibility, but they should condescend to ask his advice on matters relating to the Balkans, and even go so far as sometimes to take it. As to Epirus, while the situation was not free from anxiety, he (Dr. Reeves) was personally hopeful.

Mr. R. J. McNeill, M.P., moved a resolution expressing satisfaction at the present turn of events, and congratulating M. Venizelos on his services to Greece. Speaking of the part being played by Italy in current affairs, he said that he hoped that country's statesmen would remember the pronouncement made more than half a century ago by Mazzini: "The map of Europe is to redraw. New nationalities prepare everywhere to form. Poland will revive. Greece will outstrip her existing boundaries to incorporate those countries kindred in language and belief. Italy and the Southern Slavs will cause the Empire of Austria to vanish." (Applause.) When the time came for the assembling of the congress which must be held before peace could be re-established, Venizelos would of right have a seat at the council table, where his penetration, judgment, patriotism, and wisdom would be of infinite assistance.

Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., seconded the resolution.

Dr. Burrows said it was delightful to see Monsieur and Madame Jovanovitch present. (Applause.) They would know from the cheers that there was nothing that gave more delight to Greeks and friends of Greeks than the revival of the alliance with Serbia. (Renewed applause.)

The resolution was carried.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

M. Venizelos in Athens.

It is a dramatic situation, says Mr. Ronald M. Burrows in *The New Europe*, that Venizelos should be addressing mass meetings where only six months ago the Anathema Service judged him traitor. Mr. Burrows, who has unrivalled sources of information, suggests that Venizelos did not advise his own immediate recall, but that the actual crisis in Greece was brought about by the Allies without consulting him. He continues:—

Fortunately, it can be stated with authority that, once King Alexander was placed on the Throne, the Protecting Powers decided henceforward to ask Venizelos's advice, and to take it. Lesser men would have waited. The danger of open opposition and secret plot, the fact that the moderate element in the Royalist Party has not yet declared its attitude to the new *régime*—all such pleas would have been valid. But he has brushed them aside as irrelevant, in comparison with the one dominant necessity of showing his trust in the Greek people.

Mesopotamia.

The Report of the Mesopotamia Commission, scathing enough itself, has let loose a flood of yet more scathing language in the Press as a whole. Feeling is running almost as high as it does in the East End of London after an air raid. It may be that the idea is that unless strictures are more outspoken than usual, nothing will be done to give effect to the Commission's recommendations. This is how the *Morning Post* returns to the charge:—

It seems to us that our Royal Commissions nowadays are like school laboratories: they make stinks, but lead to no practical result. We have never heard that any action has been taken upon the report of the Dardanelles Commission, although its terms of condemnation were definite and strong. Then there is the report of the Mesopotamia Commission. Like the other, it was prepared by men of whose fairness and competence there is no question. They were duly appointed, duly heard evidence, and duly reported, and their report is the severest possible condemnation of certain people in authority. Will anything be done? Mr. Rudyard Kipling, who has the divine gift of expressing what the manhood of the Empire feels, writes with bitter scorn of the survival and advancement of those whose incompetence sent brave men to their death. His nausea reminds us of an even greater poet's cry for "restful death" as a refuge from "gilded honour shamefully misplaced," and "strength by limping sway disabled." It is indeed a thought which almost induces physical sickness, that while our soldiers, who brave death in its most dreadful forms and all the hardships, privations, and sufferings of war, should be broken for a single mistake, the politicians and officials whose blunders and follies—we might almost say crimes—are responsible for the death of thousands, are "trimmed in jollity" and loaded with honours.

The same day, however, Mr. Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons that the Report had been considered by Government legal officers, and a judicial inquiry into the conduct of those impugned was held to be necessary in the interests of justice and of the persons themselves.

In the poem to which the *Morning Post* refers, appearing in its pages the same day, Mr. Rudyard Kipling writes:—

Our dead shall not return to us while day and night divide—
Never while the bars of sunset hold.
But the idle-minded overlings who quibbled while they died,
Shall they thrust for high employments as of old?

Shall we only threaten and be angry for an hour?
When the storm is ended shall we find
How softly, but how swiftly, they have sidled back to power
By the favour and contrivance of their kind?

Swiss Doctors in Roumania.

The German authorities in the occupied territories of Roumania have put difficulties in the way of the Swiss returning to Switzerland.

We know (says *Le Journal de Génève*) that certain Swiss who asked to be able to leave Roumania during the early days of the German occupation still await this authorisation. Dr. Alfred Matthey, who left Switzerland to give medical aid to the Roumanian armies, and who desired to await the German troops at Bucharest in order to continue his work at the hospital of which he had the direction, is still detained by the Germans. He has made repeated demands to leave the country in order to give his services, according to his engagement, to the Roumanian forces in Moldavia, to which place he would travel *viâ* Switzerland and Russia. This was strictly his right, according to the terms of the Geneva Convention. Other compatriots of ours have obtained passports only at the end of several months, whilst others, in fairly large numbers, are still kept in Roumania, in spite of their pressing representations, to which the German officials do not even deign to reply. This is a violation of all international usages and an unqualified abuse. We know that our Government is occupied with this matter, and we hope that it will be with the energy desired. It is inadmissible that pacific Swiss subjects should be thus treated by German officials, and sometimes even with less regard than enemy belligerents. Since the departure of the Roumanian Government, our compatriots at Bucharest find themselves without any protection, and left to the arbitrariness of the army of invasion.

Articles to Note.

"Roumania's Choice," by Madame Take Jonescu, in the *New Europe*.

"Djemal Pasha," by Mr. I. Ben Zevie, in the *American Jewish Chronicle*, quoted by *Palestine*.

SALIF FORT.

The recent capture of the Fort of Salif recalls to the writer a visit paid to that locality a few years ago, and a little description of the place may be of interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST.

The fort itself, a not very imposing structure of mud and bricks, stands on an elevation at the back of the village and salt works at Salif, about half a mile from the sea, and commands the narrow neck of land which joins the promontory of Salif to the mainland of the Tahama. The fort was built to protect Salif and the salt works from raids by hostile Arabs, and the garrison, nominally 100 rank and file, was placed there at the request of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt.

On the occasion of my stay at Salif during the Turco-Italian war, I paid a visit to the fort and photographed such of the garrison as happened to be awake—three privates, who, with childlike simplicity, wanted to see the finished photograph the moment after the button had been pressed. The life of the troops stationed there was monotonous and uninteresting in the extreme, and doubtless the now captured garrison is enjoying the change of scene and surroundings.

The fort had been attacked by an Italian gunboat a few weeks before my arrival, but on this occasion the attacker had been satisfied with firing a dozen or so rounds, few of which took effect, and nobody was hurt.

Bristol, July, 1917. F.R.G.S.

MOSLEM INTEREST IN PALESTINE.

Speaking at a meeting of the Central Islamic Society, held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, last Saturday, Mr. M. Pickthall said that Palestine was a holy land alike for Christians, Jews and Moslems. Followers of all these religions visited it in pilgrimage and formed part of its permanent population. This would not have been the case had it been ruled for the past 1,300 years by Christians or Jews. When conquered by Moslems its population was entirely Christian; a large Christian population remained after the conquest and continued until to-day. The native Jews now found in the country were the descendants of those who at various times in the past had fled for a refuge to the Moslem empire for protection from the cruel persecutions they had endured in Christian Europe. When the Crusaders conquered Palestine and ruled it for a time, they were far from showing the same tolerance as had been shown by the Moslems. He had known Palestine and the adjacent country fairly intimately for 23 years, and would regard it as a world disaster, if the country were taken from Moslem government. Must even the Holy Land be exploited by the profiteer? Must picture palaces and cafés chantants be established in Jerusalem? The Moslems had preserved Jerusalem as a holy city and Palestine as a holy country with proper reverence.

Of the Zionist immigrants, Mr. Pickthall said they were marked by an extreme and narrow fanaticism, a fact which was hardly realised by their enlightened co-religionists in Europe. They hated Christians and they hated Moslems. Their supremacy would mean oppression for the other elements of the population. Most of the Jews of Europe had abandoned their narrow racial and religious standpoint and had adopted that of a wider humanity, but not so those of the Zionist colonies in Palestine; and if Jews wished to be shamed in the sight of the world, let them have an independent Jewish state in Palestine at this stage of their development. The Moslems did not hate Jews or Christians as such, and had always tolerated those religions in their country. The Zionist immigrants would have realised their welcome in the Moslem empire, and could have realised the scheme in all essentials, if the wirepullers of that scheme would have allowed them to become Ottoman subjects. But the Turkish Government had naturally objected to the importation of hundreds of thousands of Russian, German, Austrian, and other subjects as an evident pretext for interference with the internal affairs of the province, and with the avowed object of eventually detaching the province from the Moslem empire. People always said that the Moslem empire was very badly governed, and of late years there might be something in the criticism; but on the other hand, he knew of no religion in the world where so much progress had been made in the last quarter of a century. A friend of his, a man of sixty, had told him that when a little boy, he lived in a house on the wall of Jerusalem; and that he and a neighbour's boy, for fun, used to let themselves down outside the wall in their nightshirts and see how far they could run without meeting a robber. They seldom had to run more than 500 yards. To-day such a state of things seemed nearly as remote to the inhabitants of Jerusalem as did that of highwaymen to the modern resident on Hounslow Heath.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The attempts which M. Jonnart, the High Commissioner of the Protecting Powers in Greece, is to make in London and Paris to strengthen the financial position of Greece will be followed with interest so far as they may be laid open to public view. M. Jonnart, however, will probably do most of his work in this direction with the appropriate Government departments, and the results of his endeavours will be seen in improved conditions in the country he is to befriend rather than in the newspapers. Even so, the commercial world will be benefited by any relief which may thus be afforded, and all will wish this energetic and capable Frenchman success in his mission.

***

M. Jonnart's endeavour is to embrace a wide scope, judging from what he told the Athens correspondent of *The Times* in an interview before he left Athens. "I am returning to France," he said, "where I shall take part in a forthcoming conference to discuss various questions of loans and other matters concerning Greece. She has suffered so much from the blockade and from the fictitious finance of the old régime that she is in pressing need of generous monetary aid. Nor is it merely a question of money, which I trust England and France will provide, but of capable organisers and business men to take a personal hand in the re-establishment of her position and the development of her largely untapped resources."

***

I should like to invite the attention of British firms to the series of special articles appearing in THE NEAR EAST, written by our correspondent in Cairo. It will be seen that Britons have failed to realise all the opportunities which have been presented by the elimination of enemy firms in Egypt, and that there is a danger that a considerable volume of business will pass into non-British hands. This danger has been emphasised in these Notes before, and it seems a pity that all the efforts made by the officials out yonder should go for nought. The cotton industry is the most important question involved, of course; but there are other lines of activity which call for enterprising men.

***

Notes published in recent issues of the "Daily Consular and Trade Reports," circulated by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce at Washington, indicate a revival of industry in some Balkan countries. For example, we are told that "a firm in Roumania wishes to be placed in communication with American manufacturers and exporters of precision instruments for physical appliances, optical instruments, general supplies for railroads, especially rolling stock, general supplies for the petroleum industry and viticulture, construction materials, and equipment for hospitals." In Greece, too, there would seem to be openings. "A commission merchant," it is reported, "is in the market for brass and galvanised wire, Paris gauge from No. 1 to 20, and annealed iron wire (burnt), Paris gauge from No. 12 and 13." Quotations, it is observed, should be made f.o.b. New York, and payment will be made by cash against documents. Correspondence should be in French. Does this not suggest that it is time for our own people to become busy?

***

Another branch of trade which United States Consuls in Greece are introducing to their manufacturers is footwear. The Consul at Athens wrote recently that "there is an exceedingly good market in Salonika at the present time for boots and shoes and rubber overshoes. Stocks now are greatly depleted, owing to the difficulties in the way of importation. The greatest demand in shoes for men and women is in black, coloured, and varnished box calf. It is essential that they be of light weight, as import duties under the Greek Customs tariff of 1914 are assessed according to weight." Valuable information regarding duty, prices and terms follow. And altogether, it is to be observed, that the interests of the "trade" are being pretty well cared for.

***

The management of the Bank of British West Africa is to be congratulated on the super-excellent results achieved in 1916. In the twelve months ended on March 31 last the gross profit amounted to £217,000, an increase of nearly £47,000 on the previous year. Shareholders will again receive 8 per cent., notwithstanding some heavy appropriations, including £10,000 for reserve account and £18,200 carried forward. In addition to the appropriation from profits the reserve receives the premium on 40,000 new £4 shares issued at £5 10s. per share, the total of the fund being thus increased from £150,000 to £220,000. The balance-sheet shows current and deposit accounts totalling £3,083,600, against £2,523,000, and cash £1,142,800, against £1,020,700.

***

Reference to this bank reminds me that the British Merchants' (Morocco) Association is rapidly developing its propaganda, and has succeeded in making a very strong appeal to manufacturers and merchants who have interests in Morocco. As I remarked a week or two ago, the list of the Council of the Association includes some noteworthy names, and it is hoped next week to publish in THE NEAR EAST an article dealing not only with the work of the Association, but with trade prospects and openings in the country generally. In the meantime, firms interested should apply to the secretary, Mr. P. B. Robinson, 17, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.2, who, I know, is always prepared to give any information he has available—and it is considerable.

***

The capture by a British Naval force of the little Turkish settlement of Salif, on the Arabian shore of the Red Sea, about a hundred miles north of Perim, did not attract much attention in this country; and small wonder, because nobody knew very much about the place. From a certain local point of view, however, Salif is of some importance. It is the "seaport" for the salt mines in the interior, possesses a jetty of sorts, and was regarded sufficiently to be defended by a garrison. Seagoing steamers used, before the war, to visit Salif in some numbers; but it is a depressing hole, and when I was unlucky enough to find myself there a few years ago I came to the conclusion that it was no place for a self-respecting white man. From what I remember of the condition of the people they will be glad enough to have seen the last of the Turk!

There will be a full and sympathetic understanding of the position in which the directors of the Bank of Roumania found themselves at the annual general meeting on Wednesday. Owing to enemy occupation of parts of the country no accounts are available, and the proceedings were, therefore, formal in the extreme. "No useful purpose would be served at this juncture by indulging in any prophecies as to the future trend of events," said Lord Bessborough, the chairman, in his brief speech to the shareholders; and his caution will be commended. Nevertheless, the future is not so dark as it once was. Things have been happening in Greece, in Russia, and Galicia which will not fail to influence the general situation.

***

It seems a pity that in the general rush for heads to place on the Mesopotamian charger people will persist in the indiscriminate flinging of mud. I referred recently to the explanation of Sir John Biles regarding the river craft employed on the rivers, and hoped his letter to the Press would be accepted as relieving him of responsibility. Not so, however. Questions were asked in the House of Commons on Wednesday, and it was necessary for the Secretary of State for India to go rather more deeply into the matter than seems to me to have been necessary. It has been established that the craft condemned have actually been working satisfactorily ever since they were placed in commission.

***

The present financial position of Turkey is grotesque. Her representatives are chasing each other around the little piece of Europe which remains neutral in the hunt for money! Sweden and Denmark, so it is said, are being exploited in turn, "though with probably poor results." But why not Germany and Austria? Or have the money springs in these countries dried up? In view of past relations between Britain and the Ottomans, it is almost possible to be sorry for the unfortunate people who have been betrayed by Enver Pasha and his satellites; for in the general débâcle which is now in course of development they must suffer with the guilty betrayers of their country.

COMMENTATOR.

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EGYPTIAN PROSPERITY.

Improvement in the Balance of Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, June 24.

The Customs returns for May show a continuation of the decline in imports recorded during the preceding months, but the improvement in exports continues. Imports during May amounted to £E2,065,008 and exports to £E2,550,295, as compared with £E2,970,052 and £E2,079,511 during the corresponding month last year, *i.e.*, there was a decrease of £E905,044, or 30 per cent. in imports, and an increase of £E470,784, or 20 per cent. in exports.

The balance of trade in favour of Egypt is, therefore, steadily on the increase; imports, so far, are £E502,108 below what they stood at the end of the first five months of 1916, and exports are £E3.263,342 above the figure for the corresponding period last year, whilst the balance is £E6,851,019, as against £E3,085,569, in favour of this country.

Imports.

Under imports the principal items were:—Meat, £E88,775; potatoes, £E30.538; flour, £E59,950; dried fruits, £E34,066; coffee, £E48,002; petroleum, £E72,693; coal, £E199,783; natural indigo, £E11,077; textiles, £E742,285 (of which cotton tissues £E444,644, sacks £E63,329, and cotton threads £E53,403); worked iron and steel, £E65,124; and tobacco, £E204,673. No raw sugar or benzine were imported during the month. The decrease in value was mainly borne by beer, £E75,176; petroleum, £E111.787; coal, £E273,401 (the quantity was 37,939 tons less), and textiles £E275,002; on the other hand the most important increases were in meat, £E74,921; potatoes, £E22,846; sacks, £E34.058, and tobacco, £E124,801.

Principal Exports.

The principal exports during the month were:—Eggs, £E15,583; skins and tanned goods, £E56,903; cotton seed and cake, £E153,416; onions, £E61.584; sesame, £E26,086; maize, £E20,112; rice, £E25,718; sugar, £E48,011; gum, £E55,219; cotton seed oil, £E21,737; caustic soda, £E12,042; cotton, £E1,944,479, and cigarettes, £E33,461. The increase in value was represented by rice, £E11,177; sesame, £E23,049; cotton seed cake, £E11,462; gum, £E52.713; cotton seed oil, £E18,266; caustic soda, £E11.743; cotton, £E763,448 (the quantity was 49,957 cantars less), and cigarettes, £E15,614; on the other hand, the following were the chief decreases:—Maize, £E221,048; beans, £E10,300; cotton seed, £E59,178 (the quantity was 78,435 ardebs less); sugar, £E62,258; alcohol, £E39,373; wool, £E21,284, and gold and silver bar, £E29,848.

Empire Trade.

Great Britain's share of the import trade fell somewhat; it was 40 per cent., as against 55 per cent. the previous May. She sent all the coal, 65 per cent. of the textiles, and 60 per cent. of the metals. Both India and Australia improved their share considerably; the former doubled her shipments (sending all the sacks, sesame and indigo, and 50 per cent. of the cotton threads), whilst Australia increased from practically nothing to £E106,006, meat and flour.

The United States, Italy and Brazil all reduced their shipments very much, and France hers somewhat; Greece was the only country which increased at all noticeably, and that mainly by reason of her tobacco exports to this country.

On the export side Great Britain also showed a decrease, although the total had increased. As usual, she took all the eggs, cotton seed and cake, wool and gold bar, as well as 75 per cent. of the onions and one-third of the cotton exports. India, the United States, Greece, Italy, Japan and Switzerland all increased their purchases; Greece took 60 per cent. of the tanned goods and 20 per cent. of the sugar; the United States took 40 per cent. of the cotton—more than went to Great Britain; France took 90 per cent. of the gum and nearly all the cotton seed oil, whilst 70 per cent. of the sugar went to India.

The Sudan.

Trade with the Sudan continued to be good. Imports into Egypt during the month rose by £E104.335 to £E205.931; whilst exports to the Sudan dropped slightly to £E131,528. The chief imports into Egypt were: — Livestock, £E18,845; maize, £E33,164; sesame, £E16,728; gum, £E27,041, and cotton, £E65,925. The principal exports from Egypt were:—Refined sugar, £E39,771, and cotton tissues, £E33,502. The total imports into Egypt this year have more than doubled, whilst the exports into the Sudan have increased by about 15 per cent., the figures being respectively £E961,710 and £E547,173. It is to be noted that, so far this year, the Sudan sent to Egypt 60,620 head of cattle and sheep (24,228), 36.500 tons of maize (5,600), 1,994 tons of ground nuts (760), 1,104 tons of gum (266), and 1,090 tons of cotton (879). The figures in brackets are those for the corresponding period of last year.

Proceedings are in progress in the prize court at Malta in respect of certain goods *ex* the vessel "Barrowmore." Appearance by those interested must be entered at once.

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In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

THE CAUCASUS.

British Consuls' Hints to Merchants and Manufacturers.

British Consuls in the Caucasus have submitted some interesting trade reports recently in which openings for British merchants and manufacturers are briefly but clearly outlined.

Mr. P. Stevens writes from Batoum that German firms were able to secure the great majority of orders for goods by means of their well-defined system of pushing trade. Agencies were established in most of the principal towns in the Batoum district, where large stocks of goods were kept on show, and also, for the purpose of meeting immediate demands, periodical visits were made by commercial travellers who spoke Russian, and, in this way, aided by widespread advertising in Russian, backed by catalogues and price lists (prices in most instances being quoted inclusive of customs duties, manipulation expenses, freight rates, etc.), German firms developed a large business in all kinds of their varied manufactured products.

Secret of Success.

It cannot be too frequently repeated that the high state of commercial efficiency which was attained by German firms was largely due to the diligent and unceasing activities of the agents referred to, who, whilst in the exercise of the duties entrusted to them, had the full support of their employers, and, with a view to securing all the trade they possibly could, were given a free hand to introduce methods which they saw most fitted the needs and established customs of the Caucasian markets.

Under these conditions German firms had a great advantage over their competitors, seeing that at any time when difficulties in negotiations arose, their agents and travellers were always in a position, by consultation between themselves, to decide questions on the spot, such questions as in ordinary circumstances their competitors would have to refer to their principals, who probably lost business owing to this loss of time.

The discretionary powers extended by German firms to their agents and travellers frequently comprised, amongst others, the very important one of allowing credit to dealers in Russia. Mr. Stevens emphasises this because, he says, British firms seem to regard a system of credit as so reprehensible that, apparently, they would prefer to abandon the markets in the Caucasus rather than run the risk of a bad debt occasionally, although, in comparison with the volume of business transacted, and the profits made thereon, the amounts involved in such bad debts would prove insignificant.

British firms during the war have unfortunately been unable to show signs of energetic enterprise in the Caucasus, while American and Japanese and other foreign traders have made and are making great efforts to secure trade in this field. A good deal of hosiery and haberdashery is being imported into the Caucasus from Japan, and Japanese competition is steadily becoming a serious factor.

Begin at Home.

Preliminary organisation is very necessary, and United Kingdom firms should make preparations as soon as possible. In order to obtain trade in the Caucasus it is essential that full support should be given by the manufacturer or shipper in the United Kingdom to his representative's actions—which should be restricted by power of attorney to a certain class of activity—in his transactions with dealers and tradesmen. To push sales numerous reliable agents must be appointed; they should be men who know Russian, and are generally familiar with business conditions, legislation affecting trade, and customs obtaining in the Caucasus.

Commercial travellers with these qualifications should also be appointed to visit the traders of the nearest towns and those of the surrounding country at given intervals. These travellers should be attached to each agency. It is useless, however, having an agency at Odessa or Moscow for the Northern Caucasus, or at Rostov-on-Don for the Trans-Caucasus. An agent should reside at Rostov for business in the Don, Kuban, Stravropol and Ter Cossack territories, and another agent for the Trans-Caucasus should reside at Batoum, Tiflis or Baku.

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SUBMARINE WAR.

Fewer Merchant Vessels Sunk and Attacked.

The Secretary of the Admiralty on Wednesday issued the following weekly return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks :—

Week Ending 3 p.m., July 8, 1917.

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) :

(a) Arrivals	2,898
(b) Sailings	2,798

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :

(a) 1,600 tons (gross) or over	13
(b) Under 1,600 tons (gross)	3
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	13
British fishing vessels sunk	6

CROP OUTLOOK.

The crops have, in Western Europe and on the shores of the Mediterranean, been very much favoured during May by the increasing temperature with the intermittent rainfall. Vegetation in France and Italy, previously so backward, has (according to a report to the Board of Agriculture from the International Agricultural Institute) been able to make up the greater part of the time lost owing to the rigour of the earlier months of the year. In Northern and Central Europe, especially in Luxemburg and the Netherlands, the drawbacks resulting from the length and severity of the winter are still seriously felt. Spring sowings have taken place in Luxemburg in normal surroundings; their condition in the Netherlands is only moderate. In Switzerland, in spite of the recent warmer weather, the outlook for the winter crops is under average, but that for the spring sowings may be considered as normal.

In the greater part of European and Asiatic Russia temperature below the normal has hitherto prevailed. But despite these unseasonable chills, the situation appears to be favourable as a whole, and an area under spring crops equal to last year was expected. Drought and wind had hindered the development of the spring crops in some districts of Siberia.

In Canada spring sowings are practically finished, and the area under wheat compares favourably with that of 1916. Although in the United States the winter crops suffered injury, from the severity of the season and the violent winds, to such an extent as to cause the abandonment of nearly one-third of the area sown with wheat, the weather of the last few weeks has been so favourable that the wheat crop as a whole promises a larger yield than that of last year. In British India the outlook is very good, while that of Japan is an average one. In Egypt the results of the crop are considered as satisfactory.

MOROCCO RAILWAY SCHEMES.

As a result of the convention recently announced between the Morocco Protectorate and the Cie Paris, Lyons, and Mediterranean, the Orleans Railway Company, the Cie Generale du Maroc, and the Cie Marocaine, to consider the establishment of a railway system which will permit the rapid economic development of Morocco, a Bill has been deposited in the French Chamber of Deputies which, it is expected, says a Paris contemporary, will hasten the examination and the vote.

The Bill provides that the agreement concluded on January 13, 1917, in the name of H.M. the Sultan of Morocco and of the Government of the French Republic with the companies mentioned has been approved by the Public Administration for the following railway concessions, viz :—

Fron Petit Jean Station on the Tangiers-Fez line to Kenitra; from Kenitra to Casablanca, viâ Rabat; from Kenitra to a point on the Tangiers-Fez line situated between Souk-el-Arba and Arbdona; from Casablanca to Marrakech; from Fez to the Algerian frontier.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Conference with the Board of Trade.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

There has not been any increased activity in the market during the past week, and buyers and sellers have waited on events. The members of the Control Board have been busy dealing with numerous matters, and it is understood that consideration has been given to the statistics relating to stocks of raw cotton in spinners' hands and at the warehouses in Lancashire.

Arrangements have been made for a special meeting of the Board to be held on Friday, when it is expected Sir Albert Stanley, the President of the Board of Trade will be present. There seems to be every probability of a definite scheme being announced to enable the supplies of raw cotton conserved.

Some surprise has been expressed at the decision of the card-room operatives to demand an increase in wages of 25 per cent., but the application is quite in order, as it was part of the arbitration award of last February that a further change in wages might take place in August.

An abnormal situation continues to prevail with regard to Egyptian cotton, and prices have continued to advance, and there is increased nervousness as to future supplies. Bolton yarns have been put up in quotation, but in certain counts and qualities the figures now required are quite prohibitive. Some spinning machinery in Lancashire is now being stopped, partly owing to the difficulty in obtaining raw material, and partly as a result of the scarcity of labour.

Buying in piece-goods for Egypt has not been quite so pronounced as a few weeks ago, and buyers and sellers are now exercising more caution in placing orders with manufacturers. Certain goods, however, have been purchased and very high figures have been paid, especially for quick delivery.

The inquiry in piece-goods for India remains disappointing, and a few offers which have come through have been a long way out. In some quarters, however, it is believed that dealers in Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras will be forced to purchase more freely before very long.

Operations for China have been very limited, and there is little prospect of increased activity until political affairs in the Far East are more settled.

Makers of cloth suitable for the Government continue busy and are deeply engaged for many months ahead.

American yarns have moved off slowly at irregular rates. Stocks in wefts, especially in medium numbers, are still very harassing. There has been no life whatever in export yarns, and the bids mentioned have been a long way out.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Sir Albert Stanley (President of the Board of Trade) stated in the House of Commons on Wednesday that the terms of reference to the Committee on the Growth of Cotton in the Empire will be as follows :—

To investigate the best means of developing the growing of cotton within the Empire and to advise the Government as to the necessary measures to be taken for this purpose.

The chairman will be Sir Henry Birchenough, who has recently acted as chairman of the Board of Trade Committee on the position of the textile trades after the war. Sir Henry Birchenough will also represent the Board of Trade on the Committee.

Enver Pasha and Djavid Pasha visited Switzerland recently to meet representatives of Scandinavian bankers, with a view to negotiate a loan.

THE SUDAN TIMES.
PUBLISHED TWICE A WEEK IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC.
For Advertisement Rates, etc., address—
THE MANAGING EDITOR, THE SUDAN TIMES, KHARTOUM.

TRADE NOTES.

Gibraltar.

The Acting Colonial Secretary at Gibraltar reports that a general commission agent at that port wishes to get into touch with United Kingdom manufacturers with a view to obtaining their agencies for Gibraltar. The inquirer particularly desires to negotiate with United Kingdom manufacturers of cheap ready-made clothing.

Algeria.

The British Vice-Consul at Oran (Mr. R. Barber) reports that an agent in that town desires to obtain agencies for United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of the following goods, for which the inquirer states there is a large demand in Oran :—Cotton piece-goods, ironmongery, Rio and Santos raw coffees, and green teas from China. In the case of such of the goods as British firms may not be able to deliver at present, it is suggested by the Board of Trade *Journal* that negotiations might be entered into now with a view to trade when circumstances permit.

Morocco.

The British Vice-Consul at Saffi reports that he has recently received two inquiries for the names of United Kingdom manufacturers of bicycles. The first inquiry was made by a local firm which has been established at Saffi for four years. This firm is particularly interested in importing bicycles in parts, as it has a workshop at which machines are assembled, and by importing in this way there would be a saving in freight rates and Customs dues. A bicycle that would cost the firm c.i.f. Saffi about £4 10s. would, it is said, suit the local market very well. The firm is also interested in bicycle parts and accessories.

The second inquiry was made by an engineer and mechanic who wishes to represent United Kingdom manufacturers of cheap bicycles.

The Vice-Consul adds (writes the Board of Trade *Journal*) that there are no bicycles to be had in Saffi at present, and he thinks that there is a small opening for cheap British bicycles. Beginnings must necessarily be small, but Saffi should be a good market for bicycles in the future, because there is a considerable mileage of good roads in the vicinity of the town, and roads connecting Saffi with neighbouring towns, notably Marrakesh, are under construction and will shortly be completed; the residential quarter of Saffi is at some distance from the business part of the town, and, with the completion of the port and the road to Marrakesh, many Europeans will, it is anticipated, come to Saffi to stay.

Egypt.

Sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will be received by the director of the Technical School, Bulac, Cairo, for the supply of 305 sets of blue linen overalls (jackets and trousers), required for the school during the year 1917-18. No date for the receipt of tenders is specified. A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him.

Copies of the cahier des charges and form of tender may be obtained from the Model Workshops, Bulac, Cairo, where also samples of the overalls may be inspected. The copy of the cahier des charges, together with particulars of the overalls required, may be consulted by British firms at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

With reference to the call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of the Interior for the supply of Ghafir clothing (including blue drill belts, drawers and quamis), required by the Stores Department during 1917, it is notified that the time for receipt of tenders has been extended, and that sealed tenders, on the proper forms, will now be received up to noon on August 15 by the Director, Personnel and Equipment Department, Ministry of the Interior, Cairo.

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MESOPOTAMIA RIVER CRAFT.

Mr. King has asked the Secretary of State for India whether it was with his knowledge and sanction that in the autumn of 1915 Sir John Biles went direct to the builders of the "Medjidieh," belonging to Messrs. Lynch Brothers, and obtained a copy of the plans of the steamer; whether the India Office was aware that the barges and steamers supplied did not comply with the requirements of the military authorities in Mesopotamia; what was the total cost incurred in building and sending those steamers and barges; and whether Sir John Biles was still employed, and on a commercial basis, by the India Office as their naval architect.

Mr. Chamberlain stated in reply: I understand that Sir John Biles expected to obtain the design of the "Medjidieh" from the builders, and I was not and am not aware that there was anything unusual or unprofessional in this. The design was the property of the builders, was thirty-three years old, and, save as to general outline, was of little practical value for the construction of a modern vessel. The steamers supplied complied, so far as was practicable, with the specifications received from Mesopotamia, and are to-day running satisfactorily on the Tigris. Others of the same type have since been built for the expedition by the War Office. The barges were reported not to be suitable for the purpose for which they were ordered, but are now in constant use on the upper reaches of the river. The cost of the six steamers as delivered in this country was about £294,000. The cost of transporting them to Mesopotamia was about £11,500. The cost of the forty-three barges was about £250,000. They were mostly shipped as part cargo in enemy vessels controlled by the India Office, and the cost involved in carrying them is not at present available. The answer to the last part of the question is in the affirmative, and Sir John Biles is now employed by the War Office in constructing river craft for use in Mesopotamia.

FRANCE AND ITALY.

A Franco-Italian combination has been constituted in Rome, under the name of the "Unioné Industriale Italo-Francese," to promote more intimate and effective economic relationships between the two countries. The capital is, for the present, limited to £400,000, with power to increase it to £800,000.

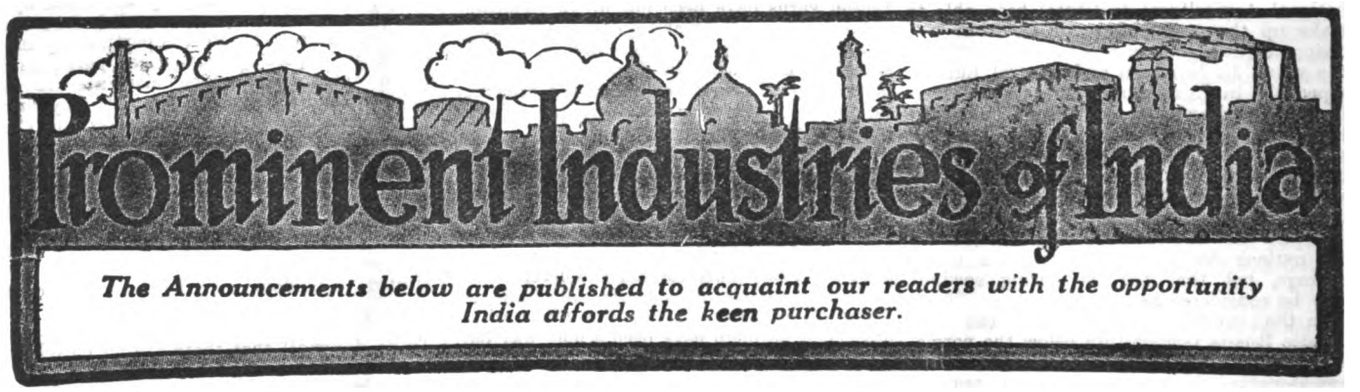
A further proclamation has been issued under date June 15, by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the forces in Egypt, dealing with trading with the enemy firms. The lists of persons with whom trading is prohibited and those removed from prohibition appear in the *Official Journal* supplement of June 18.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to April 30, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to May 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, April, 1917		1,987,403	850,000
Do. do. do. 1916		2,517,882	2,064,000
Estimated Receipts for 4 months (Law of Control)		9,633,333	3,566,666
Actual do. do., 1917		9,150,316	4,452,000
Do. do. do., 1916		11,817.723	9,550,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 4 months	1917	— 483,016	+ 885,333
	1916	+ 2,184,389	+ 5,983,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold both from Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.



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ENGINEERING NOTES.

German Waterways.

While British traders are content with occasional trade-warcries, and confine themselves to talk and plans of paper campaigns for the capture of enemy trade when peace has been concluded, the Germans are acting and preparing for offensive as well as defensive trade-war. Their engineers have been busy in the preparation of great plans, while the Central Commercial Union, prominent manufacturing firms, and interested towns, all aided by Government support, are raising funds for carrying them out forthwith.. The great German aim, *Drang nach Osten* (Towards the East), the famous axiom which incited, more than anything else, the present war, and which also implies a German solution of what used to be called "The Eastern Question," is still the pass-word of Pan-Germanism; while the words of Rauscher uttered more than half a century ago are still sounding in German ears. "There in Asia Minor," he said, "by a peaceful conquest we can create a new Germany which could raise her in grandeur, population and riches, in the face of old Germany, and which would form the safest road against Russia and Panslavism."

More than a Dream.

Great and chimerical as this dream may appear at the present moment it shows that Germany for a long time pursued with zeal and perseverance the conquest of the markets in the Near and Middle East. Fortunately the war has changed the aspect, and now, in view of the depletion of her mercantile shipping and the inevitable scarcity of tonnage for many years after the war, which means high freights for sea traffic, Germany has begun to plan schemes which, if carried out, will undoubtedly make the forthcoming trade war as stiff as the present clash of arms.

A "Practical" Ambition.

The opening up of land and water communications from Germany to the East has been a practical object of German ambitions, which have been supported by the popular instincts. Goethe, in 1827 said he would like to live to see the opening of a Panama Canal, and also a communication between the Danube and the Rhine, although he doubted the possibility of the latter "in view of the extent of German resources." The resources have much improved since Goethe's time, and the effect of the British blockade has caused Germans to demand, more than ever, the opening of a waterway through Central Europe to the East. In previous notes (May 26, 1916) referring to the projected union of the Rhine with the Danube the writer mentioned that there were two schemes under consideration: the Danube-Oder Canal, and the great project of the Rhine-Nain—Danube Canal. The first, as being advantageous to Prussian interests, was favoured by Prussia, while the second is the pot-scheme of Bavaria. In the later scheme the canal runs almost diagonally through that country, and offers special facilities to link up by a system of canals, not only the Rhine with the Danube and the Elbe, but many other important German waterways.

Royal Support.

Its most powerful advocate was the King of Bavaria, and the adoption of this scheme, and the new Danube—Main Canal Bill which the Bavarian Diet has recently passed is considered a great personal triumph for the Monarch. According to reliable information the route will practically be that of the river Main from Aschaffenburg to Bamberg, and that of the Danube from Steppberg to Passan. Considerable new works are required on both rivers. The great feature, however, of the scheme is the new canal from the Main at Bamberg to the Danube at Steppberg. According to the latest plans the new canal is intended for 1,200 ton ships. The canalisation of the Main to Aschaffenburg is already almost colmpeted and that part provides for 1,500 ton ships. The whole waterway will be about 460 miles in length, and it is estimated that the cost of construction will be £32,500,000, and that the whole expenditure can be covered by revenue if there is an annual traffic of 10,000,000 tons.

To Take Large Ships.

The Bavarian Bill was accompanied by a statement which contained the following remarks—"Our experience in the present war, and consideration for the future economic relations between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Austria-Hungary's eastern neighbours, suggest at once that we should contemplate the construction at an early date of a connection between the Main and the Danube for big ships. An efficient Rhine-Danube waterway in addition to the existing railway communications, has proved necessary for economic and strategic reasons for traffic between the German Empire and Austria-Hungary and the Balkan States. It will strengthen permanently the Central European group and its economic and military defences, and it will promote a closer economic union of the States belonging to this group."

The meaning of this is quite clear; we need not repeat here what, a year ago, in alluding to the possibilities of this waterway through Central Europe, we said with regard to its effect on British trade in the Near and Middle East. The passing of the Bill at such a time, and so urgently, is proof that the Germans are actually preparing for the forthcoming great war of trade.

How to Paint Iron.

It is a great mistake to assume that a second coat of paint on iron or steel necessarily increases the protection of the metal. In all probability the reverse is the case, because it is proved that the second coat softens and partially dissolves the first, making it more porous, and thus deteriorating the protection just where it is most needed. A single, fairly heavy coat of paint, applied without too much brushing, gives better results. The heavier particles sink to the bottom, the solvent flows over them, and oxidation completes a dense coating. In a thin coat, such as is given when a second coat is contemplated, there are open spaces between the heavier particles, and the second coat makes matters worse.

Potash from Seaweed.

The experiments conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture for the production of potash from seaweed, on a commercial scale, will interest the residents in many districts on the Mediterranean coast, where seaweed is found in great quantities. The machinery used is of recent invention, and consists of drying kilns, distilling chambers, vats, handling machinery, etc. It is capable of dealing with about 200 tons of wet seaweed a day, and from this quantity about five tons of muriate of potash can be produced. The experiments at present are to determine the most economical process of producing the potash from and to discover methods for the recovery and utilisation of by-products. Numerous methods will be employed experimentally, but for the most part the Department of Agriculture will rely on distillation. The area of the seaweed beds along the United States Pacific coast is nearly 400 square miles. From this it is estimated the annual cuttings (including two cuttings a year off the coast of South-Western California) would yield 59,000,000 tons of wet weed, from which 2,300,000 tons of potassium chloride could be obtained. In view of the enormous quantities of weed to be obtained along the Mediterranean a most valuable industry could be created in the Near East.

The Egyptian Government has approved of raising the price of tombac, a monopoly owned by Khalil Pasha Khayat, by P.T. 15 per oke—that is, from P.T. 48 to P.T. 63. Of this increase P.T. 10.5 will go to the Treasury and the balance to the monopolist. A big shipment of tombac arrived recently at Alexandria from Persia, and will be sold at the new rates. It is interesting to note that the price of tombac has been raised twice before since the beginning of the war. Before the war it was P.T. 28 an oke. The "shisha," which used to be smoked for P.T. 1, is now worth P.T. 2 and P.T. 2.5.

RUBBER PRODUCTS IN GREECE.

Large Demand for Hose and Packing.

Manufacturers of rubber products will be interested in the following report, submitted to Washington, by the United States Vice-Consul (Mr. George P. Waller, Junr.) at Athens. Mr. Waller writes:—

There is very little demand in Greece for transmission and conveyor belting. Leather belting and balata and camel's-hair belting in widths of three to thirty centimeters, and in rolls 120 to 130 meters long, are much used. In normal times the imports of such articles into Greece are thought to amount to £5,000 per annum. Small quantities of pressure packing of asbestos fabric and other compounds are imported in normal times.

Hose.

For rubber hose there is a large demand. The following kinds of hose are popular: (*a*) Water-pure black rubber hose, 2 and 3 ply, ranging from ¾ inch to an inch and a-half interior diameter, for light duty. (*b*) The same dimensions, but for heavy duty in foundries, marine and railway service. (*c*) Rubber hose with wire covering in fifteen to twenty-five millimeters interior diameter. (*d*) Cotton rubber-lined hose in sizes of ½, 1 and ¾ inch. (*e*) Unlined linen hose of forty to 140 millimeters diameter. (*f*) Suction hose with plain surface and also with spiral wire inside, in 12, 15, 18, 20, 23, 25 and 30 millimeters diameter.

Of the types of hose that are enumerated, it is estimated that a quantity valued at £7,720 is imported each year in normal times. For spraying the vineyards in the wine-growing districts with a solution of copper sulphate a special rubber discharge hose with a disk was formerly supplied by European factories. These are now out of the market.

Packing.

The qualities of sheet-rubber packing principally used here are the cheaper grades, one to five millimeters thick, 2 and 3 ply, in rolls of ten to fifteen square meters. Pure rubber sheets or valve rubber in thicknesses up to and including one-fourth inch and in sheets of 100 square centimeters are sold. It is thought that perhaps £3,000 worth of the last two mentioned products are imported yearly. Three-fourths of all these articles before the war were supplied by Germany and Austria, and the remainder came from France and England. Dimensions are given largely in metric units without their equivalents in inches, because they are standard sizes.

Emphasis should be placed upon the importance of having a commission agent here, fully trusted and familiar with all the local needs and customs, and, most important of all, familiar with the language. It is exceedingly difficult to build up a permanent market by mail, and an agent fully accredited with exclusive territory is almost indispensable.

No duty on mechanical rubber goods is prescribed by the Greek tariff. The duty on automobile tyres and inner tubes is about 4½d. per pound.

MANCHESTER ENGINEERS' CLUB.

According to recent reports, the Manchester Engineers' Club continues to be successful. Although it was started only three years ago, the club has now over 700 members, and notwithstanding the difficulties caused by the war, the past year was the most successful since its formation.

It would be a great advantage to the engineering industry in the forthcoming trade-war if similar bodies were formed in other leading engineering districts of the Kingdom.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
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Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

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GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
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COMPANY MEETING.

THE BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Lord Bessborough presided on Wednesday at the formal annual general meeting of the British Bank of Roumania held at Winchester House, E.C. No balance-sheet and report for 1916 were laid before the meeting, and the directors did not recommend the payment of a dividend, as it was not possible to obtain the audited accounts of the Bucharest branch owing to the circumstances now existing in Roumania. Lord Bessborough, remarking that Roumania had joined on the side of the Allies and that Bucharest was now occupied by enemy forces, said that when the figures were available they would be submitted to the shareholders, but no useful purpose would be served at this juncture by indulging in any prophecies as to the future trend of events.

COMPANY REPORTS.

New Egyptian.

The report of the New Egyptian Company for 1916 shows a profit of £15,021. Deducting £5,413 for the service of the debentures, there remains a balance of £9,608. Adding £7,023 brought forward from last year, the balance at the credit of the account amounts to £16,630, which the directors recommend should be carried forward. The net income derived from the estates shows an increase of over £8,000 as compared with the previous year, notwithstanding the increased cost of coal, oil, and other material, and the reduction of the rental area consequent on the sales of land. The average price obtained by sales of land during the last seven years has been £94 15s. 9d. per feddan. The capital expenditure during the year was £366, as compared with £1,498 in 1915. During the year the company's indebtedness has been reduced by £18,000.

Malta and Mediterranean Gas Co.

The report for the year ended March 31 last states that the balance of the general revenue account is £5,406. The directors recommend the payment of the usual dividends on the First and Second Preference capital, and a dividend of 4 per cent. free of income-tax, on the ordinary capital, making with the interim dividend paid in December last 6 per cent. for the year, leaving a balance of £678 to be carried forward.

Bibi Eibat Oil Co.

The report for the year ended March 31 last states that the net income, consisting of interest accrued on loans to La Société de Naphte de Bibi Eibat, amounted to £6,976. Against this balance there has to be set the sum of £7,000 for interest and redemption of debentures and £519 for loss on realisation of investments, leaving a deficit of £543, which, deducted from the sum brought in from the previous year, leaves a balance of £18,964 to be carried forward. Investments and cash now stand at £31,093. The inability of the Russian company to declare a dividend has again adversely affected the accounts of the English company, and the directors are consequently unable to recommend the payment of a dividend.

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 19 tons (against 20); Hurghada, 902 (against 926).

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway Co 4 per cent. Bonds.—Coupon No. 11, due July 14, 1917, will be paid at the offices of the Bank of Athens, 22, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3, on and after that date.

The Aboukir Company.

The following advice, dated June 23, has been received :—"The supply of water is everywhere plentiful, and the cotton crop, although backward, looks well."

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

We have again this week had a favourable market for Egyptian shares, and there has been a very fair amount of activity. Local buying on this side has been rather a feature, but Egypt also has been taking a hand in several directions, and the prospects all round are looking very favourable.

The high prices of all produce and the great commercial activity prevailing in Egypt are all causing a large amount of prosperity, which is gradually spreading to the share market. Egyptian Government stocks have continued firm, and some transactions have taken place in the 3½ per cents. at 73, and even higher. City of Alexandria bonds have also been in demand, and the price has recovered the full dividend recently deducted.

Agricultural Banks have found persistent buyers, and the price is 1-16 up at 5⅜, with a good business doing. Anglo-Egyptians have improved ¼ to 12¾. National Banks have been a firm spot round 15.

Delta Light Railways have jumped ¼ to 6¼, but the scarcity of sellers has stood in the way of business.

In land shares, Behéras have been again in demand, and a fair number of transactions have taken place from 9 15-16 to 10¼, at which price they close, showing a rise of 7-16. Gharbieh Lands have been wanted, but sellers are very scarce. In New Egyptians a large business has been done round 11s., not only for local but also for Egyptian account. Union Foncières have further improved 2s. 6d. to 30s. bid, but business so far has not resulted, as sellers are holding off. Among miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters have been done in a small way at 11⅞, at which price they are in demand for Egypt, but sellers here are now asking 12⅛. Salts and Sodas are a good market at the slightly firmer price of 24s. 10½d., but Khedivial Mails, in which there has been a good many transactions, close somewhat lower at 37s. 3d.

In Greek securities the market has continued a very firm one, and there have been a fair number of transactions in Monopolies at the improved price of about 53½, and in Larissas at 55. The 4 per Cent. 1902 Loan has been done at the rather lower level of 61 for a fair amount of stock. The 1881 and 1884 Loans are still wanted round 57½.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptian "B's" were unchanged at 13s. 6d., Anglo-Persian Prefs. at 24s., and Roumanian Consols at 13s.

Paris Bourse.

Dealings on the Coulisse were on a moderate scale on Tuesday. Greek securities were steadily held.

THE MONEY MARKET.

London, July 12.

Towards the close of the week money has been more usable, and the demand for accommodation was strong enough to bring about an advance. Day-to-day business was done on the basis of 4 per cent. down to 3½ per cent., and weekly 4¼ per cent.

Exchange on Alexandria varied between 97¼ to 97¾ piastres to the pound sterling.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
July 3	330,000	170,000
July 4	180,000	190,000
July 5, 6, 7, 8	930,000	690,000
July 9	120,000	130,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price July 6.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84
Do. Pref. 5 %, 1890	88	73	73
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57⅛xd	57⅛xd
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	57⅛xd	57⅛xd
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	53xd	53½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55xd	55xd
Do. 5 % Fmg., Ln., 1893	54	52xd	52xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62xd	61
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92⅜	92⅜
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	50½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £50p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	80
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69	70½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56	56
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅝	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅛	12⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅞	2⅞
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	4½	4⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6	6
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	14⅛	15
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	⅜	⅜
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2¼	2¼
Béhéra Co.	8½	9⅛	10¼
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/9	10/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/3	6/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	26/6	30/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	11/-	11/-
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	⅛	⅛
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1⅛	1⅜
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	11⅞xd	12
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	27/-	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	¼	24/6	24/10½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	38/6xd	37/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅞	3⅞

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	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)	1,298,069
Special Reserve	78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	7,651,812
Mixed Tribunals	1,774,232
Egyptian Government	4,597,437
Bankers Accounts	573,714
Cheques and Bills payable	135,321
Sundry other Accounts	365,042
	£E.19,398,627
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	£E. 9,875,434
Sundry Securities	270,061
Advances on Merchandise	1,011,607
Advances on Securities	1,211,690
Advances otherwise Secured	646,010
Sundry other Advances	486,604
Bills of Exchange	1,492,976
Local Bills Discounted	122,417
Buildings and Furniture	276,181
Money at call and at short notice	594,750
Bankers Accounts	1,429,080
Sudan Government	114,813
Sundry other Accounts	188,975
Cash—	
Notes	1,538,411
Gold	69,259
Silver, Nickel, etc.	120,359
	1,728,029
	£E.19,398,627

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	20,250,000
Gold	5,307,584
* British Treasury Bills	4,817,416
	10,125,000
Securities :—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	6,693,239
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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 324.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

It can hardly be pretended that the two days' debate last week in the House of Commons and the subsequent discussion on Wednesday this week on the Mesopotamia Report tended to edification. The Attorney-General's laboured plea for a legal court was no better received by members than it had been by the Press; Mr. Asquith denounced the newspapers, which after all were not responsible for the decision to advance on Baghdad; Mr. Balfour had certainly not read the report when he spoke, and Mr. Lloyd George had apparently barely glanced at it. Mr. Austen Chamberlain emerged with credit from a difficult situation by resigning the Secretaryship for India; Lord Hardinge offered his resignation, but Mr. Balfour refused to accept it, somewhat to the surprise of the public; Sir William Meyer sits tight at Simla. Mr. Chamberlain's successor is Mr. E. S. Montagu, whose choice has aroused almost as much criticism as the return of Mr. Churchill, six months after the publication of the Dardanelles Report had seemed to put an end to his legitimate gambles for the period of the war.

It is recognised on all hands that, quite apart from the personal question of the reputation of this or that politician in the Mesopotamia business which absorbs Westminster and Fleet Street, there is the deeper question of a reform in the whole system under which the affairs of the India Office and India itself are conducted. The distribution of responsibility and the methods of communication between Whitehall and Delhi—or Simla—were clearly unsatisfactory; the practical ignoring of the Council of India, which may be either the consequence or the cause, or both combined, of its weakness of personnel; the aloofness of Indian officials in high places towards the war, almost as though India were in another planet instead of merely in another continent—these things require attention, and a strong man who is capable of reform. Mr. Montagu has yet to prove himself. Unfortunately his speech in the Mesopotamian debate showed no signs of real insight into the whole matter.

Incidentally the debate on the report has given rise to an interesting revelation. Lord George Hamilton, the Chairman of the Commission, apparently vexed by the partisan criticisms of the Report—criticisms which were made for a purpose, and which failed, for the Report substantially holds its ground—wrote to *The Times* to defend one or two points on which he had been attacked. In his letter he stated that he and Lord Cromer only assumed the ungrateful task of presiding over the Commissions because it was represented to them that, unless these Commissions were appointed, "Mr. Asquith's Government would be beaten in the House of Commons and a political crisis created." It will be remembered that the Government opposed the desire of the House for these Commissions until the very morning of the debate on the subject, when it suddenly changed its mind and consented. The reason for the sudden change is now clear—Mr. Asquith secured another four months of office by the manœuvre.

An answer to a question concerning British diplomacy in the Middle and Near East which Mr. Balfour made in the House of Commons is of peculiar interest. It has always been understood that as the outcome of the abortive negotiations on disarmament which followed Lord Haldane's visit to Berlin in 1912 further discussions were held between the British and German Governments regarding the rearrangement of frontiers in Africa and the rival spheres of interest of the two Powers in the Middle East and Asia Minor. The revision of the map of Africa does not concern us here, but it was believed that the negotiations both as regards Asia and Africa reached a successful conclusion. A London Liberal newspaper remarked with every appearance of knowledge in August, 1914, that agreement was actually reached as to the Baghdad Railway question, that the document was received in the British Foreign Office at the end of July, 1914, and that, if the war had not broken out in the meantime, it would have been signed almost on the exact date of the British ultimatum. Mr. Balfour now states that there is no truth in the report of these negotiations.

The curious thing is that Germans as well as Englishmen held the same belief that these negotiations had occurred. Since the war began references to the supposed conversations, the alleged agreement, and the apocryphal document have also appeared in the German Press, and at more length than in the English papers. Since there was no truth in the whole thing, no purpose would be served by reproducing here the precise terms of the supposititious concordat which were printed in the German Press, but it may be recalled that even in the heat of war the German writer who discussed the matter admitted that Britain had been unexpectedly liberal in her attitude, and conveyed the impression that Sir Edward Grey had met German demands more than half-way. These statements, which

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did not seem inherently improbable to those acquainted either with the British record on the Baghdad Railway or with the policy of the then Foreign Secretary, caused a vague feeling of uneasiness in England.

Some disquietude has been expressed as to the attitude of King Alexander, who is said, despite his telegram to M. Poincaré, to be privately thwarting the policy of M. Venizelos, who has urged his Sovereign to break completely with the policy of King Constantine. Should it be true that the King has refused to sign the decree convoking the Chamber, it would be extremely difficult to deny that these allegations are wholly devoid of truth. To hold a general election at the moment is clearly impossible, in view of the present condition of Greece. To convoke the Parliament in which the Venizelists are in a minority would be absurd. But to refuse to convoke the Chamber at all would be still more dangerous, since it would imply that the King intended to break his oath as constitutional Sovereign and to carry on the personal policy of divine right which King Constantine initiated. The world has seen whither that policy led, and it would undoubtedly lead to the same end again, albeit by a more speedy path. There is no doubt that M. Venizelos has the majority of the country behind him, and that in the circumstances the right course is to convoke the Chamber of 1915, which is still fairly representative of the true position. Otherwise serious trouble will not be long delayed.

Meanwhile, the negotiations between the Italian and Greek Governments regarding Epirus are understood to be progressing satisfactorily. Only one point remains open for discussion, as to the destiny of a triangular portion of land which projects from the boundary drawn at the Florence Conference, but it is believed that a solution of this matter may be found on the lines that Italian troops should continue the occupation in order to maintain the security of the Santi Quaranta-Koritza road, while the Greek civil authorities will be reinstated. A compromise of this kind must from its nature be a temporary expedient, since friction between the divided civil and military authorities must inevitably arise in any permanent conjoint administration, even if worked with the utmost goodwill. For the moment, however, it may prove to be the best that can be done.

The transference of the Serb Government from Corfu to Salonika will probably take place shortly. The move will be advantageous, since there must be difficulties in conducting the administration from an island, and Salonika is nearer to the Serbian Army and the reconquered Monastir. It is understood that the Greek Government is friendly to the proposal, which may be taken as the first fruits of M. Venizelos' renewed pledge to Serbia a few days back.

A piteous protest has been made by the Greek population of Aivali against their expulsion by the Turks. The town is purely Greek, and the inhabitants declare that their "recent expulsion follows the savage persecution of the last three years." They are now in the unhappy position of refugees. There is no doubt that the British and French Governments will receive this memorial with sympathy, but in the nature of things no remedy save victory in the war can be effectual.

Bulgaria appears to be thoroughly alarmed at the hints of peace without annexations. (It seems that the Bulgars take the political propaganda of their Allies seriously.) Articles have been published in the newspapers of Sofia, and a leading politician has threatened to write a book proving that, whoever else goes short of booty, it must not be Bulgaria. The Central Powers are accused of having promised King Ferdinand Macedonia and the Dobruja as the reward of the successful belligerent, and they are warned that they must stick to their bargain. One imagines that Berlin will care less than nothing for these exhortations—the promises were but scraps of paper after all, and if necessary they will be produced for a burnt-offering on the altar of peace. Besides, the Bulgarian protestants have omitted one item in their catalogue. Whether or no they were promised certain territory, it is a fact that they received a loan from Berlin in February, 1915—the Allies have not forgotten the elaborate excuses of pre-war pledges that were put forward to cloak the true nature of that transaction. From what is known of the finances of Bulgaria, it is unlikely that that loan now stands alone, or that money has been advanced by Germany entirely without conditions. Now it is not always wise of debtors to remind their creditors of the precise terms of the bond.

The Russian offensive in Galicia has received a slight check, which is not intended to be permanent. In any event, our Allies have secured a whole army corps of prisoners; they appear to have forced a movement of enemy troops from the western to the eastern front—which is no small relief to our side of the war; and they have precipitated a domestic crisis in Germany. Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, the "scrap of paper" Chancellor, has resigned, and his place has been taken by a Chancellor who is known only as a Prussian of the Prussians, a friend of the Junkers, and a supporter of the Conservative or annexation school. His choice would appear to indicate that Germany has no present intention of seriously setting her house in democratic order, as the ardent idealists here and elsewhere had assumed; and also that she will pursue a strong foreign policy, particularly on the eastern front, which is the peculiar care of the Junker party, from the position of East Prussia as the Conservative stronghold.

In any event, a Chancellor of this type in Berlin will be suspect in Petrograd, where the hope of peace seems gradually diminishing, despite the fixing of a definite date for the meeting of the now somewhat discredited Stockholm Conference. The internal situation in Russia, which reacts so directly on the whole Balkan position, continues difficult. Finland has been on the point of asserting complete independence—an event which, if it unfortunately occurred, would fundamentally alter the Baltic problem and the Scandinavian balance of power, and possibly create an awkward position for Sweden; while four members of the Russian Government have resigned over the proposed solution of the Ukraine question. The Kief Conference of Ukraine deputies, which a fortnight ago appointed a Minister for Foreign Affairs, and was apparently as near to a declaration of independence as Finland, appears to have reconsidered its attitude, and to desire, not independence but State membership of a Federal Republic. In any solution on those lines the essence of the question is clearly the seat of the sovereign power, and the Ukraine deputies, of whose deliberations few details have reached this country, may have demanded such large powers for the State vis-à-vis the Republic that Russia's access to the Black Sea and the Balkans would be practically cut off. That is, and must remain, a vital question for any Government that sits at Petrograd. The fact that resignations have occurred appears to show that the proposed concordat was unsatisfactory.

Further news on this matter will be awaited with interest. If Russia were to lose her southern provinces, and consequently her weight in the Near East, the future of Serbia would become difficult indeed, faced by a hungry and resentful Austria and deprived of any support on that side of Europe. For Roumania the position would be less serious, her relations with Russia in the past not having always been effusive; but it would appear that Roumania stands on the whole to lose rather than gain by the diminution of Russian influence in the Balkans, and Roumania has her own special relation to the Ruthenian problem to affect her attitude towards an independent Ukraine. As to Asia Minor, the exclusion of Russia from the Black Sea and the substitution therefor of a second-class state like the Ukraine would considerably alter the relative position of the Ottoman Empire both across the Bosphorus and in the capital.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—I.

Special interest attaches to the report on the work of the Ministry of Justice during 1915-16, just published, by reason of the fact that the author, Sir William Brunyate, who succeeded Sir Malcolm McIlwraith as Judicial Adviser to the Egyptian Government in October last, and who now returns to administrative duties after an absence of several years, gives his impressions of the present state of affairs as compared with what he knew it to be in 1906, and puts on record the conclusions at which he arrives from that comparison.

Criminal Statistics.

Crime generally showed a reduction during 1915-16. Reported offences fell from 255,647 to 240,959, of which 185,622 turned out to be real offences as compared with 194,572 in 1914-15. The number of complaints classified as unfounded or as calling for no public action compares favourably with that of ten years ago, when, of course, the total number of complaints was smaller. Allowing for certain categories which did not appear in the 1906 statistics, the 1915-16 figures for complaints show a well-marked drop compared with those for 1914-15, following upon a steady tendency to rise throughout the ten-year period. Basing himself on the available statistics for the annual increase in population since 1882, the Adviser makes it perfectly clear that the criminality of the population is far from being on the increase. Nevertheless, as he says, the question presents itself whether throughout the period the facilities for setting in motion the machinery of criminal justice in wholly petty cases have not been unduly great. He draws attention to the change that has taken place in regard to petty assaults. Between 1900 and 1905 the figures rose very considerably, and as on examination it appeared that the population was appealing to the police whenever it had the least disagreement with its neighbours, it was decided to leave aggrieved persons to institute proceedings themselves in all really petty cases in which no public interest was involved. The effect of this decision was that assaults, which stood at 28,221 in 1905, fell to 18,282 in 1907, and numbered only 22,852 in 1915-16, whilst minor assaults and insults, which had stood at 23,553 in 1905, fell to 1,265 in 1906, and amounted to only 650 in 1915-16. No other figures have brought home to him so strikingly the change from the conditions with which he was once familiar and from the fact that of the 13,847 complainants whose complaints were entered last year in the police station books without further inquiry, only 838 considered it worth their while to initiate criminal proceedings themselves, and that of this number 491 failed in their actions, Sir William concludes that the public now understands that complaints to the police of minor assaults or insults serve no useful purpose.

In other respects he finds that aggrieved persons still continue to regard the police as proper to be appealed to. With the possible exception of petty thefts he can, however, find no figures in the provincial returns to enable him to express a definite opinion that the system of public prosecution is being abused, but in Cairo he regards the evidence of such abuse as conclusive. During the decade figures for practically every offence in which the public authorities initiate prosecution have fallen, but cases of assault have more than doubled, and those of delictual theft have quintupled, whilst of the 240,959 complaints for the whole of Egypt, 63,979 originated in the capital. It would be ridiculous to contend that Cairo is less orderly than it was ten years ago, and the conclusion he comes to is that petty thefts are being needlessly reported to the police just as petty assaults were twelve years ago. The advantages of a judicious combination of public and private prosecutions appear to him worthy of examination whenever the existing criminal procedure comes up for revision.

The Adviser gives some very interesting comparative figures regarding crimes recorded during the last eleven years. There has been a more or less steady increase in criminal homicides, which, as far as he can judge, has not tended quite to keep pace with the increase in population, and the details of which would "tend to show the cheapness of life rather than the existence of deliberate crime." Attempted homicide has been proportionately somewhat greater; thefts classified as crimes by reason of the accompanying circumstances have, unlike delictual thefts, diminished, while thefts classified as crimes by reason of the antecedents of the thief have increased in number, "thanks probably to the efficiency of the anthropometric system of identification." Arson has practically doubled during the decade. This he, in part, explains by increased readiness to complain to the police, but it is interesting to note that he is informed "that since the disappearance of certain enemy offices, whose local agents were not above suspicion, arson, as it is understood in England, has substantially diminished in Cairo." Criminal destruction of crops has fallen, whilst the small number of cases of bribery brought to the notice of the authorities, he fears, cannot be conclusive of the infrequency of the offence. The same remark, he says, is largely true of criminal forgeries, though it is satisfactory to note that prosecutions are on the increase. With regard to the distribution of crime by locality, offences have increased during the past year in Cairo and the Canal zone, a result "not wholly unconnected with the presence of large bodies of troops, more especially as a large proportion of both increases is accounted for by recidive of theft." In the Delta there has been a marked decrease, whilst in Upper Egypt there is a further increase, especially in Beni Suef, Minia Qena and Assouan, where the figures are higher than in any previous year.

In the last report is was suggested that the increase in crime in 1914-15 was in part due to the absorption of the police in special duties of a semi-military character. In this connection Sir William remarks that "the furthest point to which I should be prepared to rely on such absorption is that of claiming that everyone has been much too busy to concern himself with the improvement of criminal statistics." He considers that the figures for the past two years may be relied on as being unvarnished figures, in which respect "they appear to supply some evidence that the country is settling down quietly under the new régime." Looking at the figures for crime as a whole, he thinks that the total increase in the ten years—4,302 in 1915-16, as against 3,586 in 1906—corresponds very closely to the increase of population, and they appear to him less discouraging than as a member of the general public he had been accustomed to suppose, more especially if his interpretation of the arson figures, which are responsible for most of the increase, is correct.

With regard to the effect of the Relegation Law of 1909, which was based on the theory that crime was largely the work of criminal associations, the relegation of the known leaders of which would be followed by a very large decrease in crime, the Adviser says that, although in certain districts and for certain classes of crime a permanent improvement followed the introduction of this law, the statistics as a whole appear to show "that no very widespread or permanent result was achieved, and that the theory in question failed to make allowance for the very large proportion of crime which is due to sporadic and almost accidental causes." Some confirmation of this view is supplied by the fact that of the 3,956 adults convicted of crimes last year, 154, or only 3.9 per cent., had previous convictions of crime, the corresponding figure for England being 41.9 per cent. He mentions that at about the date of the Relegation Law he analysed the statistics in the current Prisons Report, and that the striking feature brought out by that analysis was the extreme youth of the offenders sentenced to penal servitude. Crime, in other words, was the work of the generation which had grown up under the British Occupation; and although the type of gang robbery, which caused so much trouble in the early days of that Occupation, has been permanently stamped out, in his opinion "there is undoubtedly evidence of the relaxation of the old village discipline which was enforced by methods such as would no longer be tolerated." If, as he is informed by Assize Court Judges, the same conditions still hold good, the solution for the problem of crime "must be found in some new basis for the orderliness of village life."

Misdemeanours, which had risen in 1914-15, fell again to practically the 1913-14 level. Petty thefts have steadily risen, and, thanks to them, the 1915-16 figures are higher than for any year previous to 1914-15. Compared with 1906, however, the detailed figures show "a not unsatisfactory condition of things apart from the one item of theft." Of the total increase in reported misdemeanours of 34,710 in the ten years—in 1906 the figure was 63,864—no less than 26,527 are accounted for by thefts, while newly created offences stand for 2,199. Noteworthy increases are recorded in obtaining by false pretences and in abuse of confidence, due in part to an increasing tendency to appeal to the police. The figures as to abuse of confidence are, the Adviser thinks, near the point at which the machinery of public prosecution is being invoked in frivolous cases, but the minor increases in forgery, perjury, and attempted bribery are, in his opinion, entirely healthy, and leave room for further increase. During the ten years the figures for resistance to public authority, vagabondage, and breaches of rules by persons under police supervision have all fallen, the decrease in the first named being very satisfactory, since "frequent prosecutions by the police for the purpose of maintaining their own authority imply some confession of failure on their part." Reported contraventions fell in 1915-16 from 86,397 to 82,746. In Cairo the figures are less than at any time since 1899, but in Alexandria they are higher than any recorded since 1905. There have been considerable variations in the figures for the various offences, and "unless one is to assume very sudden and unsystematic variations in the orderliness of the population it is fairly clear that

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these figures taken in detail largely reflect sporadic variations in the standard of administration of the law." An instance is given to show that in Cairo, at any rate, the fall is due in part to an effort to govern by the influence of authority rather than by constant authority. Of the 44,891 contraventions in the provinces 13,398 related to measures against the pink boll worm and 10,620 to breaches of public health regulations. The Adviser remarks that "it would appear a legitimate inference that under neither head do the measures ordered command the intelligent approval of the population." From the fact, however, that misdemeanours connected with cotton worm have decreased from 8,655 in 1911-12 to 2,217 in 1915-16, it would certainly appear that a period subsequent to the introduction of any measure directed at the ingrained and traditional habits of the masses must be allowed to elapse to permit of its utility penetrating to their minds; there is therefore some hope that in the course of a year or so the practical side of the boll worm regulations, which were introduced for the first time last year, will become evident to the rural population, and that it will show more readiness to comply with them.

Work of the Criminal Courts.

Of the 2,525 cases tried by the Assize Courts, 2,181, or 86.4 per cent., resulted in convictions, as against 85.8 per cent. and 86.7 per cent. in the two preceding years. In these 2,525 cases 5,354 persons were placed on their trial, and of these 1,326, or 24.7 per cent., were acquitted, as compared with 25.6 per cent. in 1914-15. From a comparison of the tables attached to his report with the corresponding ones for several years back, Sir William makes some very interesting deductions as to penalties at work. In the first place, there is some, but no very great, increase in the severity of penalties for serious offences; then, as compared with ten years ago, there is some shifting of the burden of proof as to premeditation and intention in cases of criminal homicide, courts being somewhat more ready to find premeditation, and, as regards intention, to presume that a man intended the natural consequences of his acts; and the increased proportion of convicted persons to cases of conviction in respect of most of the more serious offences indicates, he thinks, a better understanding of the criminal responsibility of accomplices of crime. On the subject of sending habitual offenders to the adult reformatory, the Adviser states that offenders who have already served one term are beginning to find their way back, and mentioning that responsible prison authorities have grave doubts as to the utility of such second sentences, he considers that the question deserves careful examination. Turning to the average number of cases tried a day by the Assize Courts, which was 4.2, as compared with 4.0 the previous year, he observes that this figure would not appear to have varied very much since these courts were first instituted; but, he adds, it is only rendered possible by a careful study of the earlier record of each case by the sitting judges before the formal hearing. Such a procedure is, as he says, open to the obvious criticism that it tends towards cases being decided upon the papers rather than upon the evidence taken in open courts, but he defends it as follows:—

"Upon the best opinion I can form, this criticism, which as an Englishman I should at one time have been prepared to support, makes inadequate allowance for the special conditions of the country. A disinterested witness in England is ordinarily assumed to be telling the truth. In this country the presumption in that sense is less strong, and there is much greater difficulty in knowing whether witnesses are disinterested. Hence the much greater importance of knowing at what date and under what circumstances a statement was first made, and of the careful comparison of conflicting statements made at different times. Nor, in our present stage of development, could the judges count upon the assistance of the Parquet and the Bar as adequate to raise and resolve such difficulties, if they themselves had no previous knowledge of the facts. But it by no means necessarily follows that the public hearing of the case is a mere formality. The mind of the judge necessarily adapts itself to the procedure according to which he works; and, apart from keeping his mind open on all points proper to be argued, he relies upon the hearing for testing the credibility of the material witnesses. The above observations, I believe, represent the attitude of the best of our English judges who, after practising at the English Bar, have had long experience of Egyptian conditions. I should hesitate to endorse their view, unless I had satisfied myself by personal experience that the considerations I have advanced have at least as great a bearing on the protection of innocent prisoners as on the conviction of the guilty."

The average number of days between the commission of crimes and judgment, which was sixty in 1906, was 110 days last year. Compared with what happened prior to the introduction of Assize Courts, when the time was 230 days, this is an improvement, but the period is still too long. The Adviser regards the matter as one calling for serious attention, and fears that the distribution of the Parquet throughout the provinces in 1912 has rendered the problem more difficult of solution. Under the present organisation, while the responsibility for directing inquiries is in the hands of the relatively experienced officials at the Mudiria headquarters, much of the detailed work is necessarily delegated to the substitutes in the Markaz, who can never wholly neglect their current routine work. As he says, crimes in the technical sense will be most rapidly and efficiently disposed of when they are dealt with by officials who can give their whole time to them. Cases which also tend to affect the average time before judgment are those which are sent before a summary tribunal, but which for purely technical reasons the summary judge declares outside his jurisdiction, and Sir William cites as illustration a case concerning the disappearance of a spirit stove. This case started in October, 1915, before the summary court; after a series of adjournments, and the hearing had been apparently concluded, it was declared by the judge in May, 1916, to be outside his jurisdiction, and it was finally dealt with by the Assize Court in January this year. Apart from the point which it serves to emphasise, this case revealed features which, as the Adviser points out, ought to be amenable to administrative action.

In the summary and Markaz courts, although the number of cases entered have increased but slightly, the arrears have risen considerably compared with 1906. To a material extent Sir William Brunyate ascribes this increase in arrears to the abolition of Markaz tribunals in the provinces, and of special Markaz judges in the Governorates. Some part of the arrears are, no doubt, due to special causes, as, for instance, the qink boll worm offences, which come mostly at the end of the statistical year, and so bulk largely on the arrears list for the new year. The obvious remedy, as he points out, would be to arrange special sittings for such cases. The question of the transfer, to the ordinary courts, of jurisdiction with respect to offences at present dealt with by special administrative tribunals, which comes up periodically for discussion, has always been objected to on the score of the difficulty of securing adequate sentences. The Adviser has long "held the opinion, based on some study of the work of administrative tribunals in this country, that any possible advantage under the head of penalties would be more than counterbalanced by disadvantages in other directions," and a study of the table of penalties imposed by the summary courts, as a whole, satisfies him "that the difficulty as to penalties is much less serious than it would have been some years ago."

Before the Cantonal Courts 4,127 cases of contravention were brought, but it is curious to note that 8,927 persons were put upon their trial, and that the proportion of accused persons varies in an extraordinary manner, running as high as 463 to 27 cases in one canton, and 477 persons to 10 cases in another. In the canton first referred to inquiry elicited the fact that some of the so-called contraventions were not single cases in which a large number of persons were involved, but batches of offences of the same type reported at one and the same time. In the case in question the offence was that of constructing reed huts without authorization at the time of the year when the villagers live out in the fields. Owing to a confusion between the word "Zarbia" (reed-hut) and "Zariba" (an enclosure for cattle), the offence was classified as one relating to public health, and the Adviser not unreasonably draws the conclusion that the clerks, by whom the returns are made and the clerical work of these courts is done, have but little acquaintance with the technicalities of their work. The most widely-distributed offences are minor assaults and insults. For these 5,889 persons were tried, as against 6,726 in the previous year, and 2,156 convicted, as compared with 2,341. "Having regard to the nature of the offences charged, the proportion of acquittals suggests a satisfactory measure of common sense on the part of the notable judges." The nature of the offences and their distribution appear to Sir William "to raise the question of whether the jurisdiction of these courts in cases of contravention serves any really useful purpose." In regard to minor assaults and insults, the necessity of proceeding to the Markaz town to lay a complaint before the Summary Court would have prevented the great majority of cases from being brought, and such a result he would have welcomed. In five-sixths of the cantons the aid of the courts is not being invoked in support of the authority of the Omda. As regards other offences, what little is done is unsystematic and capricious. Machinery must, it is true, be made available in the larger villages for the safeguarding of public lighting and public roads, which are bound to increase in importance in the future. But "the Cantonal Courts are, therefore, no more readily available than the Summary Courts; and while reasons could no doubt be advanced for preferring the trial of cases relating thereto by local notables to their trial by professional judges, I doubt whether it was for that purpose that the courts were created, and I incline to believe that the balance of opinion would be in the opposite sense."

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Festival of St. Barnabas.

The Fête of St. Barnabas at Varosia (Famagusta) was celebrated with considerable pomp on June 11. As an endeavour is being made in the Greek community to arouse greater interest in Church and other anniversaries and functions, it was natural that there should be a movement this year to observe with increased ceremony the festival of an apostle who holds so high a place in the calendar of the Greek Church. The Archbishop of Cyprus claims succession from the Apostle, who was a native of Salamis (Constantia), the ruins of which lie to the north of the modern Famagusta. The independence of the Cypriot Church, which had been sometimes questioned, at Antioch and elsewhere, was confirmed by the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. Again in 438 the Emperor Zeno, by an Edict, gave effect to a similar recognition on the part of the Patriarch and Holy Synod of Constantinople. A few years before that date a most convenient discovery had been made of the body of St. Barnabas, and, on his heart, a MS. copy of the Gospel of St. Matthew. These relics were sent to the Emperor. The Bishop of Constantia was appointed Archbishop of all Cyprus, was authorised to sign his name in red ink, to wear a cope dyed with the Imperial purple, and to enjoy other privileges, all of which have been preserved to the present day. The Archbishop is thus a Patriarch in all but name.

As regards the death of the martyred St. Barnabas, one account states that the body was burned with fire, "so that even his bones became dust." According to another version, after the Apostle had been stoned, his body was secretly buried under a carob tree, "all traces being lost." The miraculous element, therefore, plays an important part in the annals of the early Greek Church, and the establishment of its autonomy.

Agricultural Progress.

The present year is one of considerable interest to all who have agricultural industries at heart, as it was gathered from the last very interesting report of the Director of Agriculture that it might witness some substantial results of the work which has been carried out by his Department since the recent expansion of its staff. The report showed that the office had dealt with a full and varied programme in many branches of agriculture. The development of the office, modest and long-delayed as it was, had rendered possible a very considerable increase of its activities, and the present Director is able to speak hopefully of progress in some important directions.

We were told that a few years ago agriculturists were scarcely aware of the Department's existence, or, if they were, viewed it with suspicion. It might have been added that not a few Cypriots regarded it with indifference, insinuating that the Directors of early years were theorists, who did not show the people in practice and by demonstration, what they wanted to know and to see with their own eyes. The charge was not a just one, as the Directors referred to, besides being men of high scientific attainments, were also skilled in practical work of the kind required in Cyprus. The trouble was that the Department was quite inadequately equipped for the work before it, and financially it was so starved that its officials, having their time fully occupied in a hard-worked, and, indeed, over-worked office, could not carry out in addition the field instruction which they were only too anxious to develop. The results cannot yet, of course, be very conspicuous, but the Director has already been able to show a good record of work accomplished and sketched out by his Department. Justice could not be done to any detailed account in the present note. What is most needed is that the peasants themselves should now respond to the encouragement which is being offered. The Director states that by far the most important factor in such *rapprochement* as has been effected between the office and agriculturists is due to the work of the travelling staff. But although it is satisfactory to read that there has been some awakening, in another part of the report referred to it is disappointing to find that, in the matter of demonstrations, "the cultivators remain apathetic and indifferent to the efforts made in their behalf."

The Greek members of the Legislative Council who sometimes liken their efforts to "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," are pressing for a much larger expansion of the Agricultural Department; and no doubt they can point to various needs which must be met before it can cope adequately with the increasing requirements. But unless the people themselves can be induced to come forward with more alacrity and a better spirit of enterprise, all efforts and exhortations of the Government might invite a similar comparison.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mesopotamia Report. July 11, 12, 13.

The Report of the Mesopotamia Commission has occupied a large part of the attention of both Houses of Parliament during the past week. On July 11 it was announced that the Government had decided that a judicial inquiry into the conduct of all persons concerned was necessary in the interests of justice, and that the machinery most useful for the purpose was provided by the Army (Courts of Inquiry) Act, 1916. The intention was that the court should consist of three officers and two persons who hold or have held high judicial offices, one of whom would be president.

On July 12 the Attorney-General explained in the House of Commons the legal and more technical considerations which had led to the advice given to the Government in regard to the judicial inquiry, and read the terms of reference. As the court was to deal primarily with military officers, it was to be left to "reflexions" that might be made by the soldiers on the politicians to bring the latter within the purview of the court. But if the proposal was not acceptable to the House, the Attorney-General announced that the Government would be willing to set up by statute a tribunal to deal with both military officers and civilians. Later in the discussion Mr. Balfour stated that, in deference to the feeling of the House, the Government would proceed by a new statute.

It was during the debate that Mr. Chamberlain announced his resignation of the Secretaryship of State for India, and delivered a spirited defence of his action in connection with the Mesopotamia campaign. Mr. Balfour stated that Lord Hardinge had sent in his resignation, and had again pressed it upon him the previous day, but he (Mr. Balfour) had on each occasion refused to accept it.

The debate was continued in both Houses on Friday, July 13. In the House of Commons, Sir A. Williamson, a member of the Royal Commission, defended the Report and the Commissioners against the criticism of Mr. Balfour and others. Mr. Asquith expressed his satisfaction that the original form of a judicial inquiry had been abandoned, but had no very favourable remarks to make upon the proposed statutory tribunal. He expressed profound regret at Mr. Chamberlain's resignation, and proceeded to justify the decision to advance on Baghdad. Mr. Lloyd George followed. He said that Mr. Chamberlain's resignation was a matter of profound regret and a great surprise. There was nothing in the Report of the Commission to justify him in feeling that he ought to have resigned. Mr. Lloyd George continued:—

"This Commission was appointed by an Act of Parliament, and I think not merely is it the duty of the Government, but of the House of Commons as well, to thank them for the great services they have rendered. Their task was an exceedingly complicated and a very unpleasant one. There has been a good deal of suffering in consequence of acts of neglect on the part of someone. There was undoubted mismanagement, and as a consequence thousands of gallant lives were lost in conditions of unspeakable torture. Someone or something is to blame. It is either a system or individuals working that system, or perhaps both. If the system is to blame, then it ought to be remedied. Such steps as could be taken in the middle of a great war to improve the system have been taken, and at the present moment the administration of the Mesopotamia campaign is everything that could possibly be desired. The temporary remedies to meet the actual conditions of the campaign have been applied; but there are permanent remedies which are essential in order to improve the system itself. These matters must be looked into. But before you can introduce changes and reforms in the system of administration it must be recollected that we are working under the limitations of a great war, and that reforms which might be introduced, if the Government were at liberty to apply its mind to the question and the House of Commons had the time, are remedies that cannot be introduced when the whole thought of the country is on the prosecution of a great war in which its life is involved."

With regard to individuals, the Prime Minister admitted that the system was a bad one, but did the men make the best use of it? If they did not, proper punishment ought to be meted out to them after a fair investigation of the facts. He insisted on the necessity of a judicial inquiry before a man was deprived of his rank and turned out of the Army. Whatever tribunal was set up—and he expressed his preference for procedure under the Barrett Act—the Government had no desire to shield anyone who was to blame for the terrible catastrophe in Mesopotamia.

"But may I say now, with great respect," Mr. Lloyd George added, "that I think we are in danger of losing our sense of proportion. We are at the most critical stage of the world-war. There are twenty millions of men at this hour interlocked in deadly conflict for the future of the world. What has happened during the last few days? I am bound to tell the House. For two or three days you have had the Army Council, the Chiefs of the Army, the War Cabinet, the House of Commons, and the House of Lords, all those who are engaged in the direction of this world-war, in which the life of this country is concerned, discussing the method of dealing with the findings of a Commission which has nothing whatever to do with the practical prosecution of the war. . . . Yesterday we were in the middle of a discussion between the shipowners of this country, come to meet the heads of the Admiralty to discuss the whole question of protection against submarines. Never was there a more vital issue, and in the middle it is postponed because there is some question of what tribunal shall be set up. It is absolutely indefensible,

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and I say so as one who has the leading responsibility for the government of the country, and who, as far as I can, am thinking about nothing else. Why do I say this? There is another report of another Commission. I do not know what it is. I do not know whether it is prepared, and I do not care; it has nothing to do with the conduct of the war, but in a few days it might be upon us, and are we again to occupy the minds of every man who is prosecuting the war with considering questions of this kind? The House of Commons is responsible. I do not care about the comments in the Press—the Press has no responsibility; the House of Commons has, and I beg of the House to rise above these things and to say to the Government, 'Get on with the war.'"

Montenegro. July 11.

Mr. RONALD M'NEILL: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if an arrangement was made for the payment by France and Great Britain in equal moieties of a subsidy to the Government of Montenegro after its expulsion from its own country and its temporary establishment in Paris; if he will say why the payment of the British portion was discontinued in 1916, although the French portion continued to be regularly paid; if he is aware that this circumstance is being used by enemies of Montenegro to show that this member of the alliance is lightly esteemed by Great Britain; and whether, in order to remove such false impression, he will arrange that this country shall resume sharing with France the payment of whatever subsidy may be deemed necessary for the support of the Montenegrin Government while in exile.

LORD R. CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and that to the third part in the negative. The payments in question were temporarily suspended pending an examination of the actual needs of the Montenegrin Government, and steps are now being taken to equalise the payments made by France and Great Britain under the original agreement.

July 12.

Mr. RONALD M'NEILL: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Governments of France, Italy, and Russia have diplomatic representatives accredited to the Court and Government of Montenegro now in Paris, whereas his Majesty's Government have no such representative, but depend on the services of a subordinate official at the Embassy in Paris for communication with the Montenegrin Government; whether he is aware that this treatment of an Ally whom the British people hold in honour is regarded in some quarters as an intentional slight on the King and Government of Montenegro; and whether he will take steps to correct this impression by accrediting a diplomatic representative to the Montenegrin Government and by inviting that Government to appoint a diplomatic representative in London.

LORD R. CECIL: H.M. Government are represented at the Court of Montenegro by the Counsellor of H.M. Embassy in Paris, who is duly accredited to the King of Montenegro as "Chargé des Affaires." There is no reason whatever for regarding this convenient and perfectly natural arrangement as a slight upon our Ally.

Operations in Arabia. July 12.

Mr. MACPHERSON, replying to Sir J. JARDINE, who asked whether there was any news as to what the King of the Hejaz and his forces had been doing lately in Arabia, said: The Turkish positions between Tifala Maan and Akaba are now in Arab hands. The total Turkish losses were 700 killed and 600 prisoners, including twenty officers, and one mounted gun was also captured. A Turkish battalion was destroyed on July 2. The Hejaz Railway has been damaged at many points.

Mr. Chamberlain's Resignation. July 16.

Sir H. CRAIK asked the Prime Minister if, in view of the fact that that House could not delegate to any other body its function of judging the conduct of Ministers, he was prepared to advise his Majesty, in the interests of the public service, to decline to accept the resignation of the Secretary of State for India (Mr. Chamberlain) unless and until that House had impugned the conduct of that right hon. gentleman.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The Prime Minister has not the right to refuse to accept the resignation of a colleague. If he had had such a right, he would have exercised it in this case, with, I may add, the full approval of all his colleagues.

Affairs in Greece. July 17.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, with a view to associate both Russia and the United States in vital decisions affecting the campaign in the Balkans, he would take steps, consistent with treaties involving the co-operation of Greece with the Allies, to secure that the Greek people might choose their own form of Government, even to the exclusion of a King bound in ties of close relationship to the Kaiser.

Lord R. CECIL (Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs): Any proposal for the future government of Greece should, in my opinion, come from the Greek Government, and not from his Majesty's Government.

The Greek Constitution. July 18.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the King of the Hellenes had committed any breach of constitutional conduct; and, if so, whether the Allies would consent to his continued occupancy of the throne of Greece.

Mr. DILLON asked whether the new King of the Hellenes had refused to sign a decree presented to him by M. Venizelos summoning the Greek Chamber; and whether the Secretary for Foreign Affairs would make a full and frank statement on the situation in Greece and the Balkans on the Vote of Credit.

Mr. BALFOUR said that he had nothing to add to a reply given on the 17th inst., which was as follows:—"Greece is at present in process of settling down to a constitutional régime after the abnormal events of the last two years. I do not think anything would be gained by discussing points of detail during this period of transition." I ask that the House will accept that, Mr. Balfour added.

Mr. DILLON: Are we to take it as being a point of detail if this young King, who was nominated by the late King Constantine, has refused to sign a decree calling together the Greek Chamber that was laid before him by M. Venizelos? Is that a point of detail?

Mr. BALFOUR: The point is entirely covered really by my answer. The point is that it is not in the interests of Greece that her affairs during this period of transition should be discussed in foreign Parliaments.

Mr. DILLON: Do I understand that the right hon. gentleman will not make any statement as to the situation in Greece on any condition?

Mr. BALFOUR: That must depend on what the condition is and on what statement it is possible to make. That is quite different from answering questions dealing with separate points which I do not think it is in the interests of Greece should be discussed.

Mr. LYNCH: Does the right hon. gentleman consider it is in the interests of Greece that this nephew of the Kaiser should refuse to obey the Constitution?

Mr. BALFOUR: What has that got to do with the question on the paper? My sole point is this: Greece is working out, and rapidly working out, and I believe successfully working out, her salvation. Do not hamper her task.

The Government and the Report. July 18.

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. Bonar Law), replying to questions by Sir J. D. Rees and Sir H. Dalziel, said: The Government have given further attention to the question of the action which they ought to take in regard to individuals whose conduct was criticised in the Mesopotamia Commission's report. In view of the considerations urged during the recent debates and the objections raised to further inquiry (as a preliminary to executive action) in the case of the persons implicated in this report, whether the inquiry were by any existing tribunal or by a special statutory Court to be set up for this purpose, his Majesty's Government have decided not to proceed further with their former suggestion. In coming to this decision, they have also been influenced by the undesirability of diverting the thought and energies of the Legislature and Executive at this critical time from the prosecution of the war. As regards the soldiers, the Government have decided that they should be dealt with by the Army Council in the ordinary way. The decision of the Army Council as to the action taken by them will be announced as soon as possible. As regards Lord Hardinge, the Government, on the representations of the Foreign Secretary, who alone is in a position to judge, have decided that it would be detrimental to the public interest if the Foreign Office should be deprived at the present juncture of the services of Lord Hardinge as Permanent Under-Secretary of State, and have, therefore, refused his resignation, which has been for the third time proffered.

[On a motion for the adjournment of the House on July 18 a discussion took place on the refusal of the Government to accept Lord Hardinge's resignation. Mr. Balfour, speaking on behalf of the Government, maintained that Lord Hardinge had been "monstrously used," and that he was the man who had suffered most cruelly by the decision not to establish a fresh court of inquiry. The House divided on the motion for the adjournment, and there voted:—For, 81; against, 176—majority against, 95.]

ROUMANIAN CABINET CRISIS.

JASSY, July 13.

The King has charged M. Bratiano to reconstitute the Cabinet, in consequence of the crisis provoked by the resignation of the four Ministers representing the Conservative Opposition party. As his Majesty desires a Cabinet representing the concentrated strength of the nation, he has requested M. Bratiano to conduct the necessary pourparlers in a conciliatory spirit; but, in view of the demands of the Conservatives, M. Bratiano will probably form a Cabinet almost exclusively Liberal.—Reuter.

Turkish prisoners of war in British hands number about 34,400, only a few hundreds of whom are civilians. About 14,000 are interned in Egypt, 13,000 in India and Burma, and 5,000 in Cyprus.

According to *The Times* Athens correspondent, M. Venizelos, in replying to a deputation on the 9th inst. of all the workmen's unions of the Piræus, said that monarchs must be responsible above all to the people, who put them in their high place. The monarchs we wish for to-day are those who acknowledge that this is their call, and who are ready to be responsible in this world. If they feel they have also accounts to pay to God, these they must leave to be settled in another sphere after their death. For if sovereigns emerge from the whirlpool of war in which the world to-day gyrates, they will survive and rule only if they bow to and observe constitutional forms of government. Monarchs of our days are presidents of Republics who, instead of being elected every four or five years, are invested with an hereditary crown.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.*

"There are some things," wrote a well-known humorist, "that begin badly and end well, *e.g.*, claret, olives, caviare; others, again, that begin well and end badly, such as kittens, revolutions, and platonic love."

History tells us that all cataclysmic movements in a nation's life commence under the fairest auspices. The French Revolution of 1789 was engineered by a handful of doctrinaires, and, as we have recently learnt, its Egeria was an enthusiastic woman. Their motto was "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," and for a few brief months there seemed reason to believe that its application would bring about the millennium in France. But doctrinaires are notoriously ignorant of human nature, and even less versed in the still-embryonic science of Collective Psychology. While Condorcet and his fellow-dreamers were engaged in concocting projects of constitutional governments, a horde of demagogues was at work who knew the temper of the masses and evoked those bloodthirsty instincts which slumber in every human breast. By dint of organisation they wrested political power from the intellectual classes, and ushered in a Reign of Terror which put back the clock of democratic progress for a century.

History threatened to repeat itself in Petrograd during the throes of the recent revolution. It was planned by a small educated class, known in Russia as the *Intelligentsia*, who laboured with sleuth-hound persistence to destroy the reverence for established authority whose roots were embedded in a vital religion. That authority had proved unworthy to sway the destinies of Russia. It had conspired with her deadly foes to compass a breach of faith which would have staggered civilisation. There was a power behind the throne which deliberately weakened Russia's armies in the field, and took measures to starve Petrograd into a revolt which would have served as an excuse for bloody repression, and paved the way for a shameful peace. Their manœuvres were defeated by a popular rising, which began on March 13, and plunged the capital in complete anarchy. Mr. Stinton Jones was privileged to witness every phase of that volcanic movement, and he gives a lifelike picture of Petrograd during "Red Week" (March 13 to 20). It places the contradictions in the Russian character in a bewildering light, revealing immense capacity for self-control side by side with unbridled licence, episodes reminding one of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas together with road rioting which rivalled the worst excesses of the Paris Commune.

He would indeed be a bold man who ventured to dogmatise regarding Russia's immediate future. Her friends, however, have good reason for hoping that external pressure may consolidate her shaken social fabric. They have faith in the ability and patriotism of the Provincial Government; they disarm in the federated Zemstvos, or local governing bodies, a sustaining mechanism which may well enable Russia to tide over the crisis caused by the doctrines of anarchism.

Mr. Stinton Jones' least satisfactory chapter deals with the old régime, which apparently vanished like smoke during that fateful week in March. He does not give Tsar Nicolas II. the credit which is due to him for having initiated a reform of immense importance to his Empire. The Revolution was far from being bloodless; but the tale of killed and wounded would have been multiplied tenfold at least if the mob had been able to haunt the innumerable vodka shops which were closed in August, 1914. Mr. Jones admits that the ex-Tsar was "personally not unpopular," and no one who knew him can doubt that his sympathies were wholly on the side of the Entente. But he struggled vainly against the barbed wire entanglement with which German gold had surrounded him, and the wife of his bosom proved a traitress to her adopted country. The lesson taught by the Russian crisis is that no human being can be trusted with the destinies of 170,000,000 fellow-creatures. Its success will establish the truth of President Lincoln's epoch-making watch-cry: "Government of the people by the people for their benefit."

F. H. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Palestine: The Re-birth of an Ancient People. By A. M. Hyamson. (London: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

In Greek Seas, and other Poems of Travel. By Oswald H. Hardy. (London: John Lane. 3s. 6d. net.)

La Bulgarie en Guerre. By Léon Savadjian. (Geneva: Librairie Georg and Cie. fr. 1.25.)

* "Russia in Revolution, being the Experiences of an Englishman in Petrograd during the Upheaval." By Stinton Jones. [Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 1917. 5s. net.]

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. W. Heffer and Son, Cambridge, have just published an Arabic conversation grammar and reader, *Egyptian Colloquial Arabic.* The work is written by W. H. T. Gardiner, B.A., C.M.S., Egypt, Superintendent of Arabic Studies at the Cairo Study Centre, assisted by Sheikh Kurayyim Saltam.

The History of Zionism in England and France, and with Reference to other Countries among Gentiles and Jews, 1600-1916, by Nahum Sokolow, is announced among Messrs. Longmans' forthcoming books. The author deals in an introduction with the present Jewish poblem.

The French Government has published in three volumes *Les Musulmans Français et la Guerre* (M. Ernest Leroux, Paris). The book reproduces addresses given in, and evidence by and from, Africa proving the fidelity to France of the chiefs and religious dignitaries. The three collections are those from Western Africa: Algeria, Tunis and Morocco. As educators of themselves and of their African subjects, the French are producing treatises that will explain the Indigènes' point of view to Frenchmen, and enlighten the Mussulmans on the true facts concerning their country and its history. The Morocco administration is publishing a long series, entitled *Villes et Tribus de Maroc.* A committee for Berber studies has been organised, and every quarter produces *Les Archives Berberes.* Algeria is responsible for the Arabic text of Ifrigiya's history of the Savants of Kairoan and Tunis, and also for a translation, with notes, of *Récits sur la Vie de Mohammed*, and M. Paul Marty has written his *Etudes sur l'Islam Maure.*

PRISONERS AND THE TURKS.

Mr. Hume-Williams took the chair at a meeting, held on July 17, which was attended by more than thirty members of Parliament. The following resolution was passed:—

"That, having in view the recent statements made in Parliament to the effect that the British and Indian prisoners in Turkey are in a deplorable condition and the men hungry, this meeting calls on the Government to take immediate steps either by negotiation, pressure, or the sending of money to ameliorate their condition."

A sub-committee was appointed to interview the various Departments, and, if necessary, to bring the matter again before the House.

The Prisoners of War Department has issued the following statement:—

At the request of his Majesty's Government the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva have expressed their readiness to send delgates to visit camps in Turkey in which British prisoners of war are interned, and have applied to the Turkish Government for the necessary permission.

The International Committee have based their request on the fact that his Majesty's Government has allowed Red Cross delegates to visit all the camps in which Turkish prisoners of war in British hands are interned, without attaching any restrictions to these visits. The Committee have, therefore, pointed out to the Turkish Government that it is entitled to ask, as a measure of reciprocal right, for permission to visit all the working camps in the Taurus and elsewhere. A prompt reply has been requested.

MESOPOTAMIA AND THE RED CROSS.

Speaking at Exeter on July 14, Sir Arthur Lawley said, in regard to the Mesopotamia report, that it was not strange, in view of the terrible stories revealed, that people asked him constantly what the Red Cross was doing. He had no hesitation in saying that their record there was one of which they had no need to be ashamed. During the summer and autumn of 1915, and again early in 1916, repeated offers of the Red Cross were made to the authorities in Mesopotamia, but for various reasons, not very evident, the offers were invariably declined, save in respect of a few motor launches, which were sent as soon as asked for. It was not until Lord Chelmsford's Viceroyalty, in 1916, that the Society's personal stores and material had access to the country. Since then they had not been idle, and Sir Stanley Maude had expressed approval of the Red Cross work and of the invaluable assistance the military received from the motor launches at the latter part of last summer. Alluding to the discussion on paddle-boats which had taken place, Sir Arthur said they were efficient for the carrying of wounded, for which they were required.

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PERSONAL AND SOCIAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. July. 20	1917. July. 7	Friday	1335. Ramadan 30 Shawall 1	5677. Av 1
21	8	Saturday.....	1	2
22	9	Sunday	2	3
23	10	Monday	3	4
24	11	Tuesday	4	5
25	12	Wednesday	5	6
26	13	Thursday	6	7

The King and Queen, attended by the Countess of Airlie, Brigadier-General the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Hon. Sir Derek Keppel, Lieut.-Colonel Clive Wigram, and the Earl of Cromer, arrived at the Palace on the 14th inst. from France and Belgium. During the past fortnight his Majesty, accompanied by the Prince of Wales, has visited General Headquarters, and all the different Army and Lines of Communication Areas.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley has left London for Scotland.

Sir Roper and Lady Parkington have left Claridge's Hotel for Harrogate.

Mr. Balfour received the Roumanian Minister at the Foreign Office on July 17.

General Sir Ian Hamilton was recalled before the Dardanelles Commission on July 17.

M. P. Camaki, the Roumanian Consul-General at Athens, is spending the summer at Old Phaleron.

Madame Take Jonescu, owing to illness, was unable to hold her reception on the 18th inst. at 23, Cleveland Square.

There was a further sitting of the Dardanelles Commissioners at the House of Lords on July 14, but no witness was examined.

M. Yovan Tanovitch, formerly of the Serbian Press Bureau, has arrived in London from Salonika. He called on the Serbian Minister on Monday.

M. Gryparis, Greek Minister at Vienna, the Legation staff, and the Greek Consul-General at Budapest, M. Scassi, have left Vienna for Switzerland.

Sir Reginald Wingate, the Sirdar, has informed the Lord Mayor that Egypt's contribution in response to his appeal for France's Day will be £3,500.

Inspector-General Robert Bentham, R.N., who died recently at his residence in Ealing at the age of seventy, was for some time in charge of the hospital and medical establishments at Malta.

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, visited Mr. Balfour, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at the House of Commons on Friday afternoon, July 13, and again at the Foreign Office on July 16.

The Vice-Admiral, Eastern Mediterranean, reports that in the course of attacks on the enemy positions on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Royal Naval Air Service machines sank a tug lying off Chanak.

Mr. E. R. Burgess, Inspector, White Nile Province, and Mr. C. H. Thomson, Inspector, Kassala Province, have been appointed Magistrates of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Count Clam Martinitz, the former Austrian Prime Minister, who has been appointed Military Governor-General of Montenegro, in succession to General Weber von Webenau, has arrived at Cettigne.

Captain M. D. Jephson, Norfolk Regiment, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the 10th Sudanese for duty.

A Turkish semi-official telegram, while denying that the Goeben and the Turkish Ministry of War at Constantinople were damaged by the recent hostile air attacks, admits that one torpedo-boat was damaged by a bomb.

In a telegram to Professor Masaryk, the President of the Czecho-Slovak National Council in Paris, in reply to congratulations, General Brusiloff says that the "Czech Brigade forms a worthy unit" of the Russian army.

Mr. H. T. Beresford-Hope, Third Secretary at the British Legation at Athens, died on Tuesday from cerebral meningitis. Born in 1882, he entered the diplomatic service in 1907, and had been employed at Washington, Berlin, and Rio de Janeiro.

A Constantinople telegram states that, as the Dutch Legation there recently declared itself unable to assume the protection of Hellenic interests in Turkey in view of the inadequate staff of the Legation, the Danish Government has taken over charge of Hellenic interests.

A thanksgiving Mass was celebrated in the Serbian Church at Corfu on the 12th instant for the long and happy life of King Peter. Diplomatic and military representatives of the Allied and friendly countries and the members of the Jugo-Slav Committee were present.

Captain Matila Costiesco-Ghyka, formerly Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, who has been on active service in Roumania, has been appointed Naval Assistant to Major Arion, the Military Attaché. Captain Costiesco-Ghyka arrived in London on July 15.

M. C. Simopoulos, who acted as Chargé d'Affaires of the Hellenic Legation of King Constantine in London, has handed over the records of the Legation to M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister. M. Simopoulos will leave for the Legation in Rome, where he was formerly secretary.

An Athens message states that General Bairas, who was arrested in connection with the treacherous attack on French troops at Larissa in June last, has arrived in Athens, and has been removed under escort to the Island of St. George, a small island between Salamis and the mainland.

Lieutenant Vlad Georgesco, son of General Georgesco, the Roumanian Military Representative attached to the British Headquarters, has been appointed a member of the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, Roumanian Government Committee. He has now entered upon his duties at Canada House, Kingsway.

The *Petit Parisien* states that the notorious Greek ex-Public Prosecutor, Livieratos, together with other noted partisans of the Greek Royalist faction, has succeeded in entering Albania and in gaining the Austrian lines. Other Royalist leaders are believed to be endeavouring to form bands in Albania to engage in a war of brigandage.

The marriage of Major Cecil Hunter Little, D.S.O., Somerset Light Infantry, attached Egyptian Army, only son of Colonel and Mrs. W. Hunter Little, of Harestock Lodge, Winchester, to Miss Dorothea Katharine Romilly, second daughter of Mr. Samuel Henry Romilly, of Huntington Park, Herefordshire, and of the late Lady Arabella Romilly, took place on July 14 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

King Alexander, according to Reuter's Athens correspondent, sent the following telegram to President Poincairé:—"On the occasion of the national festival of your noble, dear country, I beg you to accept my most sincere wishes for the greatness and prosperity of France and the triumph of the cause of right, justice, and liberty for which France has been heroically struggling three years, and in which struggle Greece is happy henceforth to participate."

By command of the King, the Hon. Sir Arthur Walsh, Master of the Ceremonies, called upon the Serbian Minister on the occasion of the anniversary of the birthday of the King of Serbia on July 12, to offer King George's congratulations. A Te Deum was sung at the Russian Church. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, the Priest to the Russian Embassy, officiated. Among those present were the Serbian Minister, the *personnel* of the Legation, and the members of the colony.

The annual meeting of the Islamic Society will be held at the "Khankah," 86, Ladbroke Road, London, W., on Saturday next, the time of meeting being three in the afternoon. The Id-ul-Fitr (Feast of Ramadan) prayers—for those wishing to say their prayers in London—will be held on the same day and at the same address at 11 in the morning. The annual meeting above mentioned will be followed by an At Home, at which Mr. M. Kassimoff, one of the vice-presidents of the society, will take the chair. An address will be delivered by Syed H. R. Abdul Majid on "Sovereignty in Islam." Indian music will be performed.

According to the *Morning Post* correspondent at Rome, the following changes in the Serbian Diplomatic Service are imminent:—M. Ristitch, Minister at Rome since the beginning of 1915, will give place to M. Spalaikovitch, now Minister at Petrograd, who will be replaced by M. Gavrilovitch, now Minister to the Holy See. M. Ristitch, the message adds, was much liked in Rome, and his colleague, M. Gavrilovitch, was the first Serbian accredited to the Vatican. M. Spalaikovitch is considered to be one of the most experienced Serbian diplomatists. He has written a treatise on the Bosnian question, and while Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office he showed up the notorious Friedjung forgeries. He has also represented Serbia at Sofia.

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At a meeting of the Grotius Society, on Tuesday of last week, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C., read a paper on "Legal War Work in Egypt," which dealt with the various problems of the administration in Egypt after the outbreak of war, particularly those concerned with international law. Among those present were Professor Goudy (in the chair), Sir John Macdonell, Dr. E. J. Schuster, Mr. G. G. Phillimore, Dr. Bisschop, Mr. de Montmorency, and Dr. Bellot, the hon. secretary.

Lieutenant Harold Hamer, R.F.C., reported missing on June 6, now reported killed on that date, in his twenty-sixth year, was the fourth son of the late Mrs. A. A. Hamer, of Alistre, St. Annes-on-Sea. He was at Shrewsbury School (1906-10), and enlisted in the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in August, 1914, being shortly afterwards gazetted. In 1915 he transferred to the R.F.C., and saw active service in the Sudan, being engaged in the battle which resulted in the break-up of the forces of the Sultan of Darfur. In the summer of 1916 he was at Salonika, but returned to England in September. He obtained his wings early this year, and left for the front in May.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Hugh F. Poynter was gazetted captain on July 7.

El Lewa P. J. V. Kelly, Pasha, D.S.O., Governor of Darfur Province, has been transferred to the Egyptian Army.

Chief Justice Wasey Sterry has been appointed Acting Legal Secretary to the Sudan Government in the absence of Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G.

Captain J. A. Anketell Jones, Reserve of Officers, 5th Lancers, who has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi, and his services have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government.

The following transfers are announced in the *Sudan Times*:—
El Kaimakam S. M. Castle Bey, 9th Sudanese, to Blue Nile District;
El Kaimakam A. Craufurd Bey, Officer Commanding 12th Sudanese, to Western Arab Corps;
El Kaimakam Hon. B. A. Forbes Bey, General Staff, to Officer Commanding 12th Sudanese;
El Bimbashi J. H. M. Mee, 11th Sudanese, to Western Arab Corps;
El Bimbashi E. C. Mylne, 10 Sudanese, to 4th Battalion;
El Bimbashi A. M. Ryan, 4th Battalion, to 10th Sudanese.

The following appointments and transfers are announced in the Sudan Government *Gazette*:—
El Lewa R. V. Savile, Pasha, Governor, Kordofan Province, to be Governor Darfur Province;
Mr. J. W. Sagar, 1st Inspector, Blue Nile Province, to be Governor Kordofan Province;
El Kaimakam C. H. Stigand Bey, 1st Inspector, Upper Nile Province, to be Governor Upper Nile Province;
Mr. H. C. Jackson, 2nd Inspector, to be 1st Inspector, and appointed Senior Inspector Blue Nile Province;
Mr. P. Munro, 2nd Inspector, Upper Nile Province, to be 1st Inspector, and appointed Senior Inspector Upper Nile Province;
Mr. A. G. Pawson, Second Inspector, Upper Nile Province, to be Second Inspector, White Nile Province.
El Bimbashi H. Burges-Watson, Inspector, Finance Department, to be 2nd Inspector Bahr-el-Ghazal Province;
El Bimbashi F. V. Grieson, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed 2nd Inspector Darfur Province.

OBITUARY.

LADY MUNCASTER.

The death of Lady Muncaster occurred at Muncaster Castle, Cumberland, last Friday. She had for some time been in ill-health, and survived the late Lord Muncaster less than four months. Lady Muncaster married in April, 1863, Josslyn Francis, fifth Baron Muncaster, who died last March, and of whose will an abstract is given below. There is no issue of the marriage. One of Lady Muncaster's sisters is the present Countess of Erroll. It will be remembered that Lord and Lady Muncaster were members of the party of ladies and gentlemen captured by Geek brigands in 1870 during an excursion to the plain of Marathon.

The late Lord Muncaster left unsettled estate of the value of £8,187. Testator left everything he had power to dispose of to Sir John Frecheville Ramsden, Bt., of Bulstrode Park, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, and desired that those of his issue succeeding to Muncaster Castle should take the surname of Pennington.

He further desired that the "Luck of Muncaster" shall always remain deposited at Muncaster Castle.

[After King Henry VI.'s defeat at the battle of Hexham he was sheltered by Sir John Pennington at Muncaster Castle, and in gratitude he gave Sir John a crystal bowl, with the assurance that while the family retained it unbroken they should greatly thrive and never lack a male heir. "The Luck" failed, however, in regard to the second part of the promise, for the late Lord Muncaster left no son. He was the last of his line.]

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

ARCHBOLD—ROBERTS.—On July 9, at Hampton Hill, 2nd-Lieut. F. B. Archbold, Royal Fusiliers, of Chile and Rumania, to Gweneth Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts, Hampton Hill, Middlesex.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE.

The engagement is announced of Mr. W. P. P. Archdale, of Barakat, Blue Nile Province, Sudan, second son of Mr. E. M. Archdale, M.P., of Riversdale, County Fermanagh, and Alice, third daughter of the late Captain C. A. P. Talbot, Consul-General, Boston, U.S.A., and granddaughter of the late Hon. Gerald Talbot.

KILLED IN ACTION.

LITTLEWOOD.—Killed in action on July 10, Second Lieut. C. W. S. Littlewood, M.C., R.E., only and dearly-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. William Littlewood, of Cairo, and grandson of the late C. F. Littlewood, of Hempstead, and Mrs. Littlewood, of Erpingham Lodge, Norfolk, aged nineteen. R.I.P.

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SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION
at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

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FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1917.

THE FUTURE OF GREECE.

Were it not for the fact that matters of absorbing interest crowd one upon the other these days and prevent attention being given for long to any one episode, the recent course of affairs in Greece must have claimed more notice than it has actually received. When it is recalled that King Constantine contrived to keep the Allied Powers at arm's length for two years, and throughout the greater part of this period gave a definitely anti-Entente character to Greece's official policy, even to the extent of ordering Franco-British troops to be fired upon, it may well be a matter for surprise that the dynastic and political changes in Greece should have been effected so rapidly and so smoothly. In due course, when the whole history of the part played by Greece during the war can be told, it is to be hoped that full credit will be given to those to whom it is due. All that can be said with certainty now is that very late in the day the Entente Powers accepted the view, long held by the ordinary observer, that, after the way in which it had been handled, the situation in Greece must remain impossible and even dangerous to the safety of the Allied Army in Macedonia as long as King Constantine was on the throne. Having once taken this decision, the Governments concerned acted promptly enough upon it. M. Jonnart was appointed the plenipotentiary of France and Great Britain, and proceeded to Greece. After a brief interview with General Sarrail at Salonika, he presented the Allies' ultimatum to the Athens Government. Within twenty-four hours King Constantine had vacated the throne; a few days later he had left Greece, and his second son became King. M. Venizelos returned at once to Athens, to be accepted without question as Prime Minister of a re-united Greece. Of the protagonists in this drama it is evident that M. Jonnart carried out his task with tact and the requisite firmness. The problem would have been far more difficult, if M. Venizelos had not been possessed of the qualities which have raised him so far above his fellow-countrymen. A man of smaller calibre might have hesitated to return to Athens without guarantees, without some security for his life and person. A masterly display of complete confidence in his own people carried the day; he was sure of himself, and the country accepted him at his own valuation. Apart from these two men we shall hope to find it established that General Sarrail has played a difficult rôle with actual distinction. Little glory attaches to a policy of inaction, and it is only right that the considerations which have kept his Army tied to their base should be revealed. The Greeks have reason to be grateful to M. Zaimis in that he proved himself to be the only one among many minor politicians broadminded enough not to be jealous of M. Venizelos's pre-eminence, but ready to serve his country in the part of intermediary, for which his integrity and the esteem accorded him by both sides particularly fitted him.

Not the least interesting feature in the situation is the way in which events have vindicated the soundness of every action on the part of M. Venizelos. It was not easy to follow him in his policy of abstaining from the elections which King Constantine forced upon the country in 1915, and when he left Athens last year he seemed to be surrendering the citadel of constitutionalism. The establishment of the Provisional Government at Salonika promised to introduce complications that could never be disentangled satisfactorily. But in the end both the Entente Powers and the whole of Greece came to share his views, and the solution has proved to be simplicity itself. Belief in the star of M. Venizelos should now carry the Greeks through the difficult days ahead of them. Organisation has not been a strong point in the country, as has been shown by the course of its political history. Greece will stand in special need of it, however, if she is to hold her own in the Balkan Peninsula of the future. M. Venizelos has already outlined the immediate programme—the reorganisation of the Army, the re-establishment of the country's finances, and the restoration of the economic life of the land. "The Chamber," he added, "will have to work hard for weeks, and when we have put our house in order we shall hold fresh elections for the Constituent Assembly, to which will be entrusted the revision of the Greek Constitution." It is natural that Greece should be "burning with the desire to purify herself of the ignominy which the criminal policy of the past has cast upon her"; and for that reason a reorganised army is necessary. But the task is far wider than this, and when once the question of the Constitution has been settled it would be well if politics could be relegated to a less prominent position in the national life.

For many years to come Greece will stand in need of a quiet period of recuperation. If M. Venizelos be spared long enough, the country should be able to count upon it under his guidance; but there will always be the fear lest the removal of his strong hand should once more plunge Greece into the turmoil arising from the rivalries of numerous mediocrities, none of them of sufficiently outstanding merit to be raised prominently above his fellows. To guard against this danger care should be exercised that the work of settling down is not unduly prolonged by German intrigue. The discovery that some two hundred of their own people were done to death in a few days under the German-Constantine regime ought to open the eyes of every living Greek to the extent of the evil from which the country has eventually emerged. But unless the new Government keeps a watchful eye upon this matter and secures a resolution of the whole people which can be used to exact, it may be from the prospective League of Nations, freedom from German machinations in the future, ex-King Constantine or his eldest son may yet try to fish in troubled waters. During the recent period of stress Liberal Greece has derived no little support from the sympathy and assistance of Greeks settled abroad. Their help, however, would be far more practical if they were resident in the country. Economic conditions may entail an annual stream of emigration, but there can be no doubt that Greece is thereby a loser in more than mere man-power. The marked success achieved by Greek emigrants suggests that their intellect and motive power could be well employed at home. The loyalty and devotion of the emigrants to their fatherland are an axiom in Greek modern history; but if the war and recent events have brought to the Greeks a new interpretation of nationality and patriotism, it is to be hoped that they will give practical effect to it by rendering personal service to their country. Greece will not stand alone among the nations in benefiting by the intelligence and driving force that her sons now abroad can contribute to the common stock. An enlightened economic policy may open up within the borders of Greece opportunities which have hitherto been lacking, and may not only be the means of keeping more of her population at home, but in bringing back those whose wealth and experience will add to the stability, the prosperity, and the political wisdom of Hellas.

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ITALY AND THE BALKANS.*

THE PROBLEM OF DALMATIA.—III.

The Austrian statistics in regard to the Italian population of Dalmatia are exceedingly eloquent, if seen in their true perspective. Once the official census gave 56,000 Italians; in 1880 the official figure fell to 20,000; ten years later there were apparently only 16,000 Italians left. The conclusion is obvious; the Italians were being suppressed no less effectively than they could have been, if Vienna had followed the example of Constantinople and adopted its more primitive and more direct way of destroying the Armenians. Cruel or puerile, the persecution of the Italians is always directly traceable to Vienna. As long as the Austrian Lloyd ships belonged to a Trieste company they were named after cities and the heroes of mythology—there was the Venezia, the Milano, the Pandora, the Ettore. As soon as the Government stepped in and controlled the company, Achilles and Hector had to make way for the names of obscure Austrian statesmen. Of course, it was childish; but it was the *reductio ad absurdum* of Teutonic thoroughness. The church, the school, the police were handed over to an alien race. The names of things and places had to follow. When the war began it was considered that the game had been won in Dalmatia. Trieste was the next objective, and all the apparatus used in Dalmatia was brought to bear—provocation, intimidation, military force. In addition, Trieste being a commercial city and consequently less dependent on favours and less afraid of the displeasure of the Government, banks began to exercise their influence to finance and direct politico-commercial operations similar in every way to those undertaken by Germany to snare other unsuspecting peoples and making them dependent financially upon Berlin. The Government offices were filled with foreigners, of whom not one could speak correctly the language of the people. Every obstacle was placed in the way of Italian subjects wishing to establish themselves in Trieste, and to prevent the swelling of the Italian party, in spite of the fact that no foreign subject could obtain political rights. A M. Vernet was refused permission to build a mill because he happened to speak Italian like a native, having lived some years in Sicily. When he threatened to place the matter in the hands of the French Consul, he was told that had he made known his nationality sooner all the difficulties would have vanished, and the concession was given forthwith. An Italian was murdered by a drunken Croat. All that the murderer could say in defence was that he had killed "an Italian." He was condemned to four months' imprisonment. More than once Italian subjects accused of a trifling offence have been condemned to terms of imprisonment and—inevitable corollary—deportation. If the Court of Appeal cancelled the sentence and the imprisonment was remitted, the banishment was nevertheless upheld by the police even for those born in Trieste, if the parents were Italian subjects.

Throughout these years the animus of the Austrian authorities in these provinces was that of the bully who, although physically much stronger than his victim, is afraid and anxious lest he should be caught red-handed and his brutality punished. They lost their heads for no particular reason; they believed the wildest rumours. They mobilised suddenly all the available troops in Dalmatia and set them to defend the coast, because it had been reported (obviously by some wag) that 30,000 Garibaldian volunteers were preparing to invade it. The Athletic Club of Trieste, with 3,000 members, was closed by order of the police five times. But as there is no law against the formation of a new society, the closure of the club only meant a change of name. Some of the reasons given for the action of the authorities are perhaps worth recording. In 1864 the alleged reason was that a public entertainment had been given in the garden of the club; in 1882 the club postponed a meeting in sign of mourning for the death of Garibaldi, and this, the Austrian authorities said, showed that the club had "political aims dangerous to the safety of the State." "I want to clear out all these Italians," the chief of the police was overheard to say in Trieste. "We must do in Trieste *as we have done in Dalmatia;* help with every means the non-Italian elements and wipe out the Italians altogether," wrote Lieutenant-Marshal Foerstner in the *Oesterreichische Rundschau* shortly before the war.

The merciless persecution of the Italians in the unredeemed provinces must be taken into account even before the great historical and important military claims of Italy on these lands are considered. Any solution, any proposal which did not make full amends for the wrongs suffered during fifty years by the Italian population would be bound to encourage a policy which is not only immoral, when measured by every canon humanity ever evolved to save civilisation from barbarism, but is also bound to lead to international complications. The sufferer must needs revolt against the oppressor as soon as the opportunity arises. The oppressor himself who does wrong, and is conscious of it, redoubles his cruelties to stifle the victim before Nemesis can overtake him. Neither the most cynical and most hardened criminals nor the new tyrant can escape this instinctive dread of justice even when they have reason to think themselves beyond its reach. Germany was eager to "give France a lesson," although she knew that France was not in a position to attempt, and was far from contemplating, the recovery of Alsace-Lorraine. At the time of the Messina earthquake Austrian generals, betraying the instinct which combines fear and cruelty, suggested an attack on Italy to prevent even the remote possibility of a cry of anger from the mother country for the Italian population across the frontier deprived of its birthright. One wrong leads inevitably to another.

As for the strategical claims of Italy on these coastal provinces, their importance may have been thought exaggerated once. Now, however, it must be clear that for the mastery of the Adriatic the possession of the eastern coast is an indispensable condition. Neither Italian, English nor French commanders have been able to accomplish much, in spite of the great skill shown in smaller operations and the devotion of the sailors. "The long coastal State of Dalmatia, which flanks Bosnia-Herzegovina on the west," writes Sir Thomas Holdich, "is divided from them by the effective wall of the Dinaric Alps. Across that rugged system no railway has yet been carried, and Dalmatia owes her independent existence entirely to the natural strength of her frontier." This is the reason why her history and her civilisation were those of Rome and Venice, not those of the people living beyond the Alps. These are, of course, frontier provinces, and frontier provinces have always a more or less mixed population. If the Czechs obtain their autonomy and France recovers Alsace-Lorraine, the percentage of the foreign population will be higher there than it will be in these unredeemed provinces of Italy. Nor is it to be thought that the fulfilment of the Italian claim would mean the exclusion from the Adriatic of other nations. Both to the north and to the south of Dalmatia there are excellent harbours which would give the hinterland its outlet on the sea.

F. BONAVIA.

* The previous articles, in which the writer states the Italian case regarding the future of Dalmatia, appeared in THE NEAR EAST of July 6 and 13.

WHITE HORSE WHISKY.

HEART TONIC.

DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.

By Appointment to

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Prophecy seems to be very much in the air just now—a not unnatural development after three years of this world upheaval. Only a fool would contend that the striking forecasts in the Bible are meaningless, but whether a wise man will seek to probe their meaning and fit them to contemporary events is another matter. In any case, the subject is a most fascinating one, and it has by no means been confined to the present year of grace. Those of us who are old enough will recall a perfect epidemic of alleged fulfilments of prophecy in the 'seventies and 'eighties including confident predictions of the end of the world. I cannot say that I analysed them carefully at the time or can do more now than vaguely recall them. But there they were. A few papers added to their advertisement revenue, and no one, I hope, was any the worse.

***

To come forward at this moment and lay claims to superwisdom, because you have discovered a very clear application of Biblical prophecy in current events may be all right, but it smacks a little of not being altogether cricket. I am reminded of a political trial in Serbia in its unregenerate days. The Government of the day arrested the whole of the Opposition and then took an unconscionable time to trump up charges against them. They also "obliged" their supporters in the country by arresting any embarrassing political opponents. A favourite charge, when the trial did come on, was to attribute treasonable designs and complicity in a plot on the strength of an alleged statement to the effect that things were going to change one day in Serbia. As they were changing politically with great frequency, it was rather an obvious remark on the part of the village wiseacre, and it was sheer bad luck that it should have entailed from three to five years' penal servitude. In the same way it seems to me that if there are any prophecies going about, it will be difficult for them to escape present-day application.

***

Be this as it may, the editor of *The Young Man and Woman* has no use for anybody who does not appreciate the fact that the twelfth verse of the twelfth chapter of Daniel is a definite prediction of the fall of Turkey—

"Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days."

This year 1917 is the year 1335 according to the Turkish calendar, as is duly recorded week by week in THE NEAR EAST. It is plain enough. There is no doubt about Turkey being in a bad way, and, according to our authority, the fall of Turkey is "definitely dated to the year and even day," namely, "October, 1917." (No explanation, as far as I can discover, is given as to how the month is arrived at, and the day seems to be left a blank.)

***

Needless to say, we all hope that the editor of *The Young Man and Woman* is going to be right. I fear I shall offend him by saying that, as it is not a question of his being right. IT IS, so to speak, and there's an end of it. Let's hope that General Allenby has been duly acquainted with the fact, and, by the same token, General Sarrail. But without being a bit of a sceptic, what puzzles me is, why the reference must necessarily be to Turkey, and not, let us say, to China, Mexico, or Germany. Of course, the fact that Daniel's prophecies were addressed to the Children of Israel brings Palestine into the picture. But if verse 12 of chapter xii. refers to Turkey and the year 1335, ought not verse 11 to have a similar application?

11. And from the time that the daily (sacrifice) shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, (there shall be) a thousand two hundred and ninety days.

12. Blessed is he that waiteth, etc.

It seems somewhat arbitrary to make 1335 (1917) fit in so nicely with things as they are, and to leave 1290 (1872) quite out in the cold. But for all I know there may be an explanation of the 1290.

***

It is really necessary to be precise about these matters, for there is no Defence of the World Act to place an embargo on prophets. So from *The Young Man and Woman* I turn to a pamphlet, price one halfpenny, entitled "A Prophecy of the Prophet 'Ahmad' and its Fulfilment." This opens with a long quotation—a distinctly poor effort compared with Daniel's stirring words.

"Some time later, the world shall witness a sign which will shake towns, villages, and meadows to the very foundations. . . . An earthquake shall suddenly bring a terrible shaking over men, trees, stones and sea. The earth shall turn upside down in the twinkling of an eye. . . . The time and the hour shall be very hard on every wayfarer who will miss the way in utter helplessness and total despair." And so on; in other words, there's to be a dickens of a time. Then we read:—"All men, rich and poor, and spirits shall be deeply affected and exhausted for fear, and even the Tsar of Russia shall feel miserable at that moment. . . . Do not deny this through impatience, O undiscerning youth, because on it rests the truth of my claim." The black lines are in the original.

***

The pamphlet continues:—

"These are the words of the Prophet of the Day, 'Ahmad,' of Qadian, India. They, depending on Divine Revelation, were written down in April, 1905, and made public. In many a subsequent writing the prophecy was repeatedly referred to. . . he notified emphatically that upon its fulfilment rested the truth of his claim. Now it has proved to be true. The Prophet proclaimed thousands of prophecies and they all came true. . . . If with all this, Ahmad is not a Prophet of God, then who in the world was ever a Prophet of God?"

Clearly a case for the aforesaid editor. But one cannot help thinking that some more halfpenny pamphlets are called for, dealing with some others of these "thousands of prophecies" which "all came true." The Prophet "Ahmad" would be on surer ground, if some of them were a little more definite than the one quoted above, which, after all, would fit in quite as well with a rather bad earthquake in the south of Russia, as with the present war. Of course, the more prophets the better these days; but we want them to get busy reforming the world and leading their fellow-men to better and higher things, rather than to devote all their time to insisting upon their claims to *be* Prophets.

***

As Palestine is to be freed from the Turks, I am glad to see that the Tank is to have a hand—or should it be a nose?—in it. There is not the least shadow of doubt that these weird engines of war have made good, and it is comforting to think that some of the "side shows" are to have the benefit of their presence. One is tempted to wonder, however, whether just south of Gaza our men would not almost set more store on tanks of the good old-fashioned sort that hold water, and plenty of it. Think of an allowance of a pint a day, to march and fight on, and in that climate, too. A veil hangs over the Gaza operations. It is to be hoped that General Allenby will be able to lift it before long.

CORSAIR.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

ZIONIST WORK IN PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The reference to Zionist work in Palestine contained in the summary of an address by Mr. M. Pickthall in your issue of July 13 is so full of misrepresentations that, as a Palestinian Zionist, I cannot let it go without a brief reply. In the first place, "extreme and narrow fanaticism" is the last quality which could be attributed to the Zionist settlers in Palestine by anybody who had any knowledge of their character and work. On the contrary, they are the most enlightened and progressive element in Palestine, to the regeneration of which they have made notable contributions. They have won the respect of their Arab neighbours, who often prefer to have their differences with the Jewish colonists settled by the courts of arbitration of the Jewish colonies (which have no compulsory powers) rather than bring them before the regular Turkish tribunals. Both the record of the Jewish colonies and the avowed policy of the Zionist organisation show how baseless is the suggestion that the achievement of Zionist aims in Palestine "would mean oppression for the other elements of the population."

Equally baseless is Mr. Pickthall's insinuation that the Zionist settlers were prevented from becoming Ottoman subjects by "wire-pullers" with ulterior political objects. The facts are that many of the settlers did become Ottoman subjects, and that those who did not do so preferred to retain their original nationality, because the notoriously unsatisfactory Turkish courts did not seem to afford them as much security as they obtained from the protection of their Consuls. I am, etc.,

S. TOLKOWSKY.

57, St. Gabriel's Road, Cricklewood, N.W.,2.
July 18, 1917.

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THE UNDERGROUND NILE.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

A short time ago M. V. Mosseri published in the Bulletin of the Institut Egyptien an important article for all interested in increasing the fertility of Egypt, entitled "L'Utilisation du Reservoir Souterrain de l'Egypte," with three plates showing the levels of underground water at various annual periods. This subject had been treated previously by Mr. Ferrar in his work, "The Subsoil Water of Upper Egypt." M. Mosseri studies the question also as relating to Lower Egypt, and comes to the conclusion that an immense amount of the water which in Egypt, it is known, flows down beneath the ground into the Delta subsoil, and there becomes brackish, and probably ultimately reaches the sea, could be secured and utilised.

If this scheme is to be successful, the water must be intercepted about eighty miles south of the Mediterranean, before it becomes at all salted, and M. Messori's plan is to place a perfect barrage of wells right across the Nile Valley, pump the water from these into an artificially raised reservoir of such a height as to enable a large tract of country to be irrigated, when the water would be most beneficial. He calculated that 1,000 cubic metres could be obtained for about 10 piastres, and as it would be utilised when the Nile is at its lowest, when water for the crops is most valuable, it should be a payable proposition. Whether he has made sufficient allowance for evaporation is not clear.

There is an archæological side to this question, which is that the ancient Egyptians knew well of this underground water flow, and for one purpose, at any rate, used it. All the large temples had a sacred pond, or lake, and the smaller ones just a tank. The water contained in these was holy water, and in order to insure this was supposed to be only derived from a sacred reach of the Nile somewhere near Elephantine. To secure this being so it was not brought in boats or pipes from high up the river, but the underground flow was tapped by deep wells, and the water so reached was certified by the priests as having come by subterranean natural conduits from the site where the sacred water part of the Nile was situated. Whilst there may, in some cases, have been priestly deception, and they may have known their special temple well drew its supply from the neighbouring Nile, there is no reason to think this was the rule. By some means their learned men had detected that much of the Upper Nile water did not flow through Egypt by the river itself, but disappeared, and they also found out that fresh water, which, of course, in Egypt must have been originally Nilotic, was always running from south to north beneath the ground.

There is reason to think that in Pharaonic times the Delta stood higher than it does now and that the water beneath it was fresh, and hence the great agricultural districts spoken of there were produced, and the large cities like Tanis supported.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Roumania's Choice.

The New Europe has an interesting article under the above heading from the pen of Mme. Take Jonescu. Among the personal touches which Mme. Jonescu is in a position to supply may be noted the expression attributed to King Carol, after the State Council of August 3:—"Gentlemen, you have acted, no doubt, according to what you consider the interests of your country, but you have destroyed my work of forty-six years." Again, the fact that King Carol wished Roumania to join the Central Powers did not prevent him from telegraphing to King Constantine his urgent counsel that Greece, as a maritime country, should remain on the side of the great naval Powers—England and France. The normal feeling of Roumanians towards Germany is well brought out by the following:—

The Roumanians, in the pride of their Latin descent, entertained a traditional contempt for the Germans, using, in reference to them or the Austro-Germans, the Slavonic word "Neamtzi," which had gradually become a term of disdain, applied, not unfrequently, even to the late King, by certain disrespectful subjects. It was only after months of lavish expenditure by the Germans in every form of corruption, and the most insidious and increasing Teuton propaganda, that one observed the more polite expression "Germani" was somewhat replacing the more familiar term of "Neamtzi."

General Iliescu's statement that Roumania decided to emerge from her neutrality in consequence of a "sort of summons" from Russia is denied, and the reason given is that "her leaders felt that the interests and dignity of the country prevented her from remaining longer a spectator in the war fought for her liberty—and that of all nations." Unfortunately, the Roumanian Government had given little heed to the subject of munitions, and this factor, combined with others equally well known, led to the disaster which the country has suffered.

Roumania and the Dobruja.

Mme. Take Jonescu makes an important statement in regard to the Roumanian attitude towards the question of the Dobruja. Speaking of the time before Bulgaria threw in her lot with the Central Powers, she writes:—

All far-seeing Roumanian statesmen at that time were of the opinion that, were it considered desirable, in order to facilitate the task of the Entente, Roumania should give up to Bulgaria some part of the recent addition to her territory in the Dobruja, provided that Greece and Serbia were willing to make similar sacrifices to the common cause. But, as events proved, Ferdinand coveted the whole of the Dobruja, and his ambitions in the direction of Macedonia were equally exaggerated. There are no ethnological claims to support Bulgarian pretensions in the Dobruja. A varied population of Turks, Tartars, Jews, Roumanians, and Bulgarians inhabited that district when it was taken from Turkey in the Russo-Turkish war of 1877, in which Bulgarian independence was gained. Nor should it be forgotten that 10,000 Roumanian soldiers fell on the field of Plevna and Grivitza in this struggle against Turkey. When, in 1878, Russia declared her intention of re-annexing Bessarabia, Roumania was offered the whole of the quadrilateral in compensation for the loss of Bessarabia. Unfortunately, Roumania's representatives (among them Ian Bratianu, father of the present Prime Minister) during the Congress of Berlin, for reasons of internal policy, did not accept this proposal. By the final decision of the Congress, they were obliged to content themselves with the smaller portion of territory with its indefensible frontier—rectified after the Balkan war—instead of the vast expanse of country between Varna and Rustchuk, including those two towns, which had at first been offered.

Egypt's Eastern Frontier.

Mr. E. G. Harmer, in *The Christian World*, considers that when in May, 1906, the British Government required the Sultan of Turkey to consent to the frontier of Egypt being drawn from Rafa "in an approximately straight line" south-east to the Gulf of Akaba, armchair diplomacy gained a triumph for which the nation has been paying dearly. He continues:—

We know better now. When the geographer and the soldier presently have their say, it can hardly be doubted that they will urge the readjustment of this artificial line to the boundary projected by Nature. Such a boundary may reasonably take into account the undulating plain from Gaza to Beersheba, the passes of Edom, and the western slopes of the Arabah. The full story of Gaza has yet to be told. Its deep, rich soil, which has enabled it to send an annual supply of 30,000 tons of barley to Great Britain in recent years, is in shining contrast with the barren limestone hills, topped with gravel and flint, that mark the desolation of the "approximately straight line" far to the south. Sinai meant more to Egypt than to Palestine ever since it gave to the valley of the Nile its treasures of copper ore, and in so doing ushered in the civilisation of mankind. Thus it was that the greater Pharaohs ever insisted upon Gaza being in friendly hands, for amid its abundant wells they found the indispensable base for their movements in Western Asia.

Gaza—In the Past.

Sketching briefly the history of Gaza Mr. Harmer writes:—

Thus we are not to think of Gaza as a city founded by the Philistines, but as a long-settled centre of neolithic life, into which there came from their far-off Anatolian home a non-Semitic, perhaps Pelasgian, people. They brought with them a knowledge of metals, an instinct for dominion, a new standard of comfort—for their women travelled in two-wheeled carts—and a capacity for social organization which enabled them to utilize the aboriginal peoples for their material advantage. Long centuries after Samson destroyed its temple gates, after Sennacherib gave to its king Zilbel a part of the land of Judah, after Pharaoh Necho smote the Gaza of Jeremiah's day, there was still a Dagon temple to be destroyed by one of the Maccabees. Still later, as Strabo hints, there lingered in its bazaars the patois first taught by the Philistines, with that mingling of Semite and Greek words which may be compared with the pidgin of the modern East. And when the Roman power, with its zest for fine buildings and settled law, gave place to the commercial instinct of the Byzantine, Gaza found a new era of prosperity in the terrace-cultivation of the desert wadis, developed by the storage of the winter rains in innumerable cisterns. It was an age of busy intercourse between east and west, when the silken produce of China was brought across the southern route to the threshold of Asia, and distributed thence to the markets of the west.

At length came Islam, and with it in due time the Turk. Gaza fell on evil days, and may never recover its ancient pride. But under the gentler rule that is coming it will yet be a pleasant city. Its hoary olive trees will burst into a vivider green; its black pottery, beloved of the wandering Bedouin, will become still more renowned. Then will it earn again the homage that once it had from Antonius of Placentia, when he wrote, "Gaza is a splendid, delicious city, full of the honestest of men and lovers of pilgrims."

Gaza—To-day.

N. B., in the *Manchester Guardian*, describes the scene of the present operations before Gaza:—

When I went down the line, the plain beyond the railhead, stretching away to the Gaza river and beyond, was populous

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with camps and tents and horse-lines and wagons that dotted the barley fields, a blue lagoon was set between the palm trees and the sand dunes, and the ground sparkled and was fragrant with wild flowers. But oh! the heavy change now. Spring has gone. The barley has all been cut, and the ground is brown and burnt; the lagoon has almost dried up, or perhaps it has been drunk up by the myriad horses and camels; and the camp and tents have altogether disappeared from view. It is partly because our troops have gone forward since the second attack on Gaza and are now nearer the Turkish defences, but principally it is that they have gone underground.

The Egyptian Expeditionary Force at last has had to follow the example of the other British armies, and dig in. After a year and a-half on the desert sands, pursuing an elusive foe, it has met him face to face; and straightway both sides have been forced to hide. We have descended, in fact, to trench warfare. The British and the Turks confront each other—below the ground—on a line of some fifteen miles from the sea along ridges half-encircling Gaza, and thence south-eastwards to Hareni and the hills which overlook Beersheba. They are waging the thorough trench warfare, with all its regular incidents, the early morning and the evening artillery "strafes," the saps and the tunnellings, and the night raids. But so far we have escaped the hideousness of the model on the western front. There is no heartless desolation around, no diabolical overturning of the face of the land. Behind both lines are green orchards, and even the little farmhouses are allowed to stand, though they are respectfully recognised as "unhealthy" spots. No Man's Land is still green, and as the line is long, but not deep, the ugly business of the fighting machine is decently localised. When the men in the front trenches are changed and come into billet, they merely march back a few miles and camp in one of the wadis which scar the country and are tolerably shell-proof and bomb-proof. A few fortunate ones are sent to rest camps on the seashore.

Prosperous Egypt.

A writer in the *Lincoln Echo* gives a very satisfactory account of the state of Egypt to-day, as he sees the land after a three years' absence. There is now, he says, an air of prosperity everywhere; whereas—

It was apparent before this war that a commercial crisis was hanging over the country. Trade was almost at a standstill. Business was bad and agriculture was being restricted by legislation owing to over-production. Such a state of affairs naturally tended to breed discontent and unrest, but, true to traditions as the Land of Paradox, Egypt found her salvation in the war. To all other belligerents it brought its train of want, misery, and ruin, but to Egypt it brought prosperity, wealth, and content. . . .

The prices of all natural produce have so increased that agriculturists are reaping unprecedented prices for the yield of their lands. Never have all the conditions combined so happily to ensure the general welfare. The removal of all enemy influences and interests from our midst has prevented those intrigues which might nevertheless have found opportunities of fostering mischief, and this helps to explain another remarkable feature of the situation, viz., the changed attitude of the native towards the British soldier. That sullen yielding with ill-grace attitude of the native towards the British generally has largely disappeared, and has been replaced by a more frank and more trustful spirit. Our Tommies seem to feel themselves infinitely more at home in Egypt since the war, and the Egyptians are not only taking them for granted, but are beginning to realise their good-humoured and generous nature. It is, perhaps, too much to suggest that the native is beginning to show a sense of gratitude for the benefits conferred by our rule, but it would certainly appear that the knowledge is dawning upon him that his interests are bound up with ours.

Articles to Note.

"The Baghdad Railway and its Tributaries." By H. Charles Wood. Reprinted in pamphlet form from the *Geographical Journal*.

"The Order of St. John of Jerusalem." By Miss Estelle Blyth. *Quarterly Statement* of the Palestine Exploration Fund.

"Notes from Salonika." By H. Collinson Owen.—*Land and Water*.

TO OUR READERS.

THE NEAR EAST is published on Friday, and copies are obtainable at any London bookstall early in the morning, and in the Provinces in the afternoon, of that day. To prevent disappointment, readers would assist us very much if they would place a standing order with their newsagent or railway bookstall for the supply of the paper every week. Any newsagent or railway bookstall clerk can, however, obtain copies at a few hours' notice if they have temporarily run out of stock; or we will post THE NEAR EAST for delivery on Friday morning, to any address, on the following terms, post free:—

12 MONTHS, £1; 6 MONTHS, 11s.; 3 MONTHS, 6s.

THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY.

On July 16, at the London Chamber of Commerce, Mr. F. Faithfull Begg delivered an address on Mesopotamia and the Baghdad Railway. Speaking of Germany's aspirations in Asia, he said that it was her intention to establish an empire extending from the mouth of the Rhine across Europe in a south-easterly direction to Constantinople and thence away through Asiatic Turkey to the Persian Gulf; as thus she would have a land empire giving her continuous communication throughout its area and preventing communication between States situated to the east and the west. German policy had long been gravitating towards the east. Moltke had been the first to see the importance to Germany of these lands, and had explored the Tigris and Euphrates valleys many years ago; but it was probably at the Congress of Berlin in 1878 that Germany first seriously felt that she had arrived at the parting of the ways, and that she might be able to secure for herself the reversion to the heritage of the Cæsars in Asia Minor. Sir William Willcocks had estimated that Mesopotamia could be connected with a Mediterranean port in the neighbourhood of Tyre and Sidon by a railway 600 miles long, and costing £4,000 a mile to build; but, of course, such a railway could not be made part of the German plan of through communication between Berlin and Baghdad via Constantinople. It was estimated that the Germans had already spent nearly £12,000,000 upon the railway they were engaged in constructing, which had been pushed on with feverish haste since the beginning of the war. It was said that they now had 1,500 miles constructed, and that of this length 1,100 miles were working; the gap at present extending only from Ras-el-Ain to Samarra.

Lord Desborough, who presided, said that Chesney's idea had been that the railway should end at the sea and be free to all. He had suggested that it should start at Alexandria. If the European Powers interested could agree to that route it had a great deal to recommend it.

Sir John Jackson spoke of his own experiences in constructing the Hindieh Barrage. He said that he had gone to Turkey with the idea that in that country no business could possibly be done without the payment of backsheesh. His transactions had been with the late Nazim Pasha, whom he had met at Baghdad, and with whom he had spent three days fixing up the details of the concession. The total financial expenditure involved was some £16,000,000 or £18,000,000, but not sixpence of backsheesh in any shape or form was asked or accepted by Nazim. Some 9,000 or 10,000 men had been employed on the work, and he (Sir John Jackson) had found both Arabs and Turks good people to deal with. When the war broke out he and his staff were courteously treated. They were taken over to the west and liberated. The Turks had not allowed the few ladies of the staff to leave Mesopotamia, because they did not think it safe for them to cross the seas; but they gave their word that the ladies should be taken every care of, and, had they remained in Baghdad, they would by now have been free. But about a year ago arrangements had been made for them to go to Constantinople, and there the ladies were now. If properly dealt with, Mesopotamia was as good a country as Egypt; the only question was whether all the water in the Euphrates and Tigris together was enough to irrigate the land that was available.

Mr. Arthur Whitley gave some further information about the Hindieh Barrage. He said that he had been told by Turkish officials that in three or four years this dam would have paid for itself, because of the extra revenue from the lands which it brought under irrigation.

Mr. A. Boddham Taylor said that whether the Euphrates and Tigris would or would not have enough water to irrigate the whole country, they certainly would not have enough water both for that purpose and to carry the produce of the irrigated lands down to the sea. Thus the railway was an absolute necessity. There was a question as to whether the railway should follow the Tigris or Euphrates. The Tigris valley was the more fertile of the two, for it was fertile right up to Mosul, whereas the Euphrates valley became rather mountainous about Anah.

Other speakers followed.

RED CROSS AID IN RUMANIA.

The Hon. Arthur Stanley, chairman of the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John, has received the following telegram of thanks to the Red Cross from the Queen of Roumania:—

"Deeply touched at all you are doing to help my country. I thank you with all my heart, begging you to express my feeling of gratitude to all those who have shared in this work. We can see the actual results of better feeding on our sick."

According to Reuter's correspondent, the exhumation of the bodies of the victims of the December outrages at Athens and the proofs that numbers of persons were murdered in cold blood have caused a considerable sensation. The relatives of the victims have made representations to M. Venizelos demanding the punishment of those responsible.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Speaking at the London Chamber of Commerce last week, in the course of a discussion on a paper on "Mesopotamia and the Baghdad Railway," read by Mr. Faithful Begg, Sir John Jackson paid a tribute to the Government of Egypt. He expressed the hope that, if the British retained possession of the country, it would not be tacked on to India, but would be given a government similar to that of Egypt. Sir John knows a great deal about the three countries, and, within certain limits, probably has a shrewd idea as to what is best for the land recently occupied. At the same time it would be ungrateful not to recognise what the Government of India has already accomplished in the Busreh vilayet. I have referred previously to the excellent work of organisation that has been carried out in, and in the vicinity of, the port by officers of the Indian establishments. Merchants and shippers who knew the Shatt-el-Arab port in the bad old days of Turkish misrule are enthusiastic about the improvements that have been effected, some of them in the face of the most serious obstacles.

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It may not be worth while to enumerate them again, but for the benefit of those of my readers who do not happen to be up-to-date I will mention some of the successes that have been achieved. We may pass by the fact that it has long been possible to buy British postal orders in the Garden of Eden; but it is worthy of permanent record that in little more than a year a fully-equipped and easy-working Customs Service, untainted by Turkish corruption, is in operation, that public works are already carefully organised and effecting improvements in road and water communications, that the maintenance of order is satisfactorily undertaken by Indian native police under their European officers, and that the trial of commercial causes under conditions of perfect justice and impartiality is proceeding smoothly and to the satisfaction of the native merchants and traders. Remove the new land from the special control of the Government of India if it be thought fit to do so; but we must be just at the same time.

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The April return of the Egyptian note circulation issued by the National Bank of Egypt, shows a substantial reduction in the amount outstanding as compared with December 31 last, the total being £E20,250,000, as compared with £E21,200,000 at the end of December last. Against this, the gold holding is £E5,307,584, against £E5,930,710 four months ago, while the holding of special British Treasury bills has increased from £E4,669,289 to £E4,817,416. Amongst the other securities, Egyptian Treasury bills, at £E2,876,250, and Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, at £E555,511, are practically unaltered, but there is a decline in the amount of British Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds, the holding of which is now £E6,693,239, as compared with £E7,167,990 at the end of 1916.

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I learn from advices received by the British Empire Producers' Organisation from the new British province of Darfur that traders from Wadai, the adjoining French colony on the western side, now resort to Darfur for such commodities as sugar, soap, dyes, textiles, etc. The trade route from Wadai to Europe used formerly to pass through the Sudan, but the immense exactions of the now-abolished Sultanate of Darfur on commerce in transit caused the abandonment of the far shorter Eastern trade route via Khartoum and the substitution of the longer and for much of the year impracticable route via the west and north. The old order of things will now probably be restored, and the French in Wadai draw their imports by an all-red British route. Despite tariffs, there should accordingly be a good opening for certain British producers and manufacturers in the Darfur market. Quite apart, of course, from trade with the French in Wadai, trade in Darfur itself is certain to develop with the restoration of security in the rescued province; indeed, the revival has already begun.

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It is stated in commercial circles in London that British shipowners are much impressed by the length of the period in which the German Government propose to give subsidies for the construction of new vessels. My friends in Near Eastern parts will have no difficulty in recalling the thorough manner in which the Germans managed their shipping business, and will realise, more vividly perhaps than people in this country, that when the Berlin Government declare that the object of the subsidy proposal is to enable Germany to "resume her world trade and world communications immediately after the war" they mean that they will bring all their capacity for hard work, all their undoubted skill, and all their power of clever double-dealing to bear on the problem. Shipping facilities mean trade development, and this fact must always be borne in mind. The Bill for the Restoration of the German Mercantile Marine must not be thought lightly of, therefore, and British traders in the Mediterranean will do well to prepare for another invasion of enemy traders when the end of the war will enable them to resume their old activities.

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Shipping folk in Port Said, Alexandria and other places in the Eastern Mediterranean will agree with me in the view that we must not hold the Germans too cheaply. There is a tendency to do so none the less. Only too frequently the cry is heard that it will take them many years to recover all they have lost; so it will, if our own people shake off their sloth and begin now to consolidate the position which the absence of the Hun and Austrian rival has helped to consolidate. It may be taken for granted, however, that if things are allowed to slide, and the paralysis of German trade taken for granted, the dead will rise again to our discomfiture and loss. In brief, it will be fatal to wait until after the war. The campaign must be initiated now.

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To return to the subsidies. So far no official attempt appears to have been made to estimate the probable expenditure involved by the Bill; but *The Times* quotes a telegram from Hamburg to the *Vossische Zeitung* which says that "the probable amount of the subsidies is estimated at Hamburg at 1,500,000,000 marks—or, at the rate of exchange before the war, about £75,000,000. It is said that the Hamburg shipowners only criticise the provision that a ship may not be sold to an alien during a period of ten years after it is put in commission; it is argued that German owners should be able to take any opportunity to sell old ships in a favourable market without having to wait for special licence. The Bill came before the Reichstag last week, and was sent to the Committee for Trade and Industry."

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The news has reached London this week that the latest indications in Abyssinia point to another high Nile this year. Further information on this important point will be awaited with much interest in London, where recently Egyptian land shares have been particularly active, as will have been seen from the weekly letters of the City Correspondent of THE NEAR EAST.

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The unfortunate Turk continues to pay the penalty imposed on him by the unwisdom of his rulers. According to Greek refugees from Asia Minor who have arrived at Mitylene, the situation among the population has become grave. In Smyrna, for example, wheat is retailed at about 3s. 7½d. an oke of 2¾ lbs., sugar, in normal times three or four piastres for the same quantity, has risen to 170 to 190 piastres, while a pair of boots may possibly be secured for £T8 or £T9. The *Amalthia*, a Greek paper in Smyrna, states that "the committee for preventing speculation publishes a notice prohibiting the sale of a case of Swedish matches at a higher price than £T16, while the price of first quality fezzes is fixed at forty piastres each, and of an inferior quality at ten piastres."

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The situation in regard to silver is receiving anxious attention in this country. The present price fluctuates between 40d. and 42d. an ounce, the highest it has reached for many years. Indian demands, of course, are the supreme factor in the situation, and notwithstanding the many suggestions that have been made to find a solution of the problem there is some doubt of their practicability.

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Discussing the problem recently, the *Metal Bulletin* remarked:—"The world cannot supply India with as much silver as she bought in 1916, as America is using a good deal for her own coinage, while Russia, Germany, Austria, and all the Balkan States are absolutely famished for want of silver currency. Even France, which years ago held over £20,000,000 of silver coinage, is now reduced to £10,000,000 in her Treasury, in spite of different small paper issues to replace francs."

COMMENTATOR.

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MOROCCO.

Trade Openings for British Merchants.

(From a Correspondent.)

A British merchant told me the other day that he had attempted to do business in Morocco, but that the results were so insignificant that he cut his losses. What seemed to impress him most about his failure was the extreme difficulty he encountered in securing reliable agents—men, that is to say, who could be relied on to return correct accounts as well as to push trade.

There are some overseas markets in which direct representation is an essential to success. Morocco is one of them. There are no longer sufficient local agents to cater for the increasing trade. The country abounds with lucrative openings, purchasers await the right kind of goods, and, let it be said, the right kind of salesmen; but if the British merchant is not prepared to work through a branch of his own house he will find that the game is not worth the candle.

An official of a prominent bank told me a few days ago that he had been inundated with requests for the names of "suitable" agents in the country; to all he replied advising the sending out of representatives from England as the better method.

Morocco is not a new market by any means. In other days, in certain lines, British interests predominated; there is no need to go into the causes that led to a change. Some of them were political, and politics do not concern me much.

Britain—the Only Loser.

It will be convenient to take the figures of 1913, as being the last complete year before the war, to express a view regarding the openings that present themselves, and also to show how our own people have lost ground. In that year the total trade showed an increase of nearly two millions sterling—it rose from a little more than eleven millions in 1912 to about thirteen millions in 1913. The increase was entirely in imports, which rose in total value from eight millions sterling to more than eleven millions. These are important facts; and here is a fact which is even more important. In that year of increased buying in Morocco the only selling country that showed a falling-off in business was Great Britain! On the other hand, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Belgium, and other countries, in less degree, all increased their turnover. Britain was left at the post, so to speak.

One of the handicaps from which British trade suffered was the lack of shipping facilities. Only two lines of steamers visited the coast, and neither of them, at the time of which I write, was regular enough to be relied on. In addition, their charges were extremely high. Motor-car prices will illustrate this. A demand had sprung up for cars, and it was reported that the British vehicle could not compete with the French, and the reason was that while the charges for freight, etc., on the French car amounted to between eight and twelve pounds, the expenses on cars shipped from the United Kingdom varied from thirty-five to fifty pounds.

Beaten by Foreign Ships.

The matter was put to British shipowners, and they argued that owing to the bad condition of the ports, it was impossible to provide a better service except at a loss. The British Consul-General in Morocco, Mr. (now Sir) H. E. White, contested this view in his annual report for the year. "The fact, however, remains (he wrote) that French and German companies have been able to do it, and now a Dutch company is starting a good service to take the place of the German steamers that have had to cease running."

The official went further than that, however. "Trade with the United Kingdom would increase with greater shipping facilities," he wrote. "There can be no doubt that the absence of such facilities has adversely affected British trade, because importers in Morocco prefer to order their goods in a country from which they can be sure of receiving them within a reasonable time and at the smallest cost for freight, etc." Not an unreasonable preference.

Evidence of Opportunity.

I daresay that I shall be told that the war has changed conditions, and what was once a promising field has deteriorated, and so on. There is a complete reply to doubts of that character. To begin with, the Bank of British West Africa has recently opened operations at Tangier, Casablanca, and Mazagan, and banks do not, usually, incur the expense of establishing branches in areas which present no opportunities for business. The sagacious management of this particular concern is a pretty sure guarantee that its extension of scope was not undertaken without the fullest knowledge of all the conditions.

Another important and still more recent event is the formation of the British Merchants' Morocco Association. This body is more than a Chamber of Commerce or a Trade Protection Society; it is an Association of British manufacturers and merchants who have combined to develop British interests of all kinds. The scope of the Association includes the development of existing opportunities, the creation of new openings, the study of trade conditions, and, generally, to undertake the keeping of the British name in the fore rank in all the markets in the country. The members of the council of the Association are among the greatest powers in British industry, as the list will show:—

The Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow, President and Chairman.

Mr. Robert Samuel Hunter (Partner, Charles Murdoch and Co., London), Vice-President).

Mr. Samuel Lamb (Partner, Coddington and Lamb, Manchester), Deputy Chairman.

Mr. S. M. Afriat (Director, Aaron Afriat and Co., Ltd., London).

Mr. H. H. Brock (Director, A. and S. Henry and Co., Ltd., Manchester).

Mr. J. W. Clark (General Manager, The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co., London).

Mr. S. H. Cotton (Partner, Culverwell, Brooks, and Co., London).

Mr. L. Couper (Chief Manager, Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., London), Treasurer.

Mr. J. M. S. De Moraville (Director, Harrisons and Crosfield, Ltd., London).

Mr. F. C. Lamb (Partner, Lamb Bros., Manchester).

Mr. Joshua M. Levy (Partner, M. de J. Levy and Sons, London).

Mr. S. Linton (Director, Linton and Lamb, Ltd., London).

Mr. E. C. Lord (Partner, J. C. and W. Lord, Birmingham).

Mr. C. Radburn (General Manager, Price's Patent Candle Co., Ltd., London).

Mr. Mark Winder (Director, Ashton Bros. and Co., Ltd., Manchester).

Equally important is the fact that the French Government have recently undertaken extensive public works in order to improve road communications, concessions have been given for the extension of existing and the construction of new harbour works, and all the indications point to the certainty that important trade developments are events of the near future.

Facts and Figures.

I alluded just now to the fact that in 1913 Great Britain alone lost in the trade race. Here are the figures:—

	Total sales. £		Inc. or dec. £
Britain	1,385,337	..	— 353,973
France	2,775,430	..	+1,454,593
Germany	524,405	..	+ 171,585
Spain	165.054	..	+ 84,960
Belgium	272,850	..	+ 154,489
Austria-Hungary	171,591	..	+ 42,888
Holland	136,438	..	+ 50,402
Sweden	140,000	..	+ 88,660

If we except tea, the trade in which we shared with Germany, whose share was £40,000; candles, of which Belgium and Holland supplied considerable quantities; coal and rice—commodities of which Britain supplied the great bulk—imports were distributed among most European countries.

Germany exported to Morocco sugar, £214,493; woollens, £96,779; hardware, £53,317; flour, £43,424; wines and spirits, £41,246; tea, £40,087; rice, £35,659; corn, £20,620; machinery, glass, cottons, iron, paper, groceries, provisions, and toys.

Austria-Hungary exported sugar, £128,436; woollens, £29,940; timber, £13,215; cottons, hardware, furniture, wines, glass, and chinaware.

Belgium sent iron, £96,669; cement and lime, £72,572; sugar, £32,176; flour, £20,048; hardware, £17,628; timber, £17,085; candles, £16,672; glass, corn, tiles, confectionery, biscuits, and woollens.

Are We Ready?

The war cannot last for ever; perhaps the end will come as abruptly as the beginning. Will our merchants and manufacturers be ready to start off from the line when the time for action arrives? A glance at the figures given above will show that there will be a reversion to a large trade which was once in enemy hands? Who is to succeed to it? That is a question which I cannot answer; but there is an answer, and its character will depend entirely on the efforts made in this country to improve our shipping communications, our trading methods, and our trade-building institutions.

Spain has undertaken the protection of Greek interests in Turkey.

Trials are being made in Denmark with nettles as a substitute for cotton.

The cotton seed market in Alexandria was easier on July 12, and July was lower at £13 7s.

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THE SUBMARINE WAR.

No Change in British Shipping Situation.

German submarines continue to harry British shipping, and the returns issued by the Secretary to the Admiralty on Wednesday last, up to July 15, show the situation to be about the same. The cause for satisfaction is that it is no worse.

There is no change from the previous week in the number of vessels of the largest class which have been sunk, and only an increase of one in the vessels of the smaller class. Two more fishing boats have been destroyed than were shown in last week's return. The number of British vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines shows a considerable drop. It is down this week to nine vessels, as compared with fifteen in the previous week, and is lower than it has ever been before since the return was issued.

The return is as follows:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

(a) Arrivals	2,828
(b) Sailings	2,920

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:

(a) 1,600 tons (gross) or over	13
(b) Under 1,600 tons (gross)	4

British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	9
British fishing vessels sunk	8

Mr. Archibald Hurd writes in the *Daily Telegraph*:—"The outlook is serious. There was never greater occasion for activity in ship construction than to-day, for with every week that passes the urgency of this matter grows. There is evidence which suggests that the naval forces are grappling with the problem with increasing success, but, on the other hand, the number of ships open to attack is, it must be remembered, steadily declining."

Italian Losses.

According to a Reuter message from Rome, it is officially stated there that during the same week 558 merchant vessels of all nationalities, with a total gross tonnage of 472,466 tons, entered Italian ports, while 499 sailed (total gross tonnage 345,731 tons). These figures do not include fishing boats and small coasters. The Italian shipping losses on all seas were one steamer and four small sailing vessels.

TAXATION AND OIL PROFITS.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the Shell Transport and Trading Company, Limited, on July 5, Sir Marcus Samuel, the chairman, uttered a warning to the shareholders (and to the Treasury) in connection with taxation.

"Unless some solution can be found for this multiplication of taxation," he said, "it is quite inevitable that many businesses in which friendly aliens are interested will have to be removed from London.

"I am glad to say that we are working in close and very cordial co-operation with our friends the Burma Oil Company, Limited, and we both, wherever we can, use our resources in the best of the national interests. I am delighted to pay a tribute to the spirit of mutual confidence and goodwill which has enabled us to conclude with them, during the period of the war, arrangements which have redounded greatly to the national benefit, and especially to the saving of tonnage, which is a vital factor in the winning of the war.

"In Egypt the prospects of obtaining success are very much brighter."

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

First Signs of an Improved Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, July 19.

The general tone of the market during the past week has shown some improvement, and although no general buying movement can be recorded the inquiry in certain quarters has been of larger dimensions. A matter of considerable interest has been the decision of the Control Board not to recommend curtailment of production for the present.

The restrictions on trading in raw cotton continue, and the position in Liverpool remains most abnormal.

Prices in Egyptian cotton have continued to advance, and more firms are experiencing difficulty in obtaining supplies. Private advices relating to the outlook for the new crop are still fairly encouraging.

In Egyptian yarns business has been very irregular. Here and there special transactions have been arranged, but no business of a general character can be recorded. The inquiry in piece goods for Egypt has continued fairly healthy. Shippers are hampered by the shortage of boats, and more buying would undoubtedly take place if exporters were sure of adequate shipping facilities in the near future.

The inquiry for China has continued to broaden, and here and there very fair sales have been put through.

An increased demand has been experienced for India, especially in light fabrics, such as dhooties. There has not been much activity for South America. A steady demand has come through in fancies for the home trade. American yarns for home use have attracted rather more attention, but actual buying has been very irregular. Some spinners are now presenting a rather firmer front to buyers.

BRITISH TRADE IN JUNE.

The Board of Trade returns show that the foreign trade of the United Kingdom in June, though slightly under the good May total, was well above the monthly average for 1917, despite the various necessary restrictions on the one hand and the difficulty on the other of transport across perilous seas. A satisfactory feature of the returns is the fact that the excess of imports over exports at £42,416,679, is well under this year's average so far. The totals (in values) for the month as compared with June last year are as follows:—

	1917. £	1916. £
Imports	86,068,342	86,927,680
Exports	43,651,663	47,274,563

The raw cotton imports, at £4,843,480, show a decrease of £717,430 as compared with 1916, and of £1,084,022 as compared with last May's figures. The relation of value to bulk can be estimated from a comparison of three years' figures:—

	June, 1915.	1916.	1917.
Centals of 100 lb.	2,592,720	1,556,994	719,675
Value	£6,173,858	£5,560,910	£4,843,480

For the half-year the cotton imports amounted to 8,245,366 centals, as compared with 11,408,079 in 1916 and 18,813,908 in 1915. In respect of values for the same periods the figures are:—1917, £46,831,929; 1916, £40,130,309; 1915, £42,523,021. Other imports during June show falls all round, including £1,571,942 in metals and manufactures thereof and £1,002,831 in chemicals and dyes.

Cotton goods at £11,844,411 showed an increase of £509,861, and of £4,096,234 as compared with June, 1915. Piece goods of the value of £8,873,662 went abroad, or £430,954 more than in the corresponding month, but in yardage the figures have a different tale to tell: 1917, 395,594,200; 1916, 500,831,600. The weight of yarn exported was also considerably less, and sewing thread was some 200,000 lbs. under the 1916 total, though the value of the latter is given as £530,761, as against £422,459 in 1916. For the half-year the cotton yarn exported amounted to 65,907,040 lbs., as against 91,097,500 for the first half of 1916 and 102,449,200 of 1915; values rose from £5,460,407 for 1915 to £7,784,404 for the six months just closed. The piece goods total for the six months is slightly under the 1916 figure as regards bulk, but nearly 200 million yards more than in 1915; the value at £51,521,604 compares with £41,589,036 for the same period last year and £30,809,323 for the first six months of 1915.

TRADE NOTES.

Tangiers.

According to a new exports order, all clearances from Tangiers have to pass viâ the Customs depots. No clearance of material or merchandise can take place between sunset and sunrise without express official sanction. Goods imported into Tangiers, without restriction, can be cleared without restriction as to quantity.

"By the repeal of the regulations concerning merchandise imported into Tangiers under restrictive conditions" (writes a Paris paper), "the natives of the Tangiers zone and the neighbouring tribes who bring their produce to the market are authorised to take from Tangiers the quantities of alimentary commodities corresponding to their personal needs within the limits of the maximum quantities strictly determined."

Price Lists for the Caucasus.

Apropos the note on trade openings in the Caucasus in last week's Near East, it should be remembered that catalogues, price lists and other advertising literature should be prepared by persons knowing Russian thoroughly well, and should be extensively distributed. They should contain prices worked out, when practicable, in roubles and copecks, both with and without Customs duties, and charges and expenses, including railway rates to places of delivery. Russian weights should be given. A wider and more general system of banking facilities than has hitherto been placed at the disposel of traders is called for. Credit, where necessary, or asked for, should be prudently accorded after careful inquiry.

Restrictions.

The supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of July 19 contains complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported from British India, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, Egypt, Cyprus, and Ceylon. Copies may be obtained at a cost of 3d. (3½d. post free), either from any bookseller, or from H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

THE PERSIAN GULF.

French interests in the Persian Gulf are strenuously championed by *La Dépêche Coloniale*.

"Our interests in the Persian Gulf," writes our contemporary, "worthy of the most serious attention before the war, are about to become of still more importance owing to the incorporation of the basins of the Tigris and the Euphrates in the zone of influence of the Allies under British hegemony. Correspondence to hand from Persia confirms the interest we should take in the re-establishment of a regular service of steamers between Djibouti, Bender-Bouchir, and Aden, in conjunction with our lines to East Africa, Australia, and the Far East.

"It is necessary to lose no time in considering our future programme. Our British Allies are on a fair way to found an immense Arabic-Persian empire between Egypt and India, with the unanimous co-operation of the Arab chiefs. We shall be guilty of serious neglect if we fail to reserve for our economic expansion the place which is our due.

"It is said that a French merchant and shipping concern, devoting its attention to Red Sea trade, would have great chances of success.

"When the time comes for the realisation of this project, the question of calling at Antwerp and Rotterdam, and at an English port for coal and freight, will have to be carefully examined, it being, of course, well understood that the home port of this line would be in France."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Co-operation.

It is quite clear that when this destructive war is ended, great opportunities will appear, especially in the Near and Middle East, for all kinds of enterprise. There will be the construction of new and the reconstruction of damaged or destroyed railways, tramways, bridges, harbours, canals, factories, electric and gasworks, exploitation of mines and oil-fields, reclamation of land, re-establishment of old, and the opening of new, industrial, commercial, and shipping enterprises, etc., most of which were distinct features in the German grandiose schemes "from Berlin to Baghdad." In some of these enterprises civil engineers are directly concerned, while in others mechanical engineers will take a prominent part. In view of this forthcoming upheaval of energy and industry, it is gratifying to note that, in recent years, British civil engineers have shown an increasing interest and decided inclination to concern themselves with mechanical engineering and trade and commercial projects, in addition to questions which more particularly pertain to civil engineering; and as under the present conditions only co-operation and unity of effort can lead to success, the advantages to be gained from the participation in such projects of a faculty which, as a rule, has a distinct influence in enterprising and financial circles are too obvious to need explanation. The co-operation of civil and mechanical engineering is very essential if we are to win a trade victory commensurate with the victory of arms which there is every reason to suppose will be ours. It is, therefore, gratifying to find a distinct acknowledgment of the importance of mechanical engineering and trade projects in the ideas and particulars which were contained in a recent address of Mr. Edgar Crammond, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, on "Foreign Trade and Its Relations to the Investment of Capital Abroad."

Great British Investments.

Mr. Crammond, referring at the outset to the magnitude of British investments in the Overseas Dominions, and in foreign countries, pointed out that we had been investing capital abroad for more than four centuries; but that it was not until between 1830 and 1840, when the steam-engine and the factory had transformed Great Britain from an agricultural to a manufacturing country, that foreign investments assumed any great magnitude. To-day the income from British, Colonial, and foreign investments combined exceeded £118,000,000. This annual income, capitalised on a basis of a yield of 5 per cent., or twenty years' purchase, would represent a total capital of £2,360,000,000; and Mr. Crammond emphasised that the great bulk of this capital invested abroad had been applied to the construction of great engineering works such as railways, irrigation works, docks, and harbours, and to the development of such other undertakings as mines, nitrate fields, tea, coffee, and rubber plantations, oilfields, and "practically every other conceivable form of engineering enterprise calculated to increase the world's supplies of raw materials and food." Mr. Crammond claimed that British engineering policy in the past had not been conducted on selfish lines; "the additional supplies," he said, "of raw materials and food had been made accessible to the whole world, and had been for the whole world's benefit." In an instructive discussion which followed the address, a member of the institution, and member of a well-known engineering firm, said that one very necessary change should be the carrying out of considerable reform in the representation of British engineering firms abroad. Inter-competition between engineering firms should also be strictly avoided in regard to large contracts which came on to the open market.

Shipbuilding in Crimea.

According to official reports, the Azof-Don Commercial Bank has petitioned the Kertch municipality for the purchase of 216 acres of land situated near the metallurgical works, for the construction of shipbuilding works. According to the prospectus presented to the municipality, the enterprise will have a capital of not less than 5,000,000 roubles. The construction of the works must be started within one year from the date on which the Russian Government signs the treaty of peace. Within four years from the date of conclusion of peace not less than 2,500,000 roubles must be expended on the erection of works and the necessary machinery. The municipality has agreed to cede the land required, and the matter is now awaiting the sanction of the Central Government. It is said that the prospects are encouraging. It is not the first time that such a scheme has been suggested. In this case the name of the Bank is promising.

RUMANIAN OIL TRAIN BURNT.

A Budapest telegram to the *Vorwarts* says that a collision between two trains, one of which was laden with petroleum oil and benzine, occurred at Rakos Station, in Hungary. A tremendous explosion followed, and all the wagons, containing oil from Rumania, at once burst into flames. The fire extended to neighbouring buildings despite all efforts to extinguish it. Twenty cars with petroleum and 30 with mixed goods were destroyed. The damage is estimated at over £4,000.

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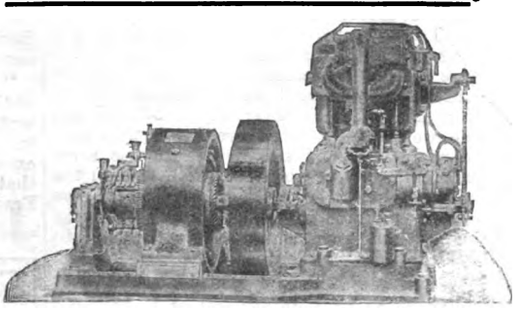

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Markets.

The net revenue for 1916 was £44,746, against £31,585. After deducting £10,000 estimated to meet Government share of profits and of the excess profits duty, a balance of £34,746 remains, which, with the balance of £5,015 brought forward, makes a total of £39,760; to reserve, £2,349; final dividend on the ordinary shares, 5 per cent. with a bonus of 2 per cent., making 12 per cent. for the year, against 10 per cent.; and subject to the settlement of the proportion of profits due to the Government and excess profits duty, the payment of a dividend on the deferred shares at the rate of £13 3s. per share, against £6 2s. 5d.; forward, £5,919.

Mortgage Company of Egypt.

The report for the year ended March 31, 1917, to be submitted to the ninth ordinary general meeting of the company to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London E.C.4, on July 24, 1917, states that after providing for interest on the 4½ per cent first charge debentures and on temporary loans, and applying a sum of £28,000 in the aggregate in writing down the value of the freehold premises of the company in Cairo, the property acquired by foreclosure and the instalments in arrear, the accounts show a profit for the year of £75,394 19s. 7d. Deducting the amount of the dividend to June 30, 1916, paid on the 5 per cent. preferred shares on January 1, 1917, viz., £25,000, there remains a balance of £50,394 19s. 7d. Adding the amount brought forward from the previous account, £7,287 9s. 11d., there is available £57,682 9s. 6d. Out of this sum the directors have already paid the dividend accrued on the preferred shares from July 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917—viz., £37,500, and they propose to devote, as in previous years, to writing down the discount and expenses of the debenture issues, £2,800, and to carry forward to the next account the balance of £17,382 9s. 6d. Out of this balance the directors have since paid an interim dividend on the preferred shares for the period ended June 30, 1917, amounting to £12,500.

The economic situation in Egypt has continued to improve, and the increased payments by the company's clients mentioned in last year's report have been maintained during the year 1916-17. The board have, however, thought it necessary to make further provision for loss on arrears and properties acquired by foreclosure. They have applied a sum of £13,000 to writing off a portion of the instalments in arrear, and a sum of £12,000 in writing down the cost price of the property acquired by foreclosure. Any further depreciation in the value of loans or property acquired by foreclosure is, in the opinion of the board, amply covered by the general reserve of £152,500.

The following figures illustrate the course of the company's business since it began operations in December, 1908 :—

AMOUNT INVESTED IN FIRST MORTGAGES.

At March 31,	1910	£1,183,611
,, ,, ,,	1911	£2,064,178
,, ,, ,,	1912	£2,597,473
,, ,, ,,	1913	£3,037,991
,, ,, ,,	1914	£3,276,225
,, ,, ,,	1915	£3,481,545
,, ,, ,,	1916	£3,370,366
,, ,, ,,	1917	£3,166,043

The Right Hon. Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., having become a member of the War Cabinet, was compelled, to the great regret of his colleagues, to resign the chairmanship of the company, which position he had held ever since it formation. In pursuance of the provisions of Article 92 of the Articles of Association the board have appointed Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B., C.S.I., to fill the vacancy on the board occasioned by the retirement of Lord Milner. Under the terms of this same article this appointment terminates at the general meeting. Sir Henry Babington Smith, being eligible, offers himself for re-election. J. Mosseri Bey has resigned his position on the board. The board do not propose to fill this occasional vacancy

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at the present moment. The board deeply regret the death of the Right Hon. the Earl of Cromer, O.M., P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., C.I.E., which took place on January 29, 1917 Lord Cromer was one of the trustees of the trust deeds securing the debentures of the company, and he had taken a great interest in its affairs from the commencement. Lord Milner has been appointed a trustee in Lord Cromer's place His Excellency Harari Pacha, C.M.G., Brigadier-General the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., and Edward William Perceval Foster, Esq., C.M.G., directors of the company, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., the auditors, retire, and offer themselves for re-appointment.

Anchor Line, Limited.

The report for the year ended April 30 last states that the services of the company have been maintained with as reasonable a degree of regularity as was possible under the existing conditions. Since the close of the financial year the whole of the company's steamers have been requisitioned by the Government, and, although continuing under the management of the company, are now entirely subject to the orders of the Ministry as to destination of voyages. Since the last report the company, in response to a circular invitation, has purchased and cancelled debenture stock to the extent of £85,970, the present amount of debentures outstanding being £379,030. An arrangement has been made between the company and the Donaldson Line for a fusion of interests of the two companies in the cargo and passenger service between Glasgow and Canada. A new company, known as the Anchor-Donaldson Line, has been formed, to which the steamers Letitia, Cassandra, Athenia, and Saturnia have been transferred. The profits, after providing for depreciation and a special reserve for war taxation and contingencies, amounted to £366,955, which with £107,607 brought forward makes £474,562, out of which there has been placed to reserve account £250,000, debenture interest, less income-tax, £14,243, dividend on preference shares, less income-tax, £13,406, leaving a balance of £196,912. The directors recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent., free of income-tax, also a bonus at 10 per cent., free of tax, leaving to be carried forward £146,912.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., announce a final dividend on the Ordinary shares of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., making a total of 12 per cent. for the year ended 31st December last.

Messrs. C. J. Hambro and Son announce the purchase for cancellation of 1,750 bonds of the Greek Government Five per Cent. Loan of 1914.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian. — Gemsah, 620 tons, against 19 tons; Hurghada, 1,045 tons. against 902 tons.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
July 10	270,000	250,000
July 11	260,000	240,000
July 12, 13, 14	480,000	360,000
July 15, 16	410,000	250,000

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

Our market in Egyptian shares has been gradually broadening out throughout the week, and prices are closing higher all along the line. The amount of business done has not been large, owing to the scarcity of sellers; but the demand for certain shares has been persistent on both home and Egyptian account.

In the banking group Nationals have risen ⅜ to 15⅜, and Agriculturals are ⅛ better at 5½. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have also firmed up ¼ to 12⅝, and Bank of Athens shares have been done at the higher price of 2¾.

Egyptian Government stocks have remained firm spots, but business has been very restricted owing to the absence of sellers.

Delta Light Railway prefs. have improved a further ⅛ to 6⅜.

In land shares Behéras have jumped ½ to 10¾, some business has been done in Delta Lands at the rather firmer level of about 11s., and a fair number of New Egyptians have been changing hands round 11s. Sidi Salem shares are about ⅛ up at 11-16, and Union Foncière d'Egyptes have risen from 1 9-16 to 1⅞ bid, with hardly any business resulting.

Among miscellaneous shares, Egyptian Markets have improved 6d. to 27s. 6d. on the excellent report and the increased dividend. Salts and Sodas are somewhat firmer at 25s., without very much business passing.

As regards Khedivial Mails, a quieter tendency has again been in evidence, and the shares are somewhat easier.

In Greek stocks the 1881, 1884, and 1887 loans are about ¼ up at 58 for the first two, and 54 for the third. Currant Bonds are rather quieter round 92, and some transactions have taken place in 1902 Loan at the somewhat easier price of about 60½.

Oil Shares.

The market has been moderately active; but, generally, prices are unchanged.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included the following :—Egyptian Unified, 95.55 (unchanged); Serbian (1895), 56.25 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 64.15 (against 64); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 712 (against 713); Suez Canal 4,440 (unchanged).

THE MONEY MARKET.

London, July 19.

On some days this week the rate for day-to-day loans has ruled low; but this fact does not appear to have reduced visible supplies. Cash was plentiful yesterday at 3½ to 4 per cent., and at 4½ per cent. for weekly fixtures. This encouraged a demand for short-dated bills, and the discount market was slightly weaker. Next month's Treasuries were in demand at 4 9-16 per cent.

Exchange on Alexandria varies between 97¼ and 97¾ piastres to the pound sterling.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week July 6.		1917. Week July 5.
Cattle markets	412	..	361
General markets	368	..	549
Cattle markets closed	31	..	123
Receipts (£)	780	..	910
Total for year	29,704	..	35,031

The statement of accounts of the London County and Westminster Bank made up on June 30 shows :—Current and deposit accounts, £112,750,372; acceptances for customers, £4,340,372; cash in hand and at Bank of England, £23,936,595; money at call and short notice, £4,588,409; bills discounted, £10,200,334; investments, £35,478,667; advances, £48,273,372. The net profit for the half-year, after making provision for depreciation of investments, was £355,495, as compared with £390,214 in the corresponding period, and £222,787 is carried forward.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price July 13.	Present Price.
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	98	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	73	73
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	57½xd	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	57½xd	58
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	53½	54
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1890	45	42	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55xd	55xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52xd	52xd
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	61	60½
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	73
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92½	92
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £80p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	80	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70½	70½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56	56
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅜	5½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅜	12⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅜	2⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6⅜	6	6
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	15	15⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅜	6⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅜	9⅜
Pireus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	⅜	⅜
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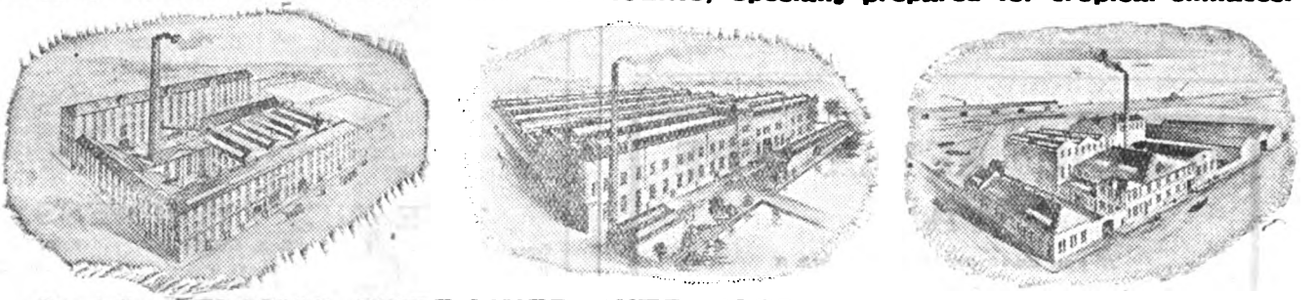

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 325.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Unfortunately, the chief event of the week has been the utter collapse of the Russian army in Galicia. All the more disappointing after the high hopes inspired by the resumed offensive of a month ago, the Russian discipline seems to have given way over a long section of the line, and the frank official bulletins admit that the troops have broken and refused to obey orders. Against rank mutiny the best commanders can do little, and it is natural to see in this deplorable outcome the effect of German gold and German agents, both in Petrograd and in the army itself.

As a result, the important cities of Tarnopol and Stanislau have been evacuated by our Allies, and there seems a possibility that the whole of Galicia may have to be given up. The beautiful little land of the Bukovina, already conquered and reconquered more than once in the last three years, must necessarily be affected by the fate of Galicia, and this must of course react upon Roumania, whose army had been reorganised, after the disastrous autumn campaign of last year, in readiness for an offensive in consort with Russia. There are still some ten weeks during which heavy fighting is possible on the Eastern front, but each day that passes renders the possibility of definite results in this theatre less likely in 1917.

It may be hoped that the determination to mutiny is confined to a single section of the Russian army, and that M. Kerensky, who has now taken the dangerous post of Premier, with practically the powers of a dictator, will be able to infuse some of his enthusiasm into the troops at the front. His desire to fight the war out is evidently a bitter disappointment to some of the politicians of Petrograd, whose only desire seems to be a German peace. These gentry, who aimed at complete anarchy in the capital last week, have been suppressed for the time being, but they will almost certainly make their reappearance since they are in German pay and must do something to justify their salary. The man Lenin, who posed as a friend of the millennium, turns out to be a mere commonplace traitor, and has made himself scarce. He will very possibly change his name—this kind of occupation makes men adept at aliases, whether in a Council of Workmen and Soldiers in Russia or a Union of Democratic Control nearer home—and reappear somewhere else.

The Russian situation is bound to be one of the factors discussed at the Balkan Conference of the Allies, which met in Paris on Wednesday. All the belligerents, with the exception of the United States, are represented at this Conference, the United States only remaining outside because the war in the Balkans is outside their scope as newcomers into the business of fighting, and not because they do not purpose to play their due part in the final settlement of the Near East. Without in any way accepting the hypothetical rôle of international guardian of Constantinople, which some indiscreet journalists have attempted to thrust upon him, President Wilson has shown himself possessed of a grasp of Balkan realities which not every English statesman had in 1914.

The present Conference is a direct outcome of the previous discussion of the Allies, at which it was at last determined to eject King Constantine. It may perhaps be presumed that the Allied statesmen who decided on that step did not sketch out the subsequent line of policy in any but rather vague outlines, feeling that events in Athens might for the time being be left to settle themselves, under the wise guidance of M. Venizelos. That hope has been fulfilled, but the Balkan question has now reached another stage. With Greece restored to unity and ready to succour Serbia, whose Government is now at Salonika, the question of the stationary Allied force at Salonika can no longer be allowed to drift.

As was natural, Mr. John Dillon seized the eve of the Balkans Conference to deliver one of his pessimistic utterances in the House of Commons, devoting special attention to the situation in the Near East. Mr. Dillon's melancholy is proverbial, and he certainly does his best to make pessimists of us all—possibly the fact that he and his party are no longer sure of their footing in Ireland makes him all the more anxious to play the part of candid friend to England. But it is difficult to take him seriously when he suggests that the British Government does not appreciate and sympathise with the situation of Serbia. Party politics are so ingrained in some natures that Mr. Dillon's petulance might have been ascribed to Sir Edward Carson's recent inclusion in the War Cabinet, were it not that the latter gave proof positive of his interest in Serbia two years ago when he resigned from the first Coalition Government.

Lord Robert Cecil (who is gradually learning his experience of foreign affairs in the hard school of the blockade, where things are not what they seem and

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figures may be made to prove anything from the starvation of the German to the innocence of the neutral) had no particular difficulty in answering Mr. Dillon. He admitted, of course, that Germany was our main enemy, and to that extent our interest in fighting Austria was less than in fighting Germany. But as to any idea of abandoning Serbia, such as the Nationalist critic seemed to suggest, he, of course, repudiated it with all emphasis. Possibly if Mr. Dillon had made fewer criticisms at Westminster and more recruiting speeches in Ireland he would be listened to with more attention.

The new German Chancellor made no direct reference to Balkan affairs in his inaugural speech, but his insistence on a German peace was enough to show that the Near Eastern ambitions which were the immediate origin of the war have not been abandoned. And if any doubt were entertained on that point, it would only be necessary to quote the semi-official *Fremdenblatt* of Vienna, whose comment on this pronouncement is that Austria must secure territorial guarantees both in Roumania and Serbia, that those two countries shall "choose sovereigns not inimical to our interests"—in other words, German princelings who will betray their adopted subjects for Teutonic bribes—and binding treaties of a military, economic and political nature. Indirect annexation is thus aimed at, and a series of servile States with puppet monarchs, whose right ear would always be listening to the direct telephone from Vienna. It is worthy of notice that Austria, who seemed to have flung away ambition a few weeks ago, is now raising her terms, thanks presumably to Dr. Michaelis and the Russian break in Galicia.

In addition to the mastery of the Danube from source to mouth, the Austrian organ also insists on the extirpation of Italian influence on the eastern side of the Adriatic. "We must make every effort," it says, "to prevent either Valona or any point whatever of the Eastern Adriatic coast remaining in the hands of Italy. If Albania and Montenegro are to continue to exist (*sic*), the Monarchy must assure itself of sufficient influence on the coast from Spizza to Valona to preclude the possibility of any power hostile to us misusing this coast in peace or in war." These terms are significantly higher than those of three years ago, when only Serbia was in question, and neither Albania nor Montenegro came into the published war aims of Austria at all. But the fact that they are published in an inspired organ of the Vienna Foreign Office appears to give them official sanction, and to demonstrate that the German parties in Austria have once more obtained control, and that the Emperor Charles's endeavour to conciliate the Southern Slavs at the outset of his reign has been frustrated, like so many similar attempts.

There has been some discussion in the Italian Press as to war aims which contrasts rather sharply with the Austrian programme. The *Giornale d'Italia*, which is believed to express the views of Baron Sonnino, declares definitely for an understanding with Serbia in the Adriatic on the ground that both have suffered heavily in this war, and neither can deny the other a reasonable satisfaction of its ambitions. Italy professes to have no desire for Albania, nor does she intend that it shall be divided among the Balkan States; for herself she demands Valona and the limiting of Southern Albania to Cape Stylos, in order that Greece shall not transform the Corfu Canal into a strategic base. As to the Levant, Italy takes up the general position that if the Allies, for one reason or another, decide to break up Turkey in Asia, Italy must have her share, on the ground that the balance of power should not be disturbed. There is nothing very new or very surprising in these statements, but the clear and moderate fashion in which they are urged will be appreciated.

Should these aims be, in fact, the official view of the Italian Cabinet, opinion would seem to be tending towards an accommodation with Serbia; the thorny question of Dalmatia is not yet out of the zone of friction—and the fact that the Italian Press rather ostentatiously ignored the existence of M. Venizelos during the Salonika period is scarcely a good augury for the equitable settlement of the Albanian problem. As to the Levant, the destiny of Asia Minor is obviously a matter for all the Allies, and in the present stage of the war any public debate on the matter would be useless.

The fact that there has been no news of importance from Greece this week may be taken to mean that the country is settling down under the new régime. The Allied troops are being evacuated from Old Greece, while the removal of the Greek Army from the Peloponnesus to Northern Greece is beginning. In the meantime M. Venizelos will not be greatly perturbed by the refusal of the German Government to "recognise" the new Government at Athens. The refusal, of course, serves as a warning that the German troops will not treat the Greek troops as regular soldiers, but as franc tireurs; but since the Germans have never shown themselves either scrupulous or chivalrous in their methods of warfare, it is difficult to see what new fashion in barbarism they can devise for the benefit of the Greeks. The insult will only nerve the Greek Army to greater bravery.

The decision of M. Venizelos to read the Treaty with Serbia in the Greek Chamber will at last add a document to history which has been as much discussed as the Belgian Treaty. The Serbian Government sanctioned the publication of the Treaty in 1915, but its permission reached Athens two days after M. Venizelos had been dismissed, and M. Zaimis, out of loyalty to King Constantine, refused to read an agreement the breach of which has branded that sovereign for ever as a recreant. Many who are familiar with Serb circles in London and Paris have seen copies of the Treaty, or at least extracts from its clauses, but for some reason, which it is not perhaps very difficult to fathom, the Treaty itself has never been published either in England or France. The reason, such as it was, against secrecy has now disappeared.

Further information as to the condition of the Serbs confirms the impression that the Bulgars are waging a war of extermination on that unhappy people. Serbian prisoners who have attempted to escape are being sentenced to whipping and hard labour, and are informed that any who may attempt to escape in future will be liable to the burning of their homes, the confiscation of their property, the deportation of their families, and sentence of death for themselves. These penalties are to be enforced indifferently on both civil and military prisoners, and the evidence goes to show that in their anxiety to enforce the penalty the Bulgars are not very rigid in their definition of the offence. Every inhabitant of Serbia is declared a fugitive and a suspect, and many teachers and priests have been murdered. Forced labour, under conditions which amount to actual slavery, has been imposed upon the population—a proceeding in which the Bulgars are no doubt instructed by their German allies.

Minor questions have taken place on the Palestine front, in which the enemy trenches at Gaza have been raided, and the Turkish cavalry have been driven back. On the Sinai frontier a more important action has been fought, the Arab forces of the Grand Sherif of Mecca having gained a substantial victory over the Turks. The Arabs have now advanced to Moab, and hold all the enemy positions between Akaba, at the head of the eastern gulf of the Red Sea, and Maan, a station on the Hejaz Railway, 65 miles south of the Dead Sea. The Turks, therefore, apart from the force in Medina and the army in the Yemen, appear to be driven out of Western Arabia. Unfortunately, the news from Aden does not indicate that this isolated body of the enemy is in any straits.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 1.

The High Commissioner.

His Excellency the High Commissioner came up to Cairo for a day in order to preside at the bi-centenary of the Grand Lodge of England, of the District Lodge of which he is Grand Master. All the other local recognised Lodges were represented at the ceremony. On Thursday last the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate gave a garden party at the Residency, Ramleh, to the British and European colonies of Alexandria. Over six hundred guests were present, and the event was a great success. No Moslem notables were invited, in view of the fact that none of them could have accepted the invitation owing to the fast of Ramadan, which is now on. In the course of this week Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate paid a visit to the Refugees' Camps at Alexandria. They made a very thorough inspection of the encampments at Minet el Bassel and Wardian, and expressed themselves as exceedingly satisfied with the excellent manner in which everything was organised. On their way back they also visited the workroom which has been opened at the old Governorate for the poor women of the city, and where a great deal of work is being done for the military authorities.

The Sultan's Generosity.

The Sultan has just given another proof of his great generosity by subscribing the sum of one thousand pounds to the fund that is being raised for the erection of an Anglican Cathedral in Cairo. Both the High Commissioner and the Bishop of Jerusalem, Dr. R. MacInnes, have written letters to his Highness warmly thanking him on behalf of the British Community. It should be recalled that recently the Egyptian Government presented the community with a most valuable site for the Cathedral. This offer was made on the initiative of the Sultan, and together with the gift which he has now made, it reflects in a marked manner the broad-mindedness and anglophile sympathies of the Sovereign of this country.

The Greek Community.

This week telegraphic instructions were sent from Athens to the Royal Diplomatic Agency of Greece in Egypt announcing the formation of the new Government and ordering the Royalist Agent to hand over to the representative of the Provisional Government, who will henceforward represent the Athens authorities. Thus, a satisfactory solution to one of the problems, which are troubling the local Venezelists, has been arrived at, and M. Xydakis, whose behaviour has aroused so much comment on the part of the community, will shortly leave the country. The other problem, that of the Patriarch, is still unsolved. It is expected that the mobilization orders issued by the Greek Government will be made applicable here, in which case a large contingent of recruits will become available from Egypt.

The Cotton Crisis.

The cotton futures market at Alexandria was closed by Ministerial order on the 26th ult., and was only allowed to reopen on the 30th. The reason for this step was that in view of the closing of the markets at Liverpool, Havre and Bombay it was considered advisable to suspend operations in this country until it was possible to know what decision had been arrived at in England. The decision at first was to close only for twenty-four hours which the Bourse Commission has power to do of its own accord; but it was considered wiser to keep the Bourse closed until the result of the Liverpool meeting was known, and so a deputation waited on the Government and obtained a Ministerial arrête as mentioned. The futures market opened yesterday morning with a rise of about three dollars on the price of November contracts ruling when the closure took place, but there were, as may be expected, very few sellers. A good deal of criticism has been levelled at the Bourse Commission for the step it took, but in the circumstances, and seeing that Alexandria is so dependent on other markets, it would appear to have been an exceedingly wise measure. In Alexandria various rumours are floating around as to the restrictions which will be placed on future operations; but nothing definite is known as yet, and for the present the only restriction imposed is on the jobbers, who are not to be allowed to operate for fifteen days.

The Philippides Case.

The police bribery case known as the "Philippides case," came to an end on Saturday. Philippides Bey has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment and a fine of £E784, and his wife to one year's imprisonment, and a fine of £E739, his servant was acquitted. The sentences have been very well received by the general public. The case has aroused great excitement amongst the local Syrians, who consider that the scandal reflects upon their community. They could well have spared themselves all the heartburning, as it has transpired that Philippides is a Greek, born at Syra, and that his connection with the Syrian community, of which he was generally regarded as a member, is confined to the fact that he was educated at Beyrout and married a Syrian.

The Elementary Education Commission.

The Commission appointed to study the best means of extending elementary education in this country held its first meeting last week. The members were welcomed by the Minister, H.E. Adly Yeghen Pasha, who was accompanied by the Adviser, Dr. Douglas Dunlop. In the course of a very interesting speech the Minister showed that the question was most urgent and important, in view of the great illiteracy of the people, of whom he estimated about 90 per cent. are still unable to read or write, and he added that the ignorance of the masses acts as a blight upon the country's progress. He pointed out that what is wanted is a simple and cheaper organisation for instruction in the vernacular to meet the requirements of children, whose school career will rarely extend beyond four years. This could be obtained by the creation of an elementary school (a Maktab) in every village. The scheme prepared by the Ministry provides for the creation of these schools throughout the country within a period, tentatively fixed at thirty years, and sub-divided into periods of six years each, so as to secure regular progress during the whole of the interval. A long period has been fixed, first, because the provision of these schools is mainly a question of funds; and secondly, because progress in the rural districts must not be too rapid at first, so as to allow the minimum interference with the agricultural industry of the country and to permit the village school organisation and agricultural exigencies to adapt themselves to each other in the most satisfactory manner. Although the introduction of the schools will depend, as stated, on the amount of funds at the disposal of the Ministry of Education, any locality that wishes will be permitted to speed up the supply of schools for its own population by providing the funds necessary for the construction of the schools in advance of the periods fixed.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—II.

Civil Statistics.

The new cases brought before the Civil Courts last year decreased somewhat compared with the preceding year, especially in the Cantonal Courts, where the cases fell by about 50 per cent. The Adviser expresses his belief that in some respects the statistics as to civil justice furnish the best statistical index to economic and social changes in Egypt, and points out that, as the fees in the Native Tribunals are on an almost exclusively *ad valorem* basis, the statistics are summarized with a high degree of accuracy by the total judicial receipts. He adds, however, that their precise meaning must be interpreted by reference to the general conditions known to obtain from year to year, for an increase in judicial receipts may be equally well-produced by a steady growth of commercial prosperity entailing an expansion in the normal work of the courts or by a sudden commercial crisis entailing abnormal recourse to the courts for the recovery of debts.

The judicial receipts of the Native Courts increased from £E103,049 in 1896 to a maximum of £E497,840 in 1912, as from which year a diminution occurred primarily attributable to the creation of the Cantonal Courts with their approximation to the ideal of free justice. It is interesting to note that, whereas in 1896 the Native Tribunals cost the State some £E63,000, in 1912 they produced a net revenue of £E127,800. Sir William proceeds to make an interesting analysis of the expansion which the judicial receipts underwent during the twenty years in question. The increase was at first a gradual one, reflecting the steady consolidation of the country's resources—it reached in 1902 50 per cent. of the 1896 figures; by 1904 the latter figures had doubled, and by 1906 trebled. Comparing the increase with that in the judicial receipts of the Mixed Courts, he finds evidence that such real prosperity as occurred during the years of speculation preceding the 1907-1908 crash was largely restricted to the native population. A continued rise in receipts during 1907-1909 he attributes to some extent to the liquidation of the crisis and a slight reaction in 1910-1911 to the completion of the liquidation. On that basis the remarkable increase in 1912 would be evidence of returning prosperity. The diminution in 1913-14 was due to the declaration of the moratorium on the outbreak of war. Since January, 1915, the figures have hovered round the pre-war level, and the Adviser would conclude from this fact that the difficulties of the 1914 crisis were definitely liquidated early in 1916, whilst any maintenance of the further recovery, which occurred towards the end of 1916, he would attribute to renewed prosperity.

Economic and Social Changes.

With regard to the deductions arrived at from the remarkable increase undergone by the receipts up to 1912, comparison with other statistics of a nature to reflect the same influences shows, however, that there must have been other factors at work, and the Adviser thinks that the explanation is, to some extent, the increased readiness to appeal to the authorities already noticed in the criminal statistics, and, even more, a somewhat rapid change in economic and social organization to which he considers that too little attention has been paid. He points out that it is not right to assume that what was true twenty years ago in Egypt is true to-day. Here the provision of reasonably adequate machinery and of protection from arbitrary oppression, enjoyed during nearly the whole period, has wrought a definite change in the economic organization of the country, and he concludes that "if it is not yet fully recognized that contracts ought to be carried out—a stage which, whenever it is reached should be marked by some diminution in litigation—it is at least recognized that legal rights are proper to be enforced." He mentions that he had striking evidence of this change during the four years he was responsible for directing the litigation of the Ministry of Public Works. Whereas former irrigation officers had been acclaimed as public benefactors for providing the country with water, the present officers found that their own efforts on lines no less scientifically sound were constantly ending in the law courts. In Sir William's opinion, the Irrigation Service is suffering from the consequences of its own success. Whilst the obtaining of water was formerly regarded as a privilege or fortunate accident, to-day water, and water in the exact quantity desired, has come to be regarded as a right, and land is being sold and leased on that basis. His four years' experience is that the Irrigation Service can justify itself as well on one basis as on the other. It must, however, in future, be prepared to defend its action in the courts, if called upon to do so, as a result of a change which is "only symptomatic of wider changes affecting the economic relations of the population in general."

The Work of the Courts.

As regards the actual work of the courts, it is to be noted that the Court of Appeal disposed of a number of appeals equal to but 65 per cent. of those dealt with during the preceding year, and that, as a result, the arrears increased somewhat. The explanation is that the courts were short handed. Of the normal complement of nine European judges, one is engaged on war work in England, two others are periodically required for the administration of martial law, while one post, which has been vacant for part of the year, has had to be filled by the appointment of an Egyptian. Since criminal work takes precedence, civil work naturally suffered as a result of this lack of judges. In the Central Tribunals the state of the cause lists is, in the Adviser's opinion, not satisfactory, although the position is markedly better than two years ago, and, as regards first instance cases, than a year ago. It would appear that, on an average, it takes about eight months to dispose of a summary court appeal and about a year of a case, in first instance, and, making the fullest allowance for the various factors contributing to delay, he considers that these periods as averages are excessive, especially as they include a substantial proportion of cases in which there is no serious defence. The arrears in the Appeal Court likewise comprise cases where plaintiffs have made hopeless appeals against first instance decisions, and so have every interest to delay trial. The great need is some special procedure for the speedy disposal of such cases. In the Summary Courts, where the proceedings are, naturally, more expeditious, the statistics show curious variations in arrears per tribunal, and in the manner in which the cases tried were disposed of, which are inexplicable, except that they must, as Sir William remarks, be due to the personal idiosyncrasies of the judges.

The Cantonal Courts.

The Adviser has some interesting remarks to make on the Cantonal Courts, which were first instituted in 1912. The work done by them in such an exceptional year as 1914-15, when they disposed of some 350,000 cases other than those referred to them with a view to settlement on their way to the Summary Tribunals, afforded very material relief to the latter, and he thinks it clear that if the Cantonal Courts had not been created, some further addition to the judicial staff of the country would by now have been necessary. "As it is, the cases left to the Summary Tribunals in some Markazes are so few in number as to raise the question whether we are justified in retaining a judge to give his whole time to the single Markaz." The fact that in 1915-16 the number of cases before these courts fell to 190,000 does not appear to him inconsistent with the view that they filled a definite want—a view confirmed, he thinks, by the fact that in Qena and Assouan, where the population is least prosperous and most scattered, the number of cases per thousand of the population is highest. In 1915-16 small fees were for the first time imposed on cases not exceeding £E1 in value, which had previously been heard without cost to the parties, and the fact that the number of cases dismissed for want of prosecution fell from 125,836 to 48,363, *i.e.*, from one third to one quarter of the cases disposed of during the year, in his opinion "goes far towards justifying the imposition of these small fees." To the obvious objection that the imposition of fees has made it more difficult to have recourse to these courts for the collection of debts—a result which he would personally regret—Sir William replies that there is no definite proof that such has been the effect. The fees in question are so small that he doubts whether they have much effect of any kind, and, taking into account the admitted easier circumstances of the fellahin, which would explain the diminution of cases of all values, especially of those not exceeding £E1, and the fact that of cases which proceeded to trial, the proportion of successful to unsuccessful has fallen, he is inclined to the view that, if anything, the imposition of fees has encouraged the payment of debts. He sees no evidence "that they have prevented the bringing of actions when debts have not been paid."

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Tobacco Prospects.

Cyprus is feeling its way towards a revival of native industry in home-grown tobacco, both for local consumption and, it is hoped, for an export trade in the leaf. Particular interest attaches to this movement, which deserves full encouragement, since expert opinion in England has pronounced that there seems no reason why experiments should not be vigorously continued. These are now in progress, both on the part of the Agricultural Department and of private cultivators, who are said to have largely extended their operations. Cigarette smokers are generally conservative in their tastes. Then there was a time in Cyprus when the people, from bishop to peasant, smoked native tobacco if they could get it; but when the industry had been reduced to a minimum under Turkish rule, and stamped out, for fiscal reasons, under British rule, Cypriots smoked exclusively imported tobacco, which can be obtained of quite good quality, and at prices to suit all purses. They are not likely now, of course, to smoke any other tobacco, unless it can be sold, *ceteris paribus*, at a lower cost than that now offered by the local dealers, for which they have acquired a taste; especially as the tobacco is handled exclusively by Greek firms. Otherwise, the patriotic sentiment might, perhaps, be brought into play. The native factories, which work under Government supervision, turn out very good brands. Cyprus cigarettes are smoked by a considerable number of persons outside the island, including English. One well-known firm at Nicosia, sends out cigarettes of excellent quality and very moderate price to all parts of the world. The tobacco is "Turkish," and is imported from those regions which have been such a bone of contention in the Balkan, and in the present, war. Some day, possibly, Cyprus-grown tobacco may find favour. There is every reason for doing all that is possible to foster this industry in this as in other suitable parts of the Empire.

As regards the samples sent to England by the Agricultural Department, the report of the Imperial Institute in London appeared to show that the defects in all those submitted might be removed by improvement in the act of curing. It seems clear that the right leaf for the right place is still to be sought. Nature points to the Syrian varieties, since there is such similarity in climate, and other physical conditions, between the island and the neighbouring mainland. As regards private enterprise, the experiments of Messrs. Saade, in the Larnaca District, who appear to have been foremost in the new effort, have been, so far, the most promising. They have dealt with some success with the Latakieh leaf. Obviously, further experiments in growing and curing are essential, and the more industriously and courageously they are now carried out the better.

Roads and Communications.

Considerable damage was caused to roads and bridges by the last heavy rains. In the mountain districts roads suffer not a little annually from this cause, and maintenance always makes a heavy demand on the Public Works Department. Every year there has been a gradual extension of roads, which are a matter of anxious consideration for the Government. Endeavours are made to meet the needs of the six administrative districts, and the travelling public, in a spirit of fair distribution. The District Commissioners all have their annual claims for a share in this important work. Last year the High Commissioner stated that an increase of over £14,000 in expenditure would be devoted to raising that of Public Works Extraordinary by over £9,000, and that on Forests by about £5,000. The sum for Public Works was to be applied almost entirely to road improvement, *i.e.*, to the foundationing of roads throughout the island. Wages would thus be provided for the unemployed and other labourers, and communications would be vastly improved. It was a wise decision, for much road-making in Cyprus has been lacking in that essential element. Hence, there is, naturally, a good deal of grumbling annually on the part of those who employ wheeled traffic. But only those who have lived or travelled much in Cyprus know the difficulties which have to be encountered. Imagine an island about forty times the size of Malta, but whose total population is about half that of Cairo, and much less than that of several cities in the nearest mainland. When, in 1878, Britain occupied the island, it possessed not a single road except a small stretch of about twenty-five miles from Larnaca to Nicosia. The whole island, with its vast tracts of mountainous ranges and spurs, its countless mountain torrents, valleys and ravines, was merely traversed by mule tracks, and those mostly bad ones. Over these the villagers and their beasts had to toil, winter and summer, with their heavy loads of wine, corn and carobs. The process of road making was necessarily very gradual owing to lack of funds. A military road of thirty-one miles from Limassol to Troödes was constructed in almost record time by the Royal Engineers. Fair-weather roads began to connect the district headquarters, and these were replaced by very slow degrees, as circumstances permitted, by cart roads. But the foundationing of these works were only too often second rate and defective. In the wine-making districts villagers were exhorted to give up the tarred goat-skin and use barrels, for which carts were necessary. "Wine roads" were made, half the cost being defrayed by Government, and half by taxing the villages affected.

By degrees matters improved so much that the mileage of Cyprus roads began to look quite imposing in reports; and travellers coming to the island ten or twelve years ago wondered why motors had not made their appearance. At last an enterprising doctor in Limassol started one. Then, seven or eight years ago, a well-known company ventured to establish a service of motor diligences, which carried mails and passengers between the three principal towns of Nicosia, Larnaca, and Limassol. As the only railway in Cyprus is a light one, running from Famagusta to Nicosia, and through parts of the Central plains, this was a great acquisition. But the company soon found that in Cyprus many of the roads were broken beneath the surface. The wear-and-tear was very different from that which had been estimated for, and difficulties soon arose. The Cyprus annual report of two years ago mentioned, in regard to some of the principal main roads, that there were "miles of uncovered foundations which are very rough for motor cars." Of others it was naïvely said that they had been "improved, and are now passable for motor cars in all weathers, although they cannot yet be said to be really good for motor traffic, owing to uncovered foundations." It may, therefore, be well imagined that the recent road outlay was called for. That progress has been slow has not been due to any fault of the local government, but to the unfortunate circumstances of this impecunious island. The Public Works Department has done marvellously good work all round in Cyprus. It has helped greatly to transform the island. It has educated and opened the eyes of the villagers.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

By Joseph Offord.

Some very valuable discoveries of Roman remains were made last winter at Luxor as the result of excavations carried out under the superintendence of M. Legrain, who for many years has had charge of the great restorations at the temple of Karnak. Relics of the Roman period are not numerous in Egypt, because when the Cæsars held the country it was already supplied with a superfluity of temples and edifices. But it was known that at Thebes, which, before the Romans came, was much destroyed, they erected a Forum, and its site had been identified. Part of this was beneath the house of Mr. Mohareb Tadros, the German Consul, who was unwilling to part with his property until last year, when satisfactory arrangements were made by Sir Henry MacMahon. Explorations started last October and soon brought the Forum to light. A number of inscriptions have been found which show that the Forum was either erected or considerably restored in the time of the Emperor Julian. These notes are derived from M. Legrain's preliminary report, but fuller particulars will be given in this year's *Bulletin* of the Institut Egyptien of Cairo.

PARCEL MAILS LOST.

The following parcel mails have been lost through enemy action:—

MILITARY MAILS.

Destination.	Dates between which parcels reached Army Parcel Office, London, for despatch.
Salonika Force	2 p.m. June 29 and 2 p.m. July 4
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Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force	2 p.m. July 3 and 2 p.m. July 16
East African Expeditionary Force Indian Base, Port Said	2 p.m. July 3 and 2 p.m. July 17

CIVIL MAILS.

Destination.	Dates between which parcels reached G.P.O., London, for dispatch.
Malta Egypt Cyprus	4 p.m., July 17, and 7 p.m., July 18
Larache and Rabat India Ceylon Seychelles Aden British Somaliland British East Africa	7 p.m., July 4, and 7 p.m., July 18
Zanzibar	
Gibraltar Tangier	1 p.m., July 12, and 7 p.m., July 18
Salonika	10 a.m., June 25, and 7 p.m., July 18

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

An ancient proverb warns us of the good manners of spinster's children; the layman's theology will soon be as suspect if many writers follow the sad example of Mr. H. G. Wells. This excellent novelist, who set out recently to reconstruct our religion, suddenly fell foul of Athanasius, who, as we all ought to remember, but don't, was once Archbishop of Alexandria. Mr. Wells seems to have conceived almost a personal dislike of Athanasius; he was "fussy," and he was "red-haired," and a wire-puller, and, incidentally, he wrote a creed; or rather he didn't, but someone who came after him summarised his teaching in that formidable confession of faith which still survives in our prayer-books.

***

Gibbon, by the way, who was not precisely respectful to the fathers of the Church, speaks very highly indeed of Athanasius; he mentions his tenacity, his ability, his courage, but he omits the red hair which seems to have annoyed Mr. Wells more even than the creed. It is very curious that Mr. Wells, who set out to write a book against Christianity, should have finished by attacking red hair, which has acted like a rag of the same colour to him. If one were to write a book against Socialism, and develop it into an attack on men who wore brown shoes, it would be equally convincing. Some men who wear brown shoes are probably Socialists, but nobody has ever claimed red hair as the distinctive mark of orthodoxy.

***

But this personal grudge against a man who has been in his grave some fifteen hundred years is strange; of course we all love or hate contemporaries in this way. I once heard a good Liberal say he would never trust a man who wore an eyeglass, because Mr. Chamberlain wore one; but even good Royalists nowadays do not object to Oliver Cromwell because of the warts; although Mr. Wells, as an acknowledged Republican may, for all I know, demonstrate that if there had been no warts there would have been no Protectorate, and that it was the absence of warts that proved fatal to Richard Cromwell. But, for most of us, when a man is dead, it is rather difficult to hate him because he was bald or not bald, or had some similar defect. Personally I dislike Addison's essays, which seem to be very tame stuff; but I object to Addison as a writer, and not because he had a hammer-toe. (Had he a hammer-toe? I do not know.)

***

There are certainly immense possibilities in history written on these lines. King John may have had a ganglion when he signed Magna Charta, and the early heresies may have been caused by varicose veins. But even if that were so, it would be difficult to feel any personal resentment against them, they have been dead quite a long time. I once saw a stone coffin dug up at Old Sarum which had contained a twelfth-century bishop. If it had been my grandmother I should have been shocked beyond measure at the desecration; for a great-great-grandmother even I might have felt some indignation. Now the good bishop could not have been an ancestor of mine, for his were the days of celibate clergy, and, in any case, my folk do not come from that part of the country. But even if he had been, I doubt if one would have felt very hot about his exhumation—not much hotter than the bishop. Yet Athanasius was ancient history when that prelate of Sarum was still weeping over *hic, haec, hoc.*

***

Some of our modern bishops, by the way, seem to have been getting into trouble lately. The Duke of Argyll has been exhorting them to go back to their belfries, a bishop being about as likely to live in a belfry as a duke in a dustbin. And because they have suggested that part of a Psalm should be omitted from public worship they have been attacked as though they were on a par with the Cretans in St. Paul's famous denunciation (which may have prompted King Constantine in his dislike of M. Venizelos). The bishops are suspect because they have condemned the Psalm as a glorification of vengeance and slaughter, and if the controversy waxes much hotter somebody will be calling them pro-Germans.

***

Once upon a time, when the Seychelles Islands were short of a magistrate, the Colonial Office is said to have suggested that a Mauritius official should put in one or two days a week at the Seychelles. The general standard of geography in the Civil Service and the Press is supposed to have improved since those days, but I confess to having some doubts on the subject on reading in two papers a certain paragraph headed "The Near East." Naturally, my interest was aroused, and the first sentence, "The war is bound to transform the East as well as the West," was so profound as to encourage me to proceed, and this is what I read:—"*The Near East*, published in English at Tokio, and edited by Mr. J. W. Robertson Scott, has," etc., etc. . . . The editor says: 'We have faith in the future of Japan. In that faith *The Near East* is founded.'" The writer of the paragraph shrewdly adds: "The Western reader hazy about the Eastern nations and their problems will be well advised to order *The Near East*. Its price in Tokio is 50 sen, and no doubt a London publisher and price will be found."

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I can only hope that the erudite writers in the *Christian World* and the *Yorkshire Post* have acted upon this advice and have ordered THE NEAR EAST, without necessarily sending their order to Tokio. If carefully studied, it will have helped to correct some of their "haziness" about the Eastern nations and their problems, but I fear that they will have been disappointed when seeking enlightenment about Japan. It is strictly true that the editor has faith in Japan, but as it happens to be separated by the width of the continent of Asia from the sphere with which he deals, it is not possible to devote any space to that interesting country. When a German was arrested for saying, "What a fool the Emperor is!" and protested that he was referring to the Emperor of China, the reply of the *Schutzmann* was: "You said the Emperor was a fool; therefore you must mean the German Emperor." On the same analogy the "hazy" amongst us consider that, if the East is mentioned, "you must mean" the Near East. That is quite right up to a point, and the whole way so long as you are dealing with italics. But we should be poaching on the preserves of our contemporary the *New East*, which sets out to deal with the Far East, if we attempted to bring Japan into the Near Eastern picture.

***

I trust other people turn as instinctively as I do these days to anything that seems to point to there being a bright side to the existence of our men out in Mesopotamia. Sir Arthur Lawley's book, just out, "A Message from Mesopotamia," is much to my liking, and now comes the *Basrah Times*, which has often given me special pleasure, with an attractive pen-picture of "The Aboriginal in Mesopotamia." The author, by the way, is "Eye-Witness"—a genus with which we used to be acquainted ourselves at this end years and years ago. It was held to have become extinct, but a reincarnation has evidently cropped up in the Valley of the Two Rivers and is still capable of good work. He is describing the Labour Corps in Mesopotamia, "the nearest thing to Babel since the original confusion of tongues." This is his attempt at countries of origin. "Coolies and artisans have come in from China and Egypt and the East and West Indies, the Aboriginal Santals and the Paharias from Bengal, Moplas. Thyas and Nayars from the West Coast, Nepalese quarrymen, Indians of all races and creeds, Arabs and Chaldeans of the country."

***

Most of the article is devoted to the Santals, and perhaps some of the touches are happy enough to justify reproduction. The writer had encountered a crowd of Santals on the Bridge of Boats in Baghdad. "They were scurrying like a flock of sheep, not because they were rushed, I was told, but simply for fun. Someone had started it, and the others had broken into a jog-trot. One of them with bricks balanced on his head was playing a small reed flute—the Pipe of Pan . . . They were like happy gollywogs, and the dust in their elfin locks, the colour of tow, increased the impish suggestion of the toyshop."

***

When the Santal left his home, we are told, all he took with him was two brass cooking pots, his stick, and a bottle of mustard oil. The stick he uses to sling his belongings over his shoulder, with a net attached and generally his boots inside. He loves to rub himself all over with oil, but in this unfruitful land he can find little or none, and he had not even time to refill at Bombay. On board ship he saw coal for the first time. Each man was given a brickette with his rations for fuel, and Jangal Baski, Goomda Kisku and others put their vessel on the strange black substance and expected it to boil. A very simple, happy, and contented person is the Santal. Once gain his confidence, and he will work for you all day and half the night; abuse it and he will not work at all.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

ALL WELL IN MESOPOTAMIA.*

Time was when the punctuation of the night watches at sea with the look-out's cry seemed almost as much a labour of supererogation as the medical inspection on arrival at port. These days, however, the welcome sound will have an added significance for all who hear them, and in the same way much meaning attaches to the "All's Well" message that Sir Arthur Lawley has brought back to this country from Mesopotamia. He was invited by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to proceed to Busreh to report on the existing condition of things, and to investigate the possibility of extending the sphere and enlarging the scope of Red Cross activities in the Tigris Valley. Sir Arthur Lawley left Bombay in January, and in the course of a nine weeks' voyage visited Mesopotamia, advancing with General Maude's victorious army into Baghdad, and retracing his steps to India. The Mesopotamia Commission had not then published its report; but enough had leaked out in regard to the past conditions in that theatre of war to make it advisable for the Red Cross to send out an independent Commissioner to see whether they could do more than they had already done. Here let it be stated that, before General Nixon ordered General Townshend to advance on Baghdad, the Red Cross had telegraphed to ask whether they could help with hospital supplies, but only to have acceptance confined to two petrol-driven motor launches. When they repeated the offer after the disaster at Ctesiphon, they were told by General Nixon that nothing was required. By the latter half of 1916 a new régime was established in Mesopotamia, and the Red Cross was able to carry out the work for which the opportunity was denied it in 1915. Sir Arthur Lawley arrived to find all the medical arrangements and the supplies of comforts working satisfactorily. Where improvements could be made in Red Cross organization he was there to see them started or put in train. His story is at once reassuring and bears the impress of absolute sincerity.

"A Message from Mesopotamia," however, is not merely a chronicle of Red Cross achievements. The author went to a country very much in the public eye at the present moment. Those who know him as one of the most polished of our public speakers will not be surprised to find a delightfully written narrative that holds the reader and visualizes the scene for him with the lightest touch withal. Sir Arthur Lawley was an eye-witness of some of the fighting that led to the recapture of Kut, and of the subsequent pursuit of the beaten Turks. Nor has he overlooked the political aspect of the Mesopotamia Expedition. "It is, I think, impossible," he says, "not to ascribe the growing readiness of the Arab tribes to throw in their lot with us to the impression which must inevitably be caused by our having undertaken work of such magnitude and solidity." And he continues, as we think, very shrewdly: "It is certain that, if in an ill-starred moment when the war draws to an end we make up our minds to vacate the land, our withdrawal will be regarded as the betrayal of men whom we have wheedled into allegiance, and will have the worst possible effect on our Mohammedan subjects throughout the Empire. . . . I do not know whether from a political or from a purely economic point of view the abandonment of this vast territory would be the greater blunder."

CLAIMANTS TO CONSTANTINOPLE.†

The number of suggestions that have been made at one time or another for the disposal of Constantinople is legion, but the subject still exercises the imagination of all sorts of people. A few weeks ago the proposal for an international solution was discussed in these pages, and now comes an effective answer to such a scheme in a small volume of essays written for the American Historical Association. The essay on Constantinople is a valuable and dispassionate analysis of a vexed question, and, coming from an American pen, is less suspect than it would be if it emanated from any other source. Mr. Coolidge disposes of any qualms that might be raised by the principle of nationality by noting, to begin with, that "the question of the wishes of the inhabitants themselves can hardly be taken into serious consideration. At almost every stage of its history Constantinople has been a cosmopolitan city, and this has never been truer than since it has been under the Ottoman Empire." The possibility of the Turks remaining in possession is not altogether excluded by the author. "*Beati possidentes* is usually the easiest way out of any territorial dispute, especially when compromise is impossible between other conflicting and more radical proposals." What he will not allow is the international solution—a free State, with the proper mixture of self-government and of control by the Powers, with the Straits unfortified and wide open to the peaceful trade of mankind. It appeals to the imagination, but "the difficulty is that it is too imaginative." Modern democratic government, Mr. Coolidge continues, is not so successful that we can easily conceive of the elements that compose the present population of Constantinople administering all their own affairs. Still less can they be entrusted with the management of the vast interests of others." He then analyses international control, with special reference to the Danube Commission, and comes to the same conclusion as that already advanced in these pages, that the two problems—the Danube and Constantinople—do not stand comparison. Nor is sufficient consideration, in the opinion of our author, given to the distinction between times of peace and times of war. In times of peace commerce will be but little hampered: in a war between Russia and another Power there will always be the temptation to both parties to make a dash for the Straits.

Turning to the different claims, Mr. Coolidge finds that the Greeks have the strongest historical claim, and holds that the world may, after all, see Constantinople again in the hands, not of Greece but of Greeks. The Bulgarians have no historical claim but an excellent geographical reason for desiring the place. The Russian claims are numerous and weighty—both sentimental and practical—and this consideration leads to the aspirations of Germany. "The fulfilment of either the Russian or the German dream can only be achieved by the ruin of the other."

The author of the essay leaves the subject at that point. The war and the Powers, however, cannot afford to do so. A definite settlement must be found, and those who are interested in the subject will do well to study this excellent *exposé* of the position in regard to Constantinople.

The three Peace Congresses dealt with in the same volume are, of course, those of Vienna, Paris, and Berlin, and the purpose of the essays is to touch upon the mode of action of these gatherings rather than to discuss specific decisions. The idea of a Peace Conference is much in the public mind at this time. Perhaps the perusal of this volume will explain what ought to be more apparent than it is—that there is a very important distinction between ending the war and redrawing the map of Europe. The war must be ended before any congress meets, and it must be ended by Germany's acceptance of the Allies' terms of peace. A European Congress can subsequently be summoned to regularise the decisions which the Allies will have reached. It ought to be clearly understood that there can be no gathering, after the cessation of hostilities, at which the Central Powers can be allowed to haggle over the terms of surrender.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Egyptian Colloquial Arabic: A Conversational Grammar. By W. H. T. Gairdner. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

The Re-birth of Russia. By Isaac F. Marcosson. (London: The Bodley Head. 3s. 6d. net.)

Les Slovènes. By Ivan Krek. Translated by A. U. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 1 fr.)

La Bataille Economique de Demain. By Victor Boret, Député. (Paris: Payot et Cie. 3.50 frs.)

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton will shortly be publishing "Tommy and the Maid of Athens," by Mr. Joseph Hocking. This story, which is a romance of the Balkan campaign, will form a sequel to the author's earlier war novel, "Tommy."

The same publishers also announce another war tale by Mr. Joseph Hocking, entitled "The Path of Glory," written round the history of the Turco-Germanic plot for the extermination of the Armenian race.

The Rev. R. Stewart Patterson, late Chaplain to the British Legation at Bucharest, has written a volume of verse entitled "Roumanian Songs and Ballads," to which Madame Také Jonescu contributes a preface. The work is published by Messrs. John Long, Ltd., at the price of 2s. 6d. net.

The headmaster of the Government Anglo-Vernacular Schools at Aden, Syed Hamood Hason, is the author of "Gems of Arabic Literature," being the English translation of Ar-Rauzat-Uz-Zakiah; the text-book for the higher standard examination in Arabic, with notes and references. This is the first time the work has been translated from the original Arabic into English. The price of the book is Rs.7.

* "A Message from Mesopotamia." By the Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 2s. 6d. net.) All author's profits from the sale of this book will be given to the Prisoners of War Fund.

† "Three Peace Congresses of the Nineteenth Century." By C. D. Hayen, W. R. Thayer, and R. H. Lord. "Claimants to Constantinople." By A. C. Coolidge. Harvard University Press. (London: Humphrey Milford. Price 75 cents.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. July.	1917. July.		1335. Shewall	5677. Av
27	14	Friday	7	8
28	15	Saturday.....	8	9
29	16	Sunday	9	10
30	17	Monday	10	11
31	18	Tuesday	11	12
August 1	19	Wednesday	12	13
2	20	Thursday	13	14

The King and Queen, accompanied by the Princess Mary, were present at the marriage of Major Harold Wernher (Machine Gun Corps) with the Countess Zia Torby, which was solemnized in the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, on the 20th inst.

Queen Alexandra, accompanied by the Princess Royal, with Princess Maud and the Princess Victoria, was also present.

Prince Alexander of Serbia, on his arrival at Salonika, left immediately for the Serbian section of the front.

Prince Alexis Karageorgevitch of Serbia left London on the 22nd inst. for the country.

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, was among the diplomatic visitors to the Foregn Office on July 19.

General Rudeano, the chief of the Roumanian Military Mission in France, arrived in London on July 23 from Paris.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has left London for the country.

Mr. Einstein, of the American Diplomatic Service, who had charge of British interests in Sofia, has arrived in London.

Mr. J. C. Wedgwood, D.S.O., M.P., of Moddershall, Stone, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant for Staffordshire.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley has returned to London from Scotland.

Prince Brancovan of Roumania has arrived in London from the Continent.

The Earl of Mayo and Lord Oranmore and Browne left London on July 24 for Ireland.

Mrs. Bowen has been spending a week with Captain and Mrs. Hugh Poynter at Clifton.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, the Sultan has ordered that a special house shall be built at Gabares for the Palace officials.

M. Venizelos reviewed two regiments of the Serres Division in the Stadium at Athens on July 22. He was loudly cheered by the large crowd.

M. Ch. Simopoulos, the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London under the Government of King Constantine, has left London for the Greek Legation in Rome.

Stores of benzine and other supplies for German submarines have been discovered at Eleusis, Greece. They had been collected by supporters of ex-King Constantine.

Serdar Resched, a former Governor-General of Azerbaijan, Persia, while on his way to Teheran, was killed by three shots fired at him as he was leaving the Governor's house.

M. Vladimir Martinatch, Attaché to the Serbian Foreign Office at Corfu, has arrived in London. He is leaving shortly for Paris to take up the post of Secretary to the Serbian Legation.

According to *Al Mokattam*, Sir Murdoch Macdonald, Bernard Pasha and Mr. Bonham Carter, who have recently come to England from Egypt, will approach the subject of the loan in connection with irrigation schemes for cotton cultivation and the completion of the dam on the Blue Nile, which was in hand before the war broke out.

The King of Serbia has conferred the Order of the White Eagle, Fourth Class (with swords), on Captain Sydney R. Olivier, R.N.; Captain Edward M. C. Mackenzie, R.M.; Commander William F. Sells, C.M.G., R.N. Lieutenant William G. Knight, R.N.R., has been awarded the Fifth Class (with swords) of the same Order.

M. Yovan K. Tanovitch, who has recently arrived from Salonika, has taken the place of Professor Dr. V. M. Yovanovitch as representative of the Serbian Press Bureau in London.

At the baptism of the daughter of Sir Maurice and Lady Bonham-Carter last week the child was named "Helen Laura," and the sponsors were Mr. Churchill, Mrs. Aubrey Herbert, and Lady Desborough.

The Secretary of the War Office made the following announcement on July 25 in regard to the operations in Mesopotamia:—There is nothing special to report. Great heat continues throughout Mesopotamia.

The death, at Malta, is announced of Father Strickland, for many years Professor of Philosophy at the College of Mondragone, near Rome, and chaplain with the British forces since the outbreak of the war.

Seven prominent health and sanitary authorities have been sent by the American Red Cross to Roumania for relief work. Twelve doctors and twelve nurses accompany them. A sum of £40,000 has been appropriated for the purpose.

The Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund now amounts to £450,000. Mr. A. H. D. Acland, Sir Robert Blair, Mr. W. Pember Reeves, and Mr. James Currie have been added to the council and the executive committee.

The Swedish Minister at Constantinople has reported that the American colleges in Constantinople and Beyrout will not be closed, notwithstanding the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Turkey.

Mr. J. J. Stavridis has been reappointed Consul-General for Greece in London. He resigned his post in December last, after acting for thirteen years, and was then appointed Consul-General for the Salonika Provisional Government.

Official reports show that the harvest in Moldavia surpasses expectations. In spite of the fact that many districts are in the immediate neighbourhood of the fighting line, only about 30 per cent. of the land has remained uncultivated.

General Sir Archibald Murray had the honour of being received at Buckingham Palace on the 21st inst., when the King invested him with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George.

An official telegram to the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces that before the departure of the Greek Minister from Sofia the Bulgarian authorities arrested the First Secretary, the Military Attaché, and other members of the Legation staff.

M. Spyro Saltaferas, Secretary; M. Jean Doulidis, Attaché; and Captain A. Criezis, Naval Attaché, the personnel of the Greek Legation in London for the Government of King Constantine, have been requested to report themselves at the Foreign Office in Athens.

H.E. the Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile, Third Class, on Lieut.-Commander David G. Hogarth, R.N.V.R., and the Fourth Class of the Order on Major F. H. Smith, R.M., and Lieutenant Philip L. Neville, R.N. The King has given permission to the officers concerned to wear the decorations in question.

By the invitation of the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, the Rev. Father Nicolai Velimirovitch, late chaplain to King Peter of Serbia and head of the Theological Faculty in the University of Belgrade, preached the morning sermon in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 22nd inst.

Lady Swaythling has presented, on behalf of the Wounded Allies' Relief Committee, twenty cases of hospital requisites, of the value of £400, to the Roumanian Minister, for the use of the Roumanian Red Cross. A meeting in aid of the Roumanian Red Cross Fund is announced to take place at the Manchester Town Hall to-day. Among those who are expected to speak is the Roumanian Minister, Monsieur Misu.

Bulgarian crimes against the Serbian population are continually increasing, says a statement issued by the Serbian Press Bureau. Murder, robbery, forced recruiting, deportation of the civil population for forced labour, and the confiscation of property mark the Bulgarian *régime*. Serbian prisoners have been informed that any attempt to escape will render them liable, in addition to the death penalty, to the burning of their homes, the confiscation of their property, and the deportation of their families.

On the occasion of the anniversary of Belgian independence King Alexander, according to a message received from Athens, sent a telegram to King Albert expressing "the sincere and hearty good wishes of myself and of my people for the triumph of the cause of right, for which Greece also is happily fighting on the side of her Allies, and which will secure to your noble and heroic nation the supreme recompense for all the sufferings which you have endured with fortitude and courage, and which evoke the just sympathy and admiration of the civilised world."

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Lieutenant Nicolas Misu, second son of the Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James's, has arrived in London from Jassy. He has taken up a new appointment with the Roumanian Military Commission in London. The Roumanian Minister's elder son, who is in the medical service of the Roumanian army, is detained as a prisoner of war in charge of wounded at Ploeshti.

A fine mosaic of the early sixth century Christian Church, according to Reuter's Cairo correspondent, has been discovered in Palestine, north-west of Beersheba, under works recently occupied by the Turks. It bears a Græco-Syriac inscription referring in superlatives to a Saint George, whose bones were found beneath the mosaic. The mosaic has been somewhat injured by Turkish trench-digging, but is nevertheless a fine specimen. It is for the present stored at a depot in Cairo, where it will remain pending a decision as to its ultimate destination.

In an effort to ameliorate the condition of the Jewish communities in Palestine, the President of the United States has commissioned Mr. Henry Morgenthau, formerly American Ambassador at Constantinople, and Professor Felix Frankfurter, of the Harvard Law School, now serving as assistant to the Secretary of War, to proceed to Egypt, and from there to conduct an investigation to ascertain what measures of relief can be set on foot among the Jews in Palestine. It is understood that Mr. E. W. Lewin-Epstein, a member of the Zionist Provisional Committee, will accompany the Commission.

Sir Jacob Elias Sassoon, of Bombay, head of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon and Co., merchants and bankers, of India, London, Manchester, and China, who died on October 22, left property in England of the value of £60,670. Among various bequests left were to the Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem Rs.3,000 for the saying of prayers and Kadish for the deceased, and Rs. 2,000 for the poor, Rs.4,000 each to the Rabbis of Hebron, Suffet, and Tyberia, Palestine, as to Rs.3,000 for prayers and Kadish for him and Rs.1,000 for the poor; while he directed that the proceeds of the sale of jewels belonging to himself and his late wife should be given for the maintenance and support of needy, destitute, or crippled Jews in the United Kingdom, India, or Palestine.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Bimbashi R. H. W. Worsley, D.S.O., Equatorial Battalion, has been transferred to the Camel Corps.

Mr. Bury, Inspector of the Dongola Division, is to be transferred to Egypt, where he will be Inspector of the 2nd Division, and will be succeeded in Dongola by Mr. Hendeman.

Mr. Prowde, Secretary of Sir Murdoch Macdonald, has been appointed Inspector of Irrigation, White Nile Division, to succeed Mr. Buckley, who has been transferred to Assiout.

Captain B. H. C. Lea Wilson, Royal Army Medical Corps, has been attached to the Medical Corps of the Egyptian Army as a special service officer, with the temporary rank of Bimbashi.

A Supplement to the *London Gazette* issued on July 20 includes the following awards:—

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

Flight Commander JOHN CALLAGHAN BROOKE, R.N.A.S.
In recognition of his services in the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron during the period April 1, 1916-March 31, 1917. During this time he took part in several valuable reconnaissances and bombing flights, obtaining important information, and doing considerable damage to enemy organisations.

Flight Sub-Lieut. ROBERT FREDERICK LEA DICKEY, R.N.A.S.

Warrant Officer (2nd Grade) FRANK HENRY WHITMORE, R.N.A.S.
In recognition of his services in the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron during the period April 1, 1916, to March 31, 1917.

Flight Lieutenant GUY DUNCAN SMITH, R.N.A.S.
In recognition of his services in the East Indies and Egypt Seaplane Squadron during the period April 1, 1916-March 31, 1917. During this time he took part in several valuable reconnaissances and bombing flights, obtaining important information and doing considerable damage to enemy organisations.

OBITUARY.

The *Sudan Times* records the death of El Lewa W. B. Drury Pasha, Director of Steamers, Sudan Government, at the Continental Hotel, Cairo, on June 20. The funeral took place with full military honours at the New British Cemetery, Cairo, on the following day.

In the death of Drury Pasha the Sudan Government loses an old official. He joined the Sudan Government service with the rank of Bimbashi on July 1, 1902, was promoted to the rank of Kaimakam in 1905, to that of Miralai in 1909, and to Lewa in 1916. Upon the retirement of El Lewa Bond Pasha from the service of the Sudan Government, Drury Bey (as he was then) was appointed to succeed him as Director of Steamers Department, which post he occupied until his death.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

MARRIAGE.

WILLIAMS—ROGERS.—On July 24, at St. John's, Holdenhurst, by the Rev. Sydney Powell Townend, Vicar, Captain Montague Williams, A.S.C., elder son of Mr. J. D. Williams, M.F.H., J.P., of Clydach Court, Trealaw, Glam., and Nancy Gellatly Rogers, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Forster Rogers, of "Capri," Richmond Park Avenue, Bournemouth, and granddaughter of the late Rogers Bey, of Cairo, Egypt.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE.

The marriage arranged between Captain Donald S. Campbell, Yeomanry, eldest son of Mr. Colin and Lady Angela Campbell, and Margaret Emily (Madge), eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Carver, will take place on August 1 at Ramleh, Alexandria, Egypt.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.), ALEXANDRIA.
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1917.

ROUMANIA.

It has not contributed to a better understanding of the situation in Roumania that a news agency should have circulated the erroneous information that the Senate had rejected the measure for the reform of the Constitution. The Bill, as a matter of fact, passed the Chamber by 130 votes to 14, and was accorded a correspondingly large majority in the Upper House. To those who had followed the recent trend of events in Roumania it was inconceivable that there should have been any other result, and the reasons for the alleged defeat in the Senate were awaited with considerable misgivings. That there is nothing more to explain away than a telegraphic error is in the circumstances most satisfactory. Roumania, unfortunately, has not yet emerged from her crisis; there may be still more anxious days ahead, and she needs a united people to enable her to face the future with confidence. The basis of the new hope that centres in her reorganised army is henceforth to be close co-operation and mutual understanding between all sections of the people. Even without the searching ordeal that the war has brought the good sense of the nation had recognised that steps had to be taken to improve the conditions of the peasants, which was not only an injustice to those concerned but also seriously impaired the national efficiency. Electoral reform and the amelioration of the system of land tenure went hand in hand; the third reform—the removal of disabilities pressing on the Jews—had also secured some measure of support, but could not be said to have taken a complete hold of the national conscience. The stimulus of the war, however, prompted the desire to make a clean sweep of all legitimate grievances. At the psychological moment King Ferdinand became the mouthpiece of his people, and pledged Roumania before the world to remove anything that had been in the part of the nature of a reproach in regard to her treatment of the peasants or the Jews. From that time the subject of reform has not looked back, and the constitutional formalities required to give effect to it have been carried through with the virtual unanimity of all parties. The agricultural measures provide for the expropriation of large tracts of land, and the peasants themselves, forming nearly five-sixths of the total population, can be relied upon to make a success of them. In regard to the Jews, legislation alone will not suffice to give effect to the spirit behind the reform. The outside world, therefore, will watch with interest the steps taken by the leaders of public opinion and of Roumanian society to show that a joint effort and common suffering have finally welded the nation together into a compact whole.

The report of a Ministerial crisis at Jassy, following close upon the successful passage of the Reform Bill through Parliament under the auspices of a Coalition Government, might be taken to imply that the solidarity of the nation was not as real as outward appearances indicated. Happily this does not necessarily follow. On all questions of national policy, we believe, the Liberals and Conservatives are at one. The great work which their co-operation in the Administration was intended to achieve has been accomplished in a splendid spirit of self-denial. It would be idle to maintain that the Coalition was a complete success from a personal point of view. Two strong men came together for a definite object, but could not altogether sink their personalities. M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister, commands a definite majority of Parliamentary support, and has the prestige of a great name as an earnest of his capacity to lead the country without advice from beyond the limits of his own party. Accustomed to think out problems for himself, he has found it difficult, as Baron Sonnino did in the Italian Government, to share his views with others at each stage of their development. M. Take Jonescu, on the other hand, is essentially a man of action. As head of the second Party forming the Coalition Government he could not indefinitely accept responsibility for decisions in which he had taken no part. He appears to have challenged a reconstruction of the Cabinet on lines that would give his party a stronger voice in the Government. In view of the impossibility of an election in Roumania at this stage, the King has adopted the strictly constitutional course of asking M. Bratiano, who has the largest following in Parliament, to remain in office. If, as seems likely, he decides that he cannot meet all M. Take Jonescu's wishes, his new Ministry may be exclusively Liberal, unless he considers it necessary to bespeak the support of the recently formed Labour Party, with representation in his Cabinet.

The absence of M. Take Jonescu from the Government at this stage will be a loss to Roumania. Theoretically his driving force and M. Bratiano's caution ought to make a sound combination, provided the resultant can be reached without undue friction. The exceedingly precarious situation in Russia will be viewed by none of the Allies with greater anxiety than by Roumania. If the whole Russian line has to be withdrawn to cover the treachery of the Maximalists, the Roumanian Army, with all that remains to it of the country, is likely to be in jeopardy. A graver crisis than the one through which she has already passed would then have to be faced, and the nation would feel more confident with a Government of all the talents than with a purely party Cabinet. The point, however, is for the Roumanians themselves to settle. Whether it be a Liberal or a Coalition Government, there can be no question of the spirit of the people or of their determination to see the war through. Though the Allies accept this attitude as a matter of course, they will not be oblivious of the terrible strain to which the Roumanians have been subjected, in a degree only second to that which the Belgians and Serbians have endured. Not the least of Roumania's misfortunes is her complete dependence on the Russians not only to guard her northern flank and to supplement her shortage of troops, but also as the clearing-house for all the munitions of war despatched to her by her Western Allies. The amazing conduct of certain Russian troops is immediately responsible for the reverse on that front; but, although great improvements have been made in internal organisation, it is not to be expected that the suborning of whole regiments will have taken place without affecting the transport services of the country. Roumania, therefore, stands to be gravely penalised in the matter of supplies, unless the Russian débâcle can be arrested. The signs of the last day or two are more propitious, but the Jassy Government will need to watch every development with the closest attention. Before Roumania entered the war caution was undoubtedly a sound policy and a valuable asset. Now that she is committed to the struggle, rapidity and boldness of decision may spell the difference between success and further disaster.

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A RIDE FOR FREEDOM.

BY M. E. DURHAM.

Italy has proclaimed the independence of South Albania, and an episode in Albania's struggle for freedom may now be recalled without hurting any present-day feelings. It was in July, 1913, that in company of Mr. H. W. Nevinson, I rode over the long sun-scorched plain, entered the town, and pulled up at the door of the Albanian Girls' School at Koritza. It was in 1904, nearly ten years earlier, that I had last been in Koritza and heard of the gallant efforts for nationality and freedom that its patriots were then making. I had witnessed, too, the enthusiasm with which Albania received the Young Turk movement, and the immediate impetus given to the national Albanian movement, and had been kept constantly informed of the hopes and progress of Koritza.

Now I rode into a town occupied by Greek troops, and found my friends careworn and anxious. The Albanian school was closed, and the American missionary and his wife had been expelled at a few hours' notice by the Greek authorities.

We visited the Greek Colonel who was in command; and, anxious for Albania's freedom, asked him where the new frontiers should be drawn. Upon a map he drew a line which included even Tepeleni. "Half Albania!" I exclaimed. He did not pretend that it was not. He merely remarked that: "A French proverb says 'appetite comes with eating.' We have eaten; we have taken territory. We must take more and more." To which I replied: "Those that eat too much get belly-ache!" He then told us that an interesting meeting would be held shortly at which the population would ask for annexation to Greece, and invited us to be present. We were then taken to call on various individuals, including an old Turk. The Greek official, who personally conducted us, asked those whom we visited whether they would like Greek rule, and they obediently replied that they would. This did not appear to us the best way of ascertaining the truth of their sentiments.

By day this programme was carried out. At night we received many messages begging us to do our utmost to save the town and district, and many complaints of cruelty. Cruelty must, however, always be expected from an army of occupation. It is a part of war. And war is unkind.

As the time of the meeting drew near word reached us that soldiers were calling at houses and ordering the attendance of the inhabitants. The closing of shops and of the bazaar was also ordered. It did not appear that the meeting was wholly spontaneous.

As we had no intention of being made tools of and did not mean to appear on the platform chaperoned by Greek officials, we went out for a stroll. Then an odd thing happened. We had come from a few miles to the north, where Central European time ruled, and we had not discovered that in Koritza the clocks went by East European time. Consequently we were just an hour late, and the meeting, which had been carefully arranged for our benefit, missed fire altogether. One striking thing about it was the number of women and children who attended. In the evening this was explained by the fact that the Greek authorities had told them that an English lady and gentleman had come from England to speak to them. And as many of them knew that I was a friend of Albania, they had come, not to support Greek ambitions, but to see us.

The authorities had, however, at once sent a telegram to the Conference then sitting in London to the effect that the whole of Koritza desired to be Greek.

What was to be done? Our friends were dismayed. After dark messages came in from the surrounding country begging us to act at once. We had intended staying longer in Koritza, but to send a telegram thence was clearly impossible. The nearest free telegraph office was at Berat, two long days' ride distant. Difficulties there were, but these were overcome by the energy of the Albanians. A guide and mules were at once procured, and in a short time we were on our way with the news that we hoped "would save Koritza from her fate."

A never-to-be-forgotten ride it was. Up to the last the Greeks strove to "stage manage" the district. At Moskopol, a small town mainly inhabited by Kutzo-Vlachs, we were met by a pre-arranged band of "peasants rejoicing under Greek rule," after the fashion of a comic opera; and ascertained that they had been sent ahead for the purpose. Nor would this band of rejoicing Greeks let us out of their sight. Nevertheless, it was impossible to walk round town without observing that Greek was not the language spoken by the populace. One of our Greek guides I noticed spoke Albanian. He had learnt it as a child, he said, because it was his mother's tongue. I suggested that he was therefore half-Albanian. "Oh, no," said he, naively. "My mother, of course, is really a Greek, but there were no Greek schools here when she was young, so the poor woman has never learnt to speak properly!"

Then for two days we rode over Albanian mountains, where every village spoke Albanian, for the Greeks had not yet had time or money to teach them "to talk properly." Over passes and down into deep valleys we rode, and saw on our left the great square head of Tomor rise against the sky. There are times when it is safe for no man to go to the summit, for the Old Gods still hold their court there, and resent the approach of mortals. Through streams we rode and under great pine trees whose branches showed black against the brilliant blue of distant mountains. It was a land in which to linger and marvel and enjoy.

But we bore a precious message, and pressed on. Travel-stained and weary, we reached Berat in the early dawn, and the magic wires carried to London the message with which we had been entrusted—that Koritza did not wish to be Greek.

THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Islamic Society was held on July 21 at the Khankah, 86, Ladbroke Road, London, W., the President, Dr. Abdul Majid, being in the chair. The report and accounts for the past year were read by the hon. secretary, Mr. M. W. Hassanalli, and adopted. The following gentlemen were elected or re-elected to fill the offices named:—President, Syed H. R. Abdul Majid, LL.D., Barrister-at-Law; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Ali Hilsmet Nahid Bey, his Excellency Kassim Zade, Mr. H. Omar Flight, Mr. S. A. Khan, Professor Mayat Khan Sufi, Mr. M. Zade, Mr. G. M. Kibria, Mr. M. Jabir, Lord Hadley, and the Hon. A. Peeperdy; hon. secretary, Mr. M. W. Hassanalli; joint hon. secretary, Mr. M. Jaffri; hon, treasurer, Mr. Qazi Abdullah, B.A., B.T.

A social gathering of members and friends, which was presided over by Dr. T. M. Maguire, followed. At this, Dr. Majid delivered an address on "Sovereignty in Islam." He traced a resemblance between the constitutional form of monarchy evolved in this country and the form of government prevailing in the Moslem Empire in early times. The Khalifs of the Ommayeid period, he said, were accustomed to convene an assembly to advise them on critical questions. Democracy, although in other ways the best, had the demerit that it was the weakest form of government; monarchial government had the single merit of strength. A constitutional monarchy combined the good points of both these forms of government, and this combination had been achieved in England, and much earlier in the Moslem Empire. Indeed, England owed it largely to the Moslem example. Any unprejudiced reader of the "Letters on Toleration," by the great English political philosopher Locke, would see how largely he had been influenced by Islamic ideas.

A short discussion followed, after which Professor Mayat Khan and Mohammed Ali Khan sang and performed on the veena and dilruba.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Position at Aden. July 19.

Earl CURZON made the following statement:—

The military and political situation at Aden continues unchanged. The Turks remain in possession of Lahej, and the adjoining country, but have not been able to seduce the bulk of the tribes of the Protectorate from their loyalty to Great Britain, or seriously to threaten the British position at Aden and Sheikh Othman. Patrol encounters and brushes with the enemy occur frequently, and there is occasional shelling, but no encounter of any consequence has taken place of late. The most important since May 1 last have been:—

May 26.—Patrol encounter near Mansur. Our losses, three Indian ranks killed and three wounded. Turks reported to have lost five killed and ten wounded.

June 6.—Turks attacked our post at Rabat, and were driven off. Our casualties, one British officer killed and one Indian rank wounded.

July 5.—Enemy attacked Rabat, and were driven off. Our casualties, one Indian rank killed and two wounded.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Military Operations at Gaza. July 19.

Mr. ELLIS DAVIES asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he could see his way clear to publish an official report as to what took place during the military operations at Gaza, so as to allay the anxiety of the relatives of the men in the regiments which took part.

Mr. MACPHERSON: The ordinary procedure in reporting operations is to issue *communiqués* briefly describing the events, and to follow these in due course with the publication of a despatch from the general in command. There is nothing in the Gaza operations to call for any alterations in the procedure. No anxiety need be felt as to the military situation on the frontier of Palestine, and the health of the troops is good. My hon. friend will understand that the publication of a despatch from a distant theatre of war necessarily is a matter of time.

Sir H. DALZIEL: Will the hon. gentleman say whether any, and, if so, how many, officers have been recalled?

Mr. MACPHERSON: Perhaps my hon. friend will give me notice of that question.

Turkish Treatment of British Officers.

Sir WILLIAM HOWELL DAVIES asked Mr. Hope whether his attention had been directed to the imprisonment, now for over three months, of six British officers by the Turkish Government in a Constantinople prison, as a reprisal for the alleged imprisonment of some Turkish officers in Egypt; whether our Foreign Office had requested the aid of a neutral Government to seek the release of these young officers from the Turkish dungeons; if he was aware that two of these young officers had already died from typhus fever, contracted during their incarceration; and if renewed efforts were now being made to secure the release of the survivors before a similar fate befell them?

Mr. HOPE: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, except that the number of British officers is five and not six. The United States Ambassador was requested on April 25 to explain to the Porte by telegraph that only one of the five Turkish officers in Egypt had been under arrest, and that for attempted escape. The Netherlands Minister, who subsequently took charge of our interests at Constantinople, was long unable to secure the release of the British officers, although he was urgently requested at frequent intervals to make every effort in this direction. I regret to state that one of the five British officers has died. We asked the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople by telegraph on the 27th ult. for full particulars as to the cause of his death and also of the death of another British officer, who was not one of the five in question. We have just received a telegram as follows from the Dutch Minister at Constantinople: "Four surviving officers returned to Afion Kara Hissar, July 4."

The Serbian Government. July 23.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to Mr. PALMER, said: I understand that the Serbian Government is about to move to Salonika. The British Minister accredited to the Serbian Government is Sir C. des Graz.

Kut-el-Amara. July 24.

Mr. MACPHERSON, replying to Mr. PETO, said that the number of guns captured by the Turks at Kut-el-Amara was thirty-five. They were rendered useless by the British garrison and thrown into the river. Afterwards they were salved by the Turks. All had been recaptured by Sir Stanley Maude.

Mr. PETO: Were they useless for offensive purposes when taken out of the river?

Mr. MACPHERSON: I believe that is so.

Great Britain and the Balkans.

In Committee of Supply, on the Supplementary Vote of Credit of £650,000,000, the subject of the Near East was raised:—

Mr. NOEL BUXTON, in the course of a review of the arguments for breaking up Austria, said that we did not enter upon the war to dismember that country, and the idea of adding that object to our programme was a mistaken one. The plans of Jugo-Slavdom were purely doctrinaire. He doubted whether the Slavs wanted independence. He thought they desired nationality federated with the Hapsburgs. The creation of a number of independent States would mean the creation of several Ulsters supported from outside.

Mr. KING said that one of the most difficult questions which the Government had to face was how they stood with regard to Austria and the Balkans. He referred to a statement put forward by the Jugo-Slav Committee. It set forth the extraordinary despair, disappointment, and exhaustion of the whole Serbian nation, and represented that the surrender of Serbia to Austria might be considered as a possibility.

Mr. DILLON was convinced the Balkan policy of the Western School was built up on a total misconception of the real aims of Germany. As long as Germany controlled the Balkans and had the Constantinople railway open with access to Asia Minor at the end of hostilities Germany would have won the war and obtained her object. By abandoning the Balkan campaign, as we had done during the last two years, we had played the game of Germany and prolonged the war. The army at Salonika was totally demoralised, and that was only to be expected, if they kept there a large number of troops without doing any fighting. The Serbians were entitled to know whether we were going to desert them. If they made peace with Austria, our position in the Balkans was ruined. The position in Roumania was also most serious. What was our aim and policy in keeping an army immured in the swamps of the Balkans? Then what about Greece? He believed the war could have been and would ultimately be settled in the Balkans. If it went forth to the world that every small nation that had come on our side had been destroyed by our enemies, then he was of opinion that the war would be lost.

Lord ROBERT CECIL said the last speaker had made certain charges against the *moral* of the troops at Salonika. He believed it to be utterly untrue that the force had become completely demoralised. It had also been alleged that we were about to abandon Serbia. Each Government in turn had given the most absolute pledge that they would stand by Serbia as they would stand by all their Allies. There was not the slightest ground for such a charge. It was absolutely and totally untrue. There was no intention of retreating from the pledge which the Government gave—namely, full restoration and reparation to Serbia. He trusted that declaration would receive full publicity.

In regard to the broad war aims of the Government and the objects for which they were fighting, he would say at once that he was in entire agreement with the hon. member who said that Austria-Hungary was not our chief enemy. There were three great principles for which this country stood. The first was to stand by our Allies. As for Alsace-Lorraine, it would be for the French to say what they desired. That principle held equally true of all the Allies, and particularly of Serbia. The second principle for which we were fighting was a stable settlement. We were fighting for peace. We wanted a sound, satisfactory peace, resting not on conflict or domination, but on some national principle, so far as may be, which would secure that the settlement to be arrived at, so far as any settlement could be, should be secure from change or alteration in the future. We wanted a satisfactory and stable peace, and we then wanted—and here he spoke for himself—to see how far those proposals which President Wilson had enunciated against future wars were capable of being carried into actual effect. The third great object for which we were fighting was one which had often been described as the destruction of German militarism. That was only part of the second aim. We desired the destruction of German militarism because it was to us the great danger for the future peace of Europe.

In the speech of the new German Chancellor two features stood out. In the first place, he demanded a victorious peace for Germany, and in the second place he rejected all real democratic power in the German Constitution. Those seemed to him two extremely ominous features of the utterance. The Prime Minister, in his eloquent speech the other day, said that it would be easier to make peace with a democratic Germany. He entirely agreed, because he did believe that, if there had been a democracy in Germany, this war would not have taken place, and that if there were a real democratic Government established in Germany—not a mere pretence of democratic Government—that would be in itself a strong guarantee that German policy had definitely changed, and that the dangers which we should have to fear in the future from that country would be proportionately decreased.

The Indian and Egyptian Armies. July 25.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Bonar Law), asked by Commander Wedgwood whether the Prime Minister proposed to take any steps, in accordance with the recommendation of the Mesopotamia Commission, to place the Indian and Egyptian Armies under the direction of the War Office till the end of the war so as to secure unity of control, said:—The administrative questions involved are so many and so far-reaching that it would not be practicable for the War Office to take over the Indian and Egyptian Armies during the war. Arrangements have, however, been made whereby unity of control is assured so far as operations are concerned.

Persia.

LORD R. CECIL, replying to Mr. KING, said that it had always been the policy of His Majesty's Government, and it would, no doubt, be the policy of the new Russian régime, to respect and further the independence and integrity of Persia.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

ROUMANIA AND THE ALLIED CONFERENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I notice in references in the Press to the conference which is to be held in Paris on the 25th instant to settle questions relative to the general policy of the Allies in the Balkans, that it is stated that Roumania, Greece, and Serbia are to have only a consultative vote.

I can hardly believe that the *consultative* vote only is what is intended, and hope that a *deliberative* vote is to be accorded to these small countries. To those conversant with conditions in the Balkans, it is impossible to imagine that a reasonable settlement of the future of that part of the world would be possible unless the Balkan nations themselves are accorded a deliberative vote in the Councils which will decide their future, including, of course, the final Peace Conference.

If one takes, for example, the case of a country which is situated nearer to this country than are the Balkans, Belgium, for instance, it will, I think, be impossible for your readers to entertain the idea that the Allies will be able to settle the future of Belgium without giving to the representatives of the Belgian people an equal and deliberative vote. The sense of fair play which is so strongly marked a characteristic of the inhabitants of these islands, will, I feel sure, assure this voice in their future to the small nations who have played their part in the common cause, and whose sufferings can hardly be realised by those living in comparative security here.

I sincerely hope that those responsible will accord to the smaller nations, and especially those concerned in this conference in Paris, what would appear to be their right.

I enclose my card, and remain, yours faithfully,

A ROUMANIAN.

THE CASE OF SERBIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—Will you allow us, as Members of Parliament belonging to the Executive Committee of the Serbian Society of Great Britain, to urge upon your readers the expediency of giving active and immediate support to the objects which the society was formed to promote? These objects had the hearty approval of the late Lord Cromer, the first president of the society, who associated himself publicly with them both in letters to the Press and in his speech at the Mansion House on October 20, 1916. They are, broadly, to make clear the importance of Serbia or, rather, of a united Southern Slavia to the peoples of the British Commonwealth, both as a permanent safeguard of European freedom and as an eminent British interest; and to work for friendly agreement between the Southern Slavs, Italy and Roumania as the surest foundation of peace in the Adriatic and the Balkans.

Since its formation, the society has found that the requirements of propaganda and other calls upon its funds tend to exceed revenue. In view of the present crisis in Serbia, the need for activity on its part was never more urgent than now, both in the interest of Serbia and in that of this country. Therefore it begs to urge upon the public the need for giving it active support.

Such support can be given either by membership or donations, which may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, at 14, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.1.—We are, etc.,

J. ANNAN BRYCE (Hon. Treas.), HEDWORTH MEUX,
DAVID DAVIES, TREOWEN,
H. J. MACKINDER A. F. WHYTE,
RONALD M'NEILL, E. HILTON YOUNG.

Houses of Parliament, July, 1917.

The *Revue de Turquie* is a new monthly periodical, issued from Lausanne, which discusses from the point of view of economics, the very considerable Swiss interests, and the possibility of their enlargement after the war, in the Ottoman Empire. Apart from some general articles of historic and literary interest, it contains a summary of the economic future of Switzerland in Turkey, information regarding finance, irrigation, agriculture and industry, and a monthly review of the Turkish press. The magazine should serve a useful purpose, provided the Ottoman Empire can be rescued from its present prospect of exploitation in the interests of Germany. It is published at 1 fr. 25 c.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Restoration of Serbia.

Father Nicholas Velimirovitch, who, as stated elsewhere in this issue, was invited to preach in St. Paul's Cathedral last Sunday, has a trenchant article in the *New Witness* on the future of Serbia. He points out that a third of Serbia's population (as it was in 1914) now lies under the earth, that another third now sickens in prison, internment or exile, and is likely to finish its existence in hospitals after the "free" Serbia comes again into existence, and that the "restoration of Serbia" in this respect, therefore, has only a third of its real meaning. Real restoration can only be effected by a reunion of the whole Jugoslav race, and if this is to come to pass Austria must be destroyed. He continues:—

It must be remembered that Serbia is ruined, and being ruined, she is weaker than any one of her neighbours. Restored within her old frontiers she will remain the weakest Balkan State for many long years, even until she heals her wounds and gathers her lost powers. But until she recovers, her neighbours will not stand still and wait for her recovery, but will grow and develop, so that Serbia will remain for an incalculable time the weakest of the Balkan States. Being the weakest, she will be always in danger of being attacked and injured by her neighbours.

Moreover, the restored Serbia will mean for all the Serbs a defeated Serbia. A defeated country is full also of internal dangers. Everybody will be dissatisfied with everybody, and everybody will accuse everybody of the catastrophe. Prolonged troubles will fill Serbian internal history.

Serbia and Bulgaria.

On the subject of Serbo-Bulgarian relations, Father Velimirovitch has some interesting remarks to make:—

The Serbs and Bulgars know each other very well. One thing surely they know better than all the great foreigners; they know that there is *no frontier* between them. There never has existed any such precise and durable frontier. There are Bulgars in old Bulgaria who call themselves Serbs, and there are Serbs in new Serbia who call themselves Bulgars. In a vast territory stretching from Sofia to Skoplje the difference is merely nominal. The Serbs and Bulgars in Macedonia are not different nationalities, but different political parties, and this is what a foreign journalist will never understand. The best elements in both countries tried always to compose their differences, and to find out a tolerable *administrative* frontier, knowing an *ethnographical* frontier was impossible. Some ten years ago a plan for the federation of Serbia and Bulgaria (long a dream of both parties alike) was shattered by the efforts of Austria and her supporters. Our Western brothers, wiser and more cultivated than we, instead of leading us towards the reconciliation which both countries always wished, knew better about the precise frontiers between Serbs and Bulgars, than the Serbs and Bulgars themselves. We knew our Western brothers were entirely ignorant, but we could not stop them talking and writing, nor could we induce them to refrain from creating a Balkan frontier between two peoples who desired to abolish any artificial barrier, or from forming "committees" to establish a union or a federation. There was no talk of Balkan committees a hundred years ago to liberate the Christian Balkans from the Turks—on the contrary, our Western brothers were friends of the Turks until quite recently. Later on they called "committees" into being to show their wisdom, after they had failed to show their courage.

Balkan Unity.

In an article in the *Nineteenth Century* entitled "Balkan Unity and the 'New Departure,'" Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P., sets out to refute the suggestion of Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., that a separate peace with Bulgaria is feasible and desirable. He starts off by championing the view that has been so consistently advanced for many years in THE NEAR EAST that we are constrained to repeat his statement of it:—

In the affairs of this distracting and fascinating peninsula we all take sides with a violence of party spirit that is apt to blind us to the best interests of those whose cause we think to espouse. The war of 1912 made us, in our ignorance, blatantly Bulgarophil when we ought to have distributed our applause more evenly over all three partners in the Balkan League, with the palm reserved for M. Venizelos, who was and is the supreme master of statecraft in Eastern Europe. The war of to-day has made us Bulgarophobe, doubtless with better reason, but none the less to excess. It is true that the Bulgars betrayed the cause of liberty in the Balkans when they delivered their treacherous attack on their Allies in June, 1913; it is true that they have continued in the same course by joining the Central European Alliance in company with the historic foe of their race, the Ottoman Turk; but none of these evil deeds should be allowed to blind any Western friend of the Balkans to the undeniable fact that the Bulgars, in common with all the Balkan races, do not yet enjoy that racial unity which is their right. It is clear to all candid observers that until such racial unity is substantially secured to Serb, Greek, Bulgar, and Rouman, there will be a temper of unrest in the Balkans which will always provide those very troubled waters in which the unscrupulous diplomat loves to fish. Our Balkan policy, therefore, which has hitherto been incoherent for lack of clear thinking, must pursue the line which

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emerges from these considerations. We must see the peninsula steadily and see it whole. Setting aside the partisanship to which we are all prone, we must proclaim the ideal of Balkan solidarity and maintain it, even, if necessary, *impose* it upon the Balkan peoples.

In other words "we must uphold the principle of Balkan community of interest."

"A Separate Peace."

Mr. Whyte argues that a separate peace with Bulgaria is impossible and undesirable, on the ground that it is inseparably linked up with the settlement of the whole Balkan question, which in turn hinges on the disintegration of Austria-Hungary. He is probably right in supposing that the British Government and the Allied Governments as a whole are not prepared with a cut-and-dried scheme for the settlement of the whole of Near Eastern Europe and Asia Minor; but there are very cogent reasons why they should be. If the Allies have made up their minds as to the terms on which they will make peace with Germany, they ought to have reached the same degree of certainty in regard to the future of Austria-Hungary. In such circumstances there would seem to be no room for a controversy over "a separate peace," for the reason that Bulgaria's future position could be set out on half a sheet of notepaper, and if she chose to accept the position to-morrow, she could have peace. The fact that she could not have immediately usufruct of the conditions guaranteed her would not affect the situation; obviously she must wait until the settlement of the Near East can be rounded off as a whole. The military authorities have a right to expect from the Allied Governments such help as will enable the Bulgarians to realise their real position, which might be represented to them as follows:—"Here are the territorial terms you are going to get, whether you make peace to-day or two years hence. You will not be able to improve upon them, but if you want to prolong your present miseries, do so, and the Allies will take care that they add to your economic penalties for the prolongation of the war." It is not necessary to be a "pro-Bulgar" to realise that the stage when the Bulgarians will accept these terms with avidity will be reached before Germany acknowledges defeat. Be this as it may, THE NEAR EAST can only welcome the spirit in which Mr. Whyte's article is written. The following passage gives expression to it:—

Official vacillation alone is the enemy in this case, and I believe a fuller recognition of this fundamental fact might prepare the way for a reconciliation between the conflicting schools of Serbophil and Bulgarphil, whose aims can only be reached by combined action.

The Revival of the Arab Nation.

Under the above title, Mr. Sidney Low recapitulates the story of the Arab in *The Fortnightly Review*. He emphasises the fact that if the Arabs could have found a leader able to overcome their inveterate particularism and their incapacity to act in concert, they might have driven out Turkish pashadom long ago. For many generations past they have been a people rather than a nation. But they are a vigorous people still, endowed with many notable gifts of mind and body.

"The time is ripe for an Arab revival, and with their delivery from the crude military autocracy that usurped the Moslem papacy it should make rapid progress."

What will be the eventual political constitution of the countries wrested from the Turks it would be premature to discuss. Arab independence may be easier to achieve than Arab unity; for the cation and the growth of industry and commerce may gradually jealousies to come together easily. Improved railway communication and the growth of industry and commerce may gradually bridge the distances that separate the various branches of the race, and co-ordinate communities which move on such widely different planes of existence as the tribesmen of Nedud and the traders of Damascus, Beirut, and Hodeida. Mesopotamia, though predominantly Arabic in population, is economically linked to Persia and the Gulf region rather than to the Arabian Peninsula, and for a time at least, as Sir Thomas Holdich has pointed out in a recent number of this *Review*, an Arab Home Rule *régime* in Irak would have to be buttressed by British power, which cannot afford to relax its hold upon the Euphrates estuary and the line from Baghdad to Basra.

Articles to Note.

"Palestine: Its Resources and Suitability for Colonization." By E. W. G. Masterman, in *The Geographical Journal*.

"Albania and the Albanians." By Ismail Kemal Bey, in the *Quarterly Review*.

"The Railways of Bulgaria," by L. Renewal, in *Cassier's Engineering Monthly* (June and July).

"The Cedar Forests of Algeria," by Robert Gurney, in *Country Life*.

"A Night of Watching," in *The Zionist Review* (a newly established and interesting monthly, the organ of the English Zionist Federation.)

"The Historical Geography of Palestine," in *Palestine*.

PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The service of postal parcels has been held up in Vienna, with the result that no parcels for prisoners in Turkish hands have reached Constantinople since May. Four hundred and two food parcels despatched by the Central Prisoners of War Committee on June 11 have been returned from Switzerland to London by the postal authorities. The committee has repeatedly telegraphed to the International Red Cross at Geneva to try to find out when the service is likely to be resumed, but they can get no assurance from the authorities in Vienna. Ordinarily two parcels per month are despatched to prisoners of war in Turkey. This has been done on the advice of the Ottoman Red Crescent, who know the transport facilities in Asia Minor. It is understood, however, that food is usually procurable locally in the camps in Asia Minor, and the committee therefore remits 10s. a fortnight to each prisoner of war through the International Red Cross at Geneva, and advises regimental care committees to do the same for their men.

CONDITIONS IN SYRIA.

Those who left Syria at the end of June, the *Egyptian Mail* is informed, say that is it impossible to describe the ravages of typhus in Damascus, Aleppo, Hama, Homs, and Beyrut, which are equalled only by those of the cholera of the last century. Whole districts of these towns, particularly those inhabited by the lower classes, have been depopulated. It will be remembered that the number of natives of Lebanon who died from starvation has already been estimated at 200,000. The official statement published by the Turkish Government estimates this number of 150,000, but it is understood that that is considerably below the real figures. The prices of foodstuffs and clothes have risen to an almost incredible degree. In fact, it is said that the price of a pair of shoes in Beyrut is now eight Turkish pounds.

The tablet to Lord Kitchener erected by the London Society of East Anglians in Lakenheath Church will be unveiled by Lord Derby on July 28. The King will be represented by Colonel H. A. Barclay, C.V.O., A.D.C.

The Stockholm Conference is to be enriched by the presence of Egyptian, Persian, and Indian "delegates" as well as by Turkish Labour representatives. According to the *Morning Post* correspondent, they communicated their programmes to the Dutch-Scandinavian Committee on July 19. The Egyptians, it is said, require the complete independence of their country, and the Persians entire economical and political liberty. The Indians express the hope that their country at the ultimate peace negotiations will be represented by a delegation possessing the confidence of all the peoples of India. The Turks want peace without annexations or indemnities.

A telegram from Athens, received by Reuter's Agency, states that the Greek Chamber held the ordinary reopening sitting on July 25. The tribunes were full, and all the civil and military authorities were present. After the benediction by the Archimandrite, M. Venizelos read the decree convoking the Chamber, and cries of "Long Live Free Greece!" and cheers re-echoed through the House. M. Venizelos received the congratulations of the deputies. The Chamber then adjourned, and will be summoned again by the provisional President in order to elect the officers of the House, probably on Monday. The Opposition deputies were not present on the 25th, but will take part in the sitting when their officers are elected.

TO OUR READERS.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The interesting announcement has been made in Athens that M. Massinezis, a well-known member of the Greek colony in London, has been appointed Joint Governor of the National Bank of Greece.

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Although the Mortgage Company of Egypt has been unable to resume the payment of dividends on its ordinary shares, the results of the working for the past year were distinctly good, and it has been found possible to wipe off all the arrears on the preferred shares. At the annual meeting on Tuesday, the Chairman, Sir Henry Babington Smith, was able to report a considerable improvement on the previous year's results, and said that, if agricultural prosperity in the country continued, "it would not be surprising to see a demand spring up for loans for the purchase and development of land." During the year the arrears of instalments had been reduced from £410,938 to £353,237, partly as the result of foreclosure. Some loss has been incurred owing to the depreciation of property in towns; but, all things considered, the sum written off on this account, £12,000 is not unduly large, the position of the company is certainly an improved one, and, as usual, everything goes to show the able character of the management.

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Another Egyptian concern that showed substantial improvement last year was the Delta Light Railways. The gross receipts amounted to £232,900, as compared with £192,800 in the previous twelve months, the net profits being £41,600, or £8,700 higher. After the payment of prior charges the surplus amounts to £106,800; but the directors have again followed the cautious policy of not paying dividend on preference shares—a factor in coming to that decision being that a sum of £57,600 stands at suspense account, which the auditors think is not available for distribution. The position of the company is certainly on the strong side, and it ought not to be necessary to defer payment of the arrears—always a source of irritation to the most patient shareholders—for much longer.

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Judging from the correspondence that has reached this office during the week, the interest in trade conditions in Morocco is very considerable in this country. I cannot, therefore, be too emphatic regarding the great utility of the British Merchants' Association, to which I have referred on several recent occasions. The secretary, Mr. P. B. Robinson (17, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.3) informs me that he is prepared to come in close touch with all inquirers; and since he is already in touch with the country itself he cannot well fail to be useful to all who desire to open up interests in the country. Everything goes to show that British merchants and British goods are wanted there, and that is half of the battle.

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Death has removed a notable figure from the Moslem commercial and shipping community of Bombay in the person of Hajee Cassum Joosab Agboatwalla, who may fairly be described as the pioneer of Indian shipowners. I knew the old gentleman, who attained the great age of 107 years, a long time ago, when I first arrived in India as a "griffin," and he was a patriarch then. His ships used to trade up the Persian Gulf, to and through the Red Sea, down the African coast, and, indeed, wherever in Eastern waters there was trade to be done. The Haj traffic appealed to the Hajee particularly, and it has always been notorious that he never refused to assist destitute pilgrims back to their homes when the grand tour of the Moslems had proved too much for their financial resources. He was a great man in his day, and the community to which he belonged will miss him.

***

I hear that the Government of India, and their opium experts, have great hopes that soon it will be possible to place Indian opium on the European market—the medicinal drug, that is to say—as an article that will hit the Turkish product very hard when peace enables the Ottoman to resume his trade. When it was decided to put an end to the Indian traffic with China, it was felt that something had to be done to compensate for the loss; that has not yet been accomplished completely, of course, but some of the difficulties in adapting the Indian drug to its new use have been surmounted, and an important development may be heard of shortly.

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It was not to be expected that the directors of the Constantinople Land and Building Company could do more than make a formal statement to the shareholders, and that is just what the yearly report amounts to. It is stated in the document that no accounts have been received from the Turkish capital, and that the profit and loss account for the year only shows the transactions in London. "So long as the war lasts," we are told, "it will be impossible to render full accounts or pay any dividend," an announcement with which it will not be possible to pick a quarrel. The company is not alone in its quandary; other concerns are similarly placed, notably the Smyrna-to-Aidin Railway.

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The real trouble in these matters, of course, is ignorance as to what has happened to the property since direct news was last received. Suspension of dividends is bad enough; but if it could be certain that, at the end of the war, the property would be handed over to its owners intact and in a productive condition, it would be possible to be philosophic enough; but with that in doubt there is some cause for anxiety, although I presume the companies named have not failed to register their claims against the enemy Government. That will mean that some at least of the loss will be recouped.

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An extract from *La Dépêche Coloniale*, published in the last issue of THE NEAR EAST, in which the well-known French commercial journal discussed the position in the Persian Gulf, raises several interesting questions, and not for the first time. Our friends and Allies have long been restless regarding the trade situation in the Gulf, although I well remember the time when the appearance of a Messageries Maritimes vessel in the Shatt-el-Arab caused something of a sensation, as did the manner of her departure, by the way. She could not cross the bar with her heavy draught of water. The French need not worry, however, because if I am not mistaken, there will be trade enough and to spare for the representatives of the Entente Powers after the war is over. Before hostilities began, the people who had more than their fair share were the Germans. The thing to do now is not to quarrel among ourselves, but to begin to make it impossible for the "Berliner" to win back the lion's share of the business. He has begun to prepare to do so, and the measure of his success will not be limited by his lack of enterprise, but by the amount of real earnest effort that is pitted against him.

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If the accounts that have come through from the Balkans, viâ Athens, are true, the Germans are determined to take and send to their granaries every ounce of corn available in the occupied portion of Roumania. One report states that trainloads of unripe grain have already been despatched, which means, of course, that there will be no harvest. The real sufferers will be the unfortunate cultivators whose burdens are greater than any community ought to be called on to bear. Looking back and recalling the wicked intrigues that led to the betrayal of these people inculcates the desire for vengeance. In the meantime, it is astonishing that Roumanian securities are to be found in the bought-and-sold lists on the London and other Stock Exchanges; the fact can only be regarded as an indication that there still are people of standing who are prepared to back the industries of the gallant little country. Which is a good sign to-day. By the way, I learn that a firm of European brokers in Bombay have cabled to them daily the quotations of Roumanian Oil Consols, that the prices are published in the leading paper regularly, and that business in the stock has actually been done in the capital of Western India.

COMMENTATOR.

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TRADE OPENINGS IN EGYPT.

II.—General.

(By Our Cairo Correspondent.)

In his first article our correspondent dealt with the neglect of openings caused by the elimination of enemy traders

If the situation as regards the cotton business requires attention, so also does that of the ordinary trade which is being left by the elimination of the enemy element. The business done with Egypt by the Central Empires in 1913 amounted to £E9,372,673 (£E3,549,393 in imports and £E5.823,280 in exports), or 15.7 per cent. of the total trade. It is true that British trade has improved its connection with Egypt since then, but so also has that of other nations, some to a sufficiently marked degree. We must, however, bear in mind that our most important competitors now are our Allies or countries which are engaged in producing munitions for our use, and that the competition of the former will increase very much as soon as they are able to concentrate their energies on industrial and commercial matters, whilst that of neutrals, which is already making itself felt, will become more intense as time goes on. Unless we bestir ourselves and take immediate and energetic steps to protect and further British trade interests in this country from now onwards, we shall certainly find that after peace has been declared the old condition of things will come into existence again—very probably on an aggravated scale.

The example of Egypt is not isolated; it may, indeed, be taken as typical of what is going on and will go on in other countries and other parts of the Empire. There is not a shadow of doubt that if some more determined action is not urgently taken in the direction of organising our trade and bringing our industries into more direct and constant contact with foreign markets, we may expect to find that all the openings will have been appropriated by other countries, whose Consular officials, most of whom are experienced business men, are certainly watching their interests and are reporting regularly on the situation to their home organisations.

What is Wanted.

Experience of our trade methods in Egypt and a comparison with those of other countries plainly show that what is wanted is a complete reorganisation of our commercial system and a readjustment of our ideas and theories. To begin with, if British trade is to come out on top, or is even to hold its own in the general trade war, which, as surely as sparks fly upwards, will follow the conclusion of peace, it is absolutely essential that the British trader should discard his traditional attitude of superiority and conservatism, and should display more readiness to adapt himself, his productions, and his conditions to the requirements of the foreign market, that the Government authorities at home and abroad should evince less indifference to commercial matters, a more sympathetic attitude towards the British trader, and a more material interest in the question of Customs' tariffs and railway shipping rates, and that some means should be found for effectually countering the German system of subsidising and dumping, which will recommence on an even greater scale after the war. We must further have close co-operation between the State and our traders both at home and abroad, and between our producers, our shipping companies, and our banks. We must also have greater combination and organization, as between traders in the same line of business, as between shipping companies, as between railway companies, and as between banks. Finally, there must be closer relations between the consumer and producer, and a more vigilant eye kept on industrial developments the world over.

Causes of Failure.

Hitherto the protection of British trade interests has been in the hands of the Foreign Office, the Consulates, the Chambers of Commerce, and the banks. There is little doubt that this procedure is entirely wrong and that too much has been left to the initiative of the trade and too little assistance and support have been given to him.

In the first place, it is absolutely certain that the fact that all commercial reports and all official action in commercial matters have to pass through the Foreign Office, where the staff is not qualified to deal with or judge of the importance of such questions, has conduced in a great measure to the failure of British trade before the war to hold its own against its foreign competitors.

Secondly, the Consular service staff is neither trained for nor capable of looking after trade interests. Our Consular service in Egypt, for example, is in reality not equipped for such work. It is represented by most able men, who carry out the multifarious duties, laid on them by the peculiar political situation, in an admirable manner, but who are neither qualified nor experienced enough—even if they had the time—to tackle commercial problems.

It would indeed be interesting to know what support the efforts of the Local Government authorities in the matter of bringing openings to the notice of the British trade, etc., received from our local Consular service and from the Foreign Office, to whom one presumes all these questions have been referred in the ordinary course of affairs.

Nor are the Chambers of Commerce really properly constituted to watch over Imperial trade from the general point of view.

Banking Defects.

Finally, our banking system is not organised for the promotion of British trade and industries or the encouragement of enterprise; its commercial intelligence is wholly inadequate, and whatever may be its relations to the home trade, it is insufficiently in touch with foreign trade markets to be of any real assistance to the British trader.

The creation of an Imperial Trade Bank with branches throughout the Empire and wherever else possible is absolutely essential, so that British enterprise may be encouraged and British traders and industries may everywhere receive the same financial and moral assistance, as that given to German trade and industry before the war by the Deutsche Bank and its allied and daughter-enterprises, of which the Deutsche Orient Bank in Egypt and Syria was one of the most prominent and the most active.

But what is wanted, above all, is some independent organisation, which, through representatives abroad, would act as the connecting link between the world's markets and British commerce, and would keep a watchful eye on industrial developments in every corner of the globe, and which, whenever the necessity arose, would, by the information at its disposal, and by the authority of its constitution, be enabled successfully and quickly to bring pressure to bear through the proper quarter on the British industry or enterprise, or on the Government Department, be it in the British Isles or in another part of the Empire, which might be adopting an attitude prejudicial to British trade interests. There may be a great deal of adverse criticism at first at this interference with the liberties hitherto enjoyed by every British trader and commercial enterprise, but unless there is thorough organisation and complete co-operation, and unless there is some supreme central authority to control, supervise and link together Imperial trade interests, and to stimulate enterprise within the Empire, British industry will not obtain the fullest fruit of its labour, British shipping will not receive its proper share of the world's carrying trade, and British finance and influence in the commercial and political world will suffer. If some such authoritative and efficient organisation had already been in existence, we would not, for instance, have had the misleading statement made last winter in the House *re* the cereal resources of Egypt and the Sudan.

(This is another argument for emancipating our foreign trade interests from the hands of the Foreign Office.)

An Alternative.

If the British Government cannot see its way to do the obvious, *i.e.*, the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce in London with a fully qualified staff under the direction of competent men of business, then the required organisation might take the form of an Imperial Trade Bureau—possibly a more useful extension of the existing Commercial Intelligence Bureau of the Board of Trade—with headquarters in London, with first-class men of business at its head and in control of its branches which would be created in each British dependency and colony—where Ministries of Commerce exist, the Bureau and its branches would be in direct relation with those administrations—and with properly-trained commercial attachés at our foreign Consulates, who would be in direct communication with the Bureau in London on all trade matters.

The branches of the Imperial Trade Bureau should either form an integral part of the various Colonial Governments or be in the closest of relations with the latter. Here in Egypt, where, it must be remembered, the diplomatic and consular service will disappear for all practical purposes after the war, the first alternative would appear to be the one likely to give most satisfactory results.

Duties of the Bureau.

The duties of the Bureau, its branches and the commercial attachés would be:—

(a) To obtain advance information of all Government projects, and of all public and private contracts, which it might be proposed to put up to tender.

(b) To reply to enquiries from British Trade organisations or British firms as to general commercial matters and especially as to trade openings, local resources, industrial activities and the appointment, the reliability and working of local agents over whom it would keep a watch and on whose conduct it would report, in collaboration with the Imperial Trade Bank.

(c) To report periodically on the financial and economic condition of each country.

(d) To give early publicity throughout the Empire to new developments which may be imminent and to new sources of supply which may become available all the world over.

(e) To initiate enquiries into and report on the situation in each country in regard to particular trades and industries.

(f) To give assistance and support to all bona-fide British traders, seeking to extend their business connection, and get into touch with the various Governments, or to obtain proper treatment for them or recognition of their claims.

(g) To press for local representation of British trade and industries by competent men having linguistic qualifications and thorough knowledge of their own particular branch.

(h) To keep the British trade informed of the quotations of its competitors and of the freights obtained per competing lines.

(i) To draw attention to the commercial activities in each country of other nations.

(j) To produce evidence, which would enable the Head Office or its branches to take decisive action on any question in which British trade interests are concerned.

(k) To hold and organise periodically local shows of British wares, so as to bring the industries of the Empire before the public—foreign, Colonial and Home—thus establishing closer relations between the consumer and British trade.*

(To be continued.)

* The duties outlined here could for the most part be carried out in collaboration or conjunction with the Imperial Trade Bank.

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EGYPTIAN FINANCES.

The Government Accounts for 1916-1917.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 12.

The State Accounts for the financial year 1916-1917 have just been made public, and, as the returns for the recent months had led one to expect, there is a substantial surplus. The final figures are:—Revenue, £E.19,927,274; expenditure, £E.17,240,606, leaving a surplus of £E.2,686,668. The following table indicates what remarkable progress the finances of the State have made during the past year:—

Revenue, Expenditure, Surplus.

Year.	£E.	£E.	£E.
1913	17,703,898 ..	17,659,961 ..	+ 43,937
1914	15,389,124 ..	16,857,783 ..	− 1,468,659
1915	17,759,418 ..	15,324,259 ..	+ 2,435,159
1916	19,927,274 ..	17,240,606 ..	+ 2,686,668
Budget 1916	16,530,000 ..	16,630,000 ..	− 100,000

Romantic Figures.

This table shows that, whereas in the first year of the war the revenues fell off by about two millions and a quarter, they have since recovered annually at the rate of about two millions, until in the financial year under review they have actually exceeded the figure for the last normal year before the war by £E.2,223,376. On the other hand, expenditure is still below what it was in 1913.

It may also be noted that the actual figures realised for revenue are £E.3,397,274 above the estimates, and that the result of the year is £E.2,786,668 better than was forecast by the Budget. Incidentally, it may be added that the revenue and surplus figures for the financial year just closed constitute records for this country. The previous highest revenue realised was £E.17,848,352, in 1912, whilst the greatest pre-war surplus obtained was £E.2,104,339, in 1905.

Customs Receipts.

During the year Customs receipts improved by £E.875,584, Tobacco Dues by £E.134,441, Mixed Courts Fees by £E.133,967, Railway Receipts by £E.736,549, Domains Receipts by £E.44,257, Investment of Funds by £E.258,462, Sale of Land by £E.32,272, Mehkemeh Fees by £E.21,591, Military Exemption by £E.18,540, Assay Fees by £E.14,148, and Post Office Receipts by £E.12,920. The main items which showed a falling off were Direct Taxes £E.18,976, Port Dues £E.35,098, Native Tribunal Fees, £E.16,524, and Telegraphic Receipts £E.17,566.

From this it can be seen that the improvement applies practically to every head of revenue; but perhaps the best way to bring out the remarkable progress made is to compare the figures for each head of revenue during the finacial year just closed with those for the years immediately preceding and following the outbreak of war. The appended table gives the figures for the three years in question:—

	1913. £E.	1914. £E.	1916. £E.
Direct taxes.....	5,517,854	5,254,096	5,575,338
Customs.....	2,134,439	1,362,181	2,714,854
Tobacco	1,720,446	1,742,995	2,125,309
Port dues	450,819	324,707	115,077
Assay.....	3,622	2,085	17,650
Mixed courts	985,318	727,248	881,004
Native courts	490,510	405,938	411,352
Mehkemehs.....	81,586	61,917	84,209
Railways	3,864,035	3,176,220	4,460,897
Telegraphs	130,412	123,041	150,355
Post Office.....	334,759	287,686	313,68
Rent of Land	169,538	155,530	184.779
Domains	256,505	205,465	669,440
Military Exemption.....	139,557	107,380	104,780
Investment of Funds.....	341,470	301,027	649,218
Sale of Land	123,017	118,943	127,263
Other Heads.....	960,011	1,032,635	1,342,068
Total.....	£E17,703,898	£E15.389,124	£E19,927,274

Analysis.

Thus compared with the state of affairs prior to the outbreak of war, direct taxes have improved by £E57,484, Customs by £E580,415, tobacco by £E404,863, railways by £E596,862, telegraphs by £E19,943, rent of land by £E15,241, domains by £E412,935, investment of funds by £E307,748, and other heads by £E382,057. The main decreases have been: mixed courts by £E104,314, native courts by £E79,158, post office by £E21,078—all of which have, however, improved by comparison with 1914—port dues by £E335,742—mainly due to the lack of shipping entering Egyptian ports—and military exemption by £E34,777. Assay receipts, it may be noted, have nearly quintupled. The increase in the railway, tobacco, and telegraph receipts are, of course, due in a great measure to the higher tariffs introduced since the war, and those in the Customs' receipts to the increased value of the articles imported, but taking the figures all together, there is little doubt that whether they are above those of 1913 or whether they are merely an improvement on those of 1914, they reflect the extraordinary prosperity of the country, and as such they may be regarded as eminently satisfactory.

Expenditure.

Expenditure during 1916-17 increased by £E1,916,347 as compared with the preceding year, but was still less than that of 1913 by £E463,292, whilst, if allowance be made for the extra credits granted in the course of the year, it was £E750,830 below the total authorised. This shows that a spirit of strict economy still actuates those responsible for the spending of the State's money. The principal item on the expenditure side, if one leaves out of account the Public Debt service, has been railways, which took £E3,620,576, an increase of £E1,495,838, or 70 per cent. on the figure for the preceding year.

The ratio of working expenses to receipts rose from 57 per cent. to 81 per cent., due, of course, to the very high cost of coal. The other heads showing increases over 1915-16 were (the figures are the total expended in each case): Irrigation £E1,182,365, Cairo-Tanzim £E197,933, post office £E317,037—this year that administration did not quite pay its way—ports and lights £E136,173, public instruction £E384,058, public health £425,876, mechanical service £E91,814, Ministry of Agriculture £E131,794, police £E483,413, War Office £E933,440, prisons £E203,418, Mecca caravan £E81,957.

The Surplus.

As mentioned there is a surplus of £E2,686,668 this year. From this amount a sum of £E996,000 has been taken and put to a Special Reserve Fund, which has been opened to meet the cost of redemption of the silver coinage issued during the past year. The Government has made a very large profit on the seigniorage and in view of the fact that not only will there be a loss in that direction when the new issue is returned from circulation but also that the silver thus redeemed will very probably have to be sold at a much lower price than that at which it was purchased, thus causing a further loss to the Government, it has very wisely been decided to make provision for that contingency, and the entire profit made on the issue, viz., £E996,000, has been passed to a special account. The balance of £E1,690,668 has been added to the General Reserve Fund, which now stands at £E6.490,310. At the end of 1913-14, i.e., prior to the outbreak of war, the Reserve amounted to £E5,103,549, so that to-day it is £E1,386,761 higher than it was before the present abnormal state of things came into existence. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the Reserve now stands at a higher figure than it has done since 1909, when it amounted to £E6.360,804. While Egypt in so far as the condition of her people is concerned is far better off than she has been for many years past, there is also little doubt that the position of the State is an exceedingly strong one; and even though, as so many rightly hold, the higher figures now recorded may be merely transitory and are bound to shrink when peace is declared and a more normal state of things comes again into existence, it is evident that the country is to-day better able to meet the emergencies that lie ahead of her than she could have done three years ago.

An Alexandria message of July 24 states that the cottonseed market is weaker; August is quoted 135 piastres (£12 1s. 8d.).

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Maintained Improvement in Demand for Piece Goods.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

The recent improvement of demand in the market is being maintained, and the larger turnover mentioned last week has been followed by more business. Operations are still irregular, and sellers in certain sections complain that they have not yet participated in the general turnover, but there is a tendency for the demand to broaden.

Accurate information with regard to the Egyptian cotton crop is rather scarce, but available advices are favourable. Supplies in this country, however, continue limited, and users are hampered at every turn. The inquiry in yarns made from Egyptian cotton has again been very irregular. Here and there, however, a little more business has been done. The undercurrent of demand in cloth for Egypt has been of very fair extent, and steady buying has transpired in sized materials and also in fancy descriptions. In the piece goods section the feature of interest has been the revival of demand for China.

In a variety of cloths freer operations have transpired not only for Shanghai, but also for other markets of the Far East, such as Hong Kong, Singapore, Java, and the Straits Settlements. Certain manufacturers are in a stronger position than a fortnight ago. India has continued to provide a larger turnover in dhooties and other light fabrics, but offers in shirtings remain poor, and improved limits will have to be received from abroad before progress can be made.

It may be said that certain producers are filling order-books rather rapidly for China, and there is a possibility of the delivery question being very awkward for Indian dealers if they do not purchase more freely before very long. Formalities in connection with the spinners' wages question continue to be carried out, and it is said, owing to the refusal of the employers to entertain the application for an advance, the position of affairs is about to be placed before the Government Committee on Production.

A larger business has been done in home American yarns than for some time back, and producers of certain counts and qualities have improved their position. Rather more sales have been reported in bundle yarns for India.

TRADE NOTES.

The British Consul at Cairo has forwarded a copy of the specification and conditions of contract in connection with a call for tenders by the Egyptian Ministry of Finance for the supply and delivery of office requisites, paper and envelopes required for the use of the various Government Administrations during the year 1917-18, including writing and typewriting and blotting paper, pencils, penholders, pen wipers, pins, gum, paper clips, sealing wax, ink, etc.

Copies of the conditions and form of tender may be obtained from the Director Central Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, at which address also sealed tenders, made out on the proper form and accompanied by samples (in duplicate) of the goods it is proposed to supply, will be received up to noon on August 26. Samples of the goods required may be inspected at the Ministry of Finance, as above.

A provisional deposit equal to 2 per cent., or a bank guarantee of 10 per cent., of the value of the offer must accompany each tender. The tenderer must be a person residing in Egypt, or must have a representative in that country, and must give in his offer an address in Egypt at which notices may be served upon him.

A copy of the above-mentioned specification, etc., may be consulted by British manufacturers of the goods mentioned at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

R. OTT AND CO.,
ALEXANDRIA. CAIRO. KHARTOUM.
(An Anglo-Swiss Firm.)
GENERAL COMMISSION & INSURANCE AGENTS.
EXPORTERS OF SUDAN PRODUCE.
Telegrams: "Ottimo."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Organised Trade.

The British Engineers' Association is about to organise a number of trade sections as part of its everyday working in connection with home as well as foreign trade, the establishment of which will, it is considered, meet a long-felt want. To give engineering concerns the advantage of closer consultation with large buyers, the association has also recently created some new classes of membership, which are open to members of the engineering departments of public services and public companies. The decision of the association is praiseworthy and timely, for it is a known fact that the recent extension of the American trade in the Near East and South Russia is due to similar trade organisations in America.

Threshers for South Russia.

According to a recent Consular report, prior to the war Germany and Austria were the principal competitors of British makers of steam threshing machines and petroleum engines in South Russia. After the war, it is pointed out in the report, British manufacturers will have an excellent opportunity to obtain a large share of this trade, but competition from American manufacturers with a cheaper type of machine may be expected. It is to be hoped that British manufacturers will be prepared for it, and not let their machines be ousted by the American—as it happened with the harvesters.

A Reaper-Thrasher.

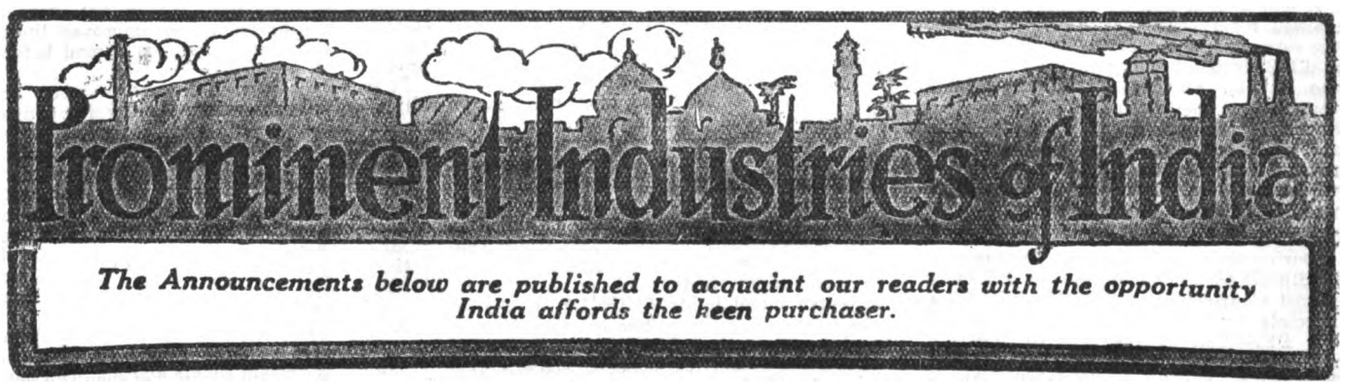
This is a worrying time for the farmer in the East. Labour is scarce, the harvest is slowly progressing, and the question is whether the required thrashing machines, or, in the absence of them, the local thrashing teams of horses, can be obtained in time, and before the rainy season begins. The wheat-grower has no rest until his wheat is thrashed, cleaned, and stored in the barn. To an agricultural engineer travelling a few years ago in Roumania a landed proprietor, who bought half-a-dozen English reapers, said: "I would pay ten times their value if they also could thrash the wheat at the same time. I daresay some day you English will invent such an impossible "combination." The prophecy of the landed proprietor has come true, and we hope that when the Huns are driven away from his country the newly invented "reaper-thrasher" will be very popular among his compatriots.

The Machines.

The machine is the invention of a farmer, and has recently been tested before a large gathering of farmers and others interested. In the test it picked up a much weather-beaten crop, and did not leave a head anywhere. The comb is made adjustable to be set to any width, according to the crop and condition of harvest. The knife works in a slot on a cutting plate on the adjustable comb tooth, making the cutting certain. In place of a reel and canvas conveyor, two spirals, with a double screen each, do the work perfectly, thus doing away with wear and complications. From the spirals the heads and straws are taken to the thresher by means of a float elevator, which works automatically on springs, allowing any quantity of stuff to pass under it with ease. From this elevator the straws and heads are fed into the threshing drum by means of a fluted roller.

Threshing and Separating.

The drum is of the usual English type, with ten threshing bars, and on each end of the drum fans are arranged, thus doing away with the extra fan drum and bearings, and saving space, which is most important. From the thesher drum the heads and straws are thrown on to the straw "walkers," which pass the straw on, leaving the grain and chaff to fall on to a tray, which conveys it back to the front of the riddles by a cranking motion. The machine is very simple and strongly constructed, with very few chains, and all drives are direct. The main drives are from an internal and external segment, thus causing no middle wheels to be required. The trial was thoroughly satisfactory in every way.



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SUBMARINE WARFARE.

Increased Loss of British Merchan Vessels.

The Admiralty on Wednesday issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks for the week ended July 22, 3 p.m. :—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) :

Arrivals	2,791
Sailings	2,791

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :—

1,600 tons (gross) or over	19
Under 1,600 tons (gross).....	3
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines ...	12
British fishing vessel sunk	1

A Reuter message from Rome states :—During the week ended at midnight on Sunday, July 22, the number of merchant ships of all nationalities entering Italian ports was 693, of which the total gross tonnage was 389,815 tons. The sailings numbered 550; total gross tonnage, 403,460 tons. These figures do not include fishing craft or small coasters. The Italian losses in all seas were two steamers sunk and one small sailing vessel damaged.

THE RISE IN PRICES.

The advance in prices, so keenly realised by the people of the belligerent countries, is by no means peculiar to those nations. From the tea fields of Java and India, the tin mines of the Malayan Peninsula, the silk areas of China and Japan, the sugar fields of Java, Hawaii, and Cuba, the sisal plantations of Mexico, the copper mines of South America and Japan, the indigo farms of India, the hemp fields of the Philippines, the logwood forests of the West Indies, the currant orchards of Greece, the rubber plantations of the Orient, the champagne producing area of France, the cotton fields of Egypt, and even the diamond mines of South Africa, comes statistical proof of the rise in values of their respective products.

A compilation by the National City Bank of New York of the rates at which the varied products of these widely distributed areas are being sold in the places of production shows how general is the jump in prices. The United States has peculiar facilities for determining prices of world products at the source, as the Customs laws require that the valuations at which merchandise is imported shall be those of the merchandise in the exporting country, and not the values on reaching the port at which it enters the States.

Raw cotton, for example, most of it from Egypt, was imported in March, 1917, at an average price of 51.8c. per lb., against 16.3c. in March, 1914, a date immediately preceding the war. Sisal imports in March of the current year were $302 per ton, against $117 in March, 1914; copper 29.5c. per lb., against 14.1c. three years earlier; goat skins 62.2c. per lb., against 25.7c. three years earlier; cheese at an average of 34c. per lb., against 15.5c.; flax seed at $2.39 per bushel, against $1.29; beans at $5.21 per bushel, against $1.56; potatoes at $1.77, against 72c. three years ago; indigo at $2.00 per lb., against 15c. per lb. in the same months in 1914; logwood at $36.00 per ton, against $11.00; combing wool at 48c., against 24.6c. in March, 1914; lead at 6.5c. per lb., against 3c.; copper at 29.5c., against 14.1c. three years ago; cotton stockings at $3.27 per dozen pair, against $1.27 in March, 1914; sugar at exactly double the price of three years ago; currants at an advance of 300 per cent.; while cattle hides, manila hemp, raw silk, indiarubber, tin, lumber, cotton, and woollen cloth and many other articles show advances, some of them as much as 100 per cent. Wood pulp, mechanically ground, shows an average import price in March, 1917, of $30.73 per ton, against $16.35 in July, 1914; chemical pulp, unbleached, $96.90 per ton, against $36.75, and chemical pulp, bleached, $133.11 per ton, against $49.20 in 1914. All of these advances occur in the price at which the merchandise in question was sold in the country from which it was exported.

COMPANY MEETING.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

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

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Eggar) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said that the satisfactory conditions in the military and political sphere in Egypt were accompanied by growing prosperity. The cotton crop and cotton prices were the principal factor. Last year's crop was not a good one. The ravages of the pink boll worm had not yet been effectually checked, although the Government was taking energetic steps to deal with the pest, and—in spite of an exceptionally good Nile—the yield was under five million cantars. This, however, was far more than compensated by the abnormal increase in the price. In the cotton season of 1915-16 the average price from the beginning of September to the end of April was just over $19 per cantar. For 1916-17 the price of $19 was doubled. The average price for the period September, 1916-April, 1917, was $38. Since then it had soared to heights previously unknown, and at present the spot price for fully good fair Sakellaridis was $56. At $38 the value of the cotton which arrived at Alexandria between the beginning of September, 1916, and the end of April, 1917, was about £E37,000,000, as compared with 14½ millions for the corresponding period in 1914-15 and 17¼ millions for the corresponding period in 1915-16. The presence of large armies in Egypt and in other places conveniently situated for drawing supplies from Egypt had created a very large demand for produce of most kinds. In all cases the present prices were higher than those of 1916 and much above the pre-war level. The cost of everything that the cultivator had to buy had increased also, but on the whole there had been a great improvement in the position of the cultivator and the landowner.

This improvement was naturally reflected in the company's accounts. Instalments in arrear last year stood at £410,938; this year they were £366.237, a decrease of nearly £45,000, and after the application of £13,000 to writing off this item it stood at £353.237. This reduction was in part the result of proceedings taken against debtors in arrear, and there was, therefore, simultaneously an increase in the item "Property acquired by foreclosure." The increased prosperity of the country had not yet created a very active demand for land, and it was to be hoped that it would not create an unhealthy epidemic of speculation. There were, however, signs that some increased demand was arising, and he hoped that, if the present favourable conditions continued, it would be possible to realise gradually a considerable part of the land they now held. They could not count upon effecting the realisation without some losses, especially in the case of town property, which had fallen heavily in value, and they had written off £12,000 under this head. There was a steady increase in the company's business up to the beginning of the war, but since that time there had been some decrease in the amount invested in mortgages, a result arising naturally from the circumstances of the time. It seemed probable that the money which had flowed into the country had enabled the landowners in some cases to do without borrowed capital, which they would otherwise have required, and in others to repay their debts. It was difficult to prophesy as to the future conditions attending their business, but if agricultural prosperity continued it would not be surprising to see a demand spring up for loans for the purchase and development of land. Having regard to the improvement in the position, the Board had decided that the time had arrived when the dividend on the preferred shares might be brought up to date. They thought it wise to await still further improvement before resuming the payment of a dividend on the ordinary shares. The sum of £28,000 had been employed in writing down various items in the balance-sheet, thus materially strengthening the position. It was the practice of mortgage companies to base the reckoning of their profits upon the interest which had fallen due, and not upon the sums actually collected, and to provide for possible failures to collect the arrears by making adequate reserves. For the purposes of income-tax and excess profits duty these reserves were not allowed to be deducted from profits unless there had been an actual writing off of debts known to be bad. The result was that they had received claims for excess profits duty in respect of the years which gave them the least favourable results that they had experienced. However, they hoped to be able to convince the authorities that the duties demanded were not properly due. He moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Hon. A. H. Mills seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The retiring directors—Sir Henry Babington Smith, his Excellency Harari Pasha, C.M.G., Brigadier-General the Hon. Everard Baring, C.V.O., and Mr. E. W. P. Foster, C.M.G.—and the auditors, Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co., were re-elected, and the proceedings terminated.

Lionda and Company, Ltd.,

34, Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C. 3.

Tel. Address: "EXPLIONDAC FEN, LONDON."
During the War, Tel. Address: "LIONDA THIRTYFOUR FENCHURCH, LONDON."

Export Department :

Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc., Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce :

Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

Chartering and Insurance Department :

British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurances of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

Coal Exporters, &c.

SALONICA HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA, SALONICA, GREECE.

Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The report of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, for the year ended March 31 last shows that the gross receipts were £232,927, as compared with £192,927 in the preceding year. The working expenses amount to £180,821, as compared with £142,109 for the previous year. The ratio of actual expenses to gross earnings was 77.63 per cent., as compared with 73.70 per cent. for the year ended March 31, 1916. This increase is almost entirely due to the unprecedented increase in the cost of fuel. The balance carried to net revenue account is £83,854, which, with interest and dividends earned amounting to £5,512 and with the balance brought forward from 1916 of £65,228, gives a total of £154,594 to be dealt with. After providing for interest on debentures and for all fixed charges, a balance of £106,807 remains. From this, however, must be deducted the sum of £57,558 in suspense account, which is not at present available for distribution. In consequence of the abnormal and increasing price of coal, stores, and materials, and the uncertainty for the future, both financial and industrial, which generally prevails, the directors have with much regret again decided that they are unable to recommend the payment of a dividend for the year under review.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The report of the Constantinople Land and Building Company for 1916 states that no accounts have been received from Constantinople, and the profit and loss account for the year only shows the transactions in London. The debit balance is £266, which, deducted from the balance of £5,706 brought forward, makes £5,440 to be carried forward. So long as the war with Turkey lasts it will be impossible to render full accounts or pay any dividend.

Privileged Company to Protect Production and Trade in Currants Five per Cent. Sterling Loan.—The half-yearly interest due August 1 next will be paid on that and any succeeding day (Saturdays excepted), between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock, at the offices of Messrs. Erlangers, 8, Crosby Square, E.C.3. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah 365 tons against 326 tons; Hurgada 1.035 tons against 1,045 tons.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
July 17	110,000	190,000
July 18	80,000	270,000
July 19, 20, 21, 22	640.000	460,000
July 23	270.000	160,000

THE EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS, LIMITED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Ordinary General MEETING of the Company will be HELD in Hall No. 23, WINCHESTER HOUSE, Old Broad Street, in the City of London, on THURSDAY, 9th August, 1917, at 12 o'clock noon precisely, for the purpose of receiving the Directors' Report and Balance-sheet for the year ended 31st March, 1917, electing a Director, appointing Auditors for the ensuing year and fixing their remuneration, and transacting the Ordinary General Business of the Company.

By Order of the Board,
F. J. HORNE, Secretary.

211, Gresham House, Old Broad Street,
London, E.C., 23rd July, 1917.

N.B.—Shareholders who hold Share Warrants to Bearer are reminded that if they wish to attend the General Meeting of the Company they must first deposit their Bearer Warrants either in London at the Registered Offices of the Company, or at any London Clearing House Bank, or at the London Office of the National Bank of Egypt, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, or the Crédit Lyonnais, in time to allow of the Proxies reaching the Offices of the Company at least 48 hours before the Meeting, or in Egypt with any of the last-mentioned Banks in time to allow of Proxies reaching the Company's Offices in London within the time aforesaid, the Share Warrants remaining so deposited until after the General Meeting shall have been held. Certificates of Deposit to be signed by the depositees in exchange for the Share Warrants so lodged, which must be produced by the holders attending the Meeting, may be obtained upon application to the London or Cairo Offices of the Company, or of the National Bank of Egypt, London, Cairo, or Alexandria. Should Shareholders wish to vote by proxy the Certificate of Deposit must be sent in to the Company's Office attached to the Proxy Form.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

Our market in Egyptian shares has again this week been active, and prices have been rising practically all along the line, the demand coming both from Egypt and from local quarters. Just at the close there is a somewhat quieter feeling, probably in sympathy with general markets, which are rather easier on the latest Russian developments; but sellers remain rather scarce, and shares are, generally speaking, more difficult to buy than to sell. In banks, Nationals have jumped ⅜ to 15¾. Agriculturals have been in constant demand, and are closing ⅛ higher at 5⅜, the best point so far reached. Anglo-Egyptians and Bank of Athens are also ⅛ higher at 12¾ and 2⅞ respectively. In Land Banks some business was done at 6, and the shares closed ¼ higher at 6¼. Delta Lights have exceptionally eased to 6 on disappointment in some quarters at the absence of a dividend, but the shares are not likely to remain down very long, as the company earned a dividend of about 4 per cent., and carried forward an amount equal to about 5 per cent., and its prospects when the war is over are very bright. In land shares, after transactions round 14s. 6d. and 14s. 10½d., Aboukirs finished 6d. higher at 15s. 6d. Behéras have been in constant demand, and have jumped up another ⅞ to 11⅝. Gharbieh have been wanted for Egypt, and show a rise of 1-16 at 1 7-16. New Egyptians have been quite a feature, and a large business has been transacted up to 12s. 9d., finishing 1s. up on balance at 12s. 3d. Sidi Salems have been done at 15s. and 16s., and close at 16s. 6d., showing a rise of 5s. since last week. United Egyptians are a trifle easier at 10½d. In miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters have improved ⅛ to 12⅛, but sellers are very scarce; and Salts and Sodas are fractionally firmer at 25s., after business as high as 25s. 6d.

In Greek securities the market has continued on the whole very firm, but Monopolies are exceptionally ½ easier at 53½.

Oil Shares.

A few descriptions have been active in this market, but generally business has been quiet, with somewhat irregular prices. Roumanian Consols are firmer at 10s. 9d., and Anglo-Egyptian "B's" have been inquired for and strengthened to 14s. 3d. A rise of four points to 87½ has been marked in Anglo-Persian debentures.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations on Wednesday included the following:—Serbian, 1895, 56.25 (unchanged); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 717 (against 715); Suez Canal shares, 4,500 (unchanged).

THE MONEY MARKET.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

London, E.C., July 26.

No changes have occurred in the working conditions in the Money Market either as regards money or bills. Lenders have been able to obtain 4 per cent. for day-to-day loans and 4½ per cent. for weekly fixtures. Demand has not been keen for the small number of bills on offer, and discount rates have been fully maintained for paper of all descriptions.

The exchange rate on Alexandria is 97½ to 97¾.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended June 30, 1917.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E.
June 21–June 30	5,055	4,672
April 1–June 30	42,637	48,928

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

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Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	58	58
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	58	58
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	54	53½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	42
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55xd	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	52xd	53
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	60½	60⅝
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	73	74
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92	92
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.	92	67½	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70½	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4⅞	5½	5⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅝	12¾
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2⅝
Bank of Roumania	8⅛	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6	6⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	15⅜	15¼
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅝	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17¾	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	⅜	15/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	2⅛	2⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	10⅜	11⅛
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4	4
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	10/10½	11/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/3	6/3
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Sidi Salem Co.	7/8	11/6	16/9
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United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12	12⅛
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1 1/16	24/10½	25/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	37/-	37/-
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" priv.	L.E.	—
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Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	81
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
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Land Bank of Egypt	£	6
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	3⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5¼
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		35/-
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Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4 5/8
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	162
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
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Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	700
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	334
" 1903 "	Frs.	265
" 1911 "	Frs.	264
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		—

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week July 13.	1917. Week July 12.
Cattle markets	390	344
General markets	399	553
Cattle markets closed	31	123
Receipts (£)	779	897
Total for year	30,455	35,928

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 326.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

On the eastern front the military events of the week have been the retreat of the Russians and the advance of the Roumanians. The latter army, reorganised and properly equipped after its disastrous campaign last autumn, has rendered a very good account of itself. The offensive, which covered the ground from the Casin to the Putna valleys, resulted in a loss to the enemy of between four and five thousand prisoners and nearly a hundred guns in four days; the enemy front was broken to a depth of twenty kilometres along a front of sixty kilometres. These are results which will be highly gratifying to the Allies, after the bitter disappointment of last year's defeats in Roumania, and there is every reason to hope that the Roumanians have not yet exhausted their effort.

From Russia, on the other hand, the news continues bad. The panic which spread through the Russian army some days ago has hardly yet been stemmed; the retreating troops covered sixty miles in ten days, abandoning everything but themselves, and making any orderly salvage of guns and munitions out of the question. It was rank cowardice, and has been admitted as such in the Russian army bulletins. The only redeeming feature in the whole story is the gallant conduct of the British auxiliaries in armoured cars under Commander Locker-Lampson.

Russia is now actually invaded. It is possible that Rovno will fall, and, since the country is flat, there is no particular obstacle to the Germans advancing as far as they please, unless the Russians can reform. But to do so means something more than a mere back-stiffening; it means an entire change of system; the abandonment of the pernicious Committee method of arguing over the offensive and even over the ordinary orders to the army while the Germans are advancing; it means more discipline and less talk, more belief in munitions and less in the millennium.

The Roumanian army are said to have shot sixty German agents who had dressed themselves in Russian uniforms and were spreading disaffection in the ranks during the past week; it would be well if the Russians, who have now restored the death penalty, would do the same to the far more numerous German agents who have undoubtedly been at work within their lines, and not merely there, but at Petrograd. But it is being rather sadly admitted in England that, unless Russia can make more haste in restoring her armies as well as her politics to a stable basis, we shall have to write her off as an effective asset in the war for this year. To her honour be it said that she will not make peace; unfortunately, she does not continue to make war. It is a paradoxical position.

The disabilities of Russia may not affect the result of the war, for the Western Allies are in good heart, and their resources were never greater—although they have not yet reached their maximum. But the anarchy which has come over Russia as the result of the revolution must have a profound effect on the settlement of Europe, and not least in the Balkans. For over a century Russian influence has been great in the Near East; the economic forces which have driven her to expand south and east have been a cardinal factor in the world's politics. It is not only the Tsar, but Russia itself as a great Power, that has now abdicated. A mere change of dynasty or even of constitution would have made little difference to Russia's economic outlook in the long run; a republic must still have kept an eye on Constantinople and have taken a peculiar interest in the Balkan kingdoms. But a Russia divided into petty separate States, in a word, a Russia that is no longer Russia, will not have the same economic outlook at all. An independent Finland, such as is now in prospect, would fall within the orbit of Sweden or Germany; an independent Lithuania would fall within the orbit of Germany; an independent Poland might or might not be strong enough to stand alone—it depends entirely on the territorial readjustments.

But an independent Ukraine, which is being discussed at Kieff, while the Austro-German armies every day cover more miles of the Ukraine, simply means the end of Russia as Europe knows it. The Ukraine would evidently not be entirely independent; the condition of its people, whose culture is lower than that of the Russians and certainly lower than that of the Poles, does not warrant the idea. If things were to go as the Russian Maximalists and our own pacifists desire, the Austrian Emperor would come to the Peace Conference with a large part of the Ukraine in his pocket. Austria has long hankered after the rich agricultural Ukraine, with its outlet on the Black Sea, and, promises of "no annexation" notwithstanding, Austria would take good care to control the Ukraine, economically in a direct way, politically possibly in indirect fashion,

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if she could. By that means Austria would enormously increase her prestige, and would become the supreme Power in the Near East, with Germany at her back and Russia nowhere, while the districts in question would be practically closed to the Western Powers and their commerce, since the small Balkan States could not in those circumstances stand against the enormous power of the Central Empires. That is the immediate prospect which Russian disorganisation leads to, while the influence of Russia in Asia Minor and the Middle East would also decline almost to zero within a very short time.

The fears that were prompted last week by the news from Roumania have fortunately proved to be groundless. A new Coalition Government has been formed, and M. Take Jonescu's services are not lost to the country at a critical stage in its history. On the contrary, the reconstituted Cabinet contains five members of the Conservative Party instead of four, and two of them are appointed to the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture. M. Jonescu himself is Minister without Portfolio, and becomes Vice-President of the Council of Ministers. M. Bratiano, the Prime Minister, has certainly responded to the spirit actuating the nation by retaining a Coalition Government instead of using his majority in Parliament to form a purely Liberal Ministry. The brief crisis, it is to be hoped, will have brought the two chief men of Roumania closer together and enabled both to devote their conspicuous talents more effectively in joint harness to the service of their country.

The conclusion of the Balkan Conference in Paris has been followed by the visit of Baron Sonnino to London, an event which naturally has led to a further discussion in the Italian Press of the relations with Greece. If it cannot be said that the tone has been uniformly happy, it has at least shown more signs of a rapprochement, or at least more willingness to see that there is a Greek as well as an Italian standpoint, than was perceptible six months ago. The actual formula may yet have to be drafted which will entirely satisfy both countries, but the renewed ambition of Austria which comes from the Russian breakdown may have the effect of moderating any superficial differences that remain.

In the Kaiser's rhetorical address to his subjects which ushers in the fourth year of war it is natural that nothing should be said of the German ambitions in the Balkans. It is the Kaiser's cue that the war has been fought purely in self-defence, and therefore any allusion to Serbia or the Baghdad Railway would be out of place. It is noteworthy, too, that an official denial has been issued from Potsdam of the meeting on July 5, 1914, in which aggressive action as regards Serbia was decided upon in conjunction with Austria. But meantime the German Press continues to emphasise the importance of the Balkans, and no firm renunciations are made by German statesmen, for the best of all possible reasons.

Whatever designs Germany may have on Serbia, the Central Powers continue to oppress that wretched country. It is natural that sympathetic protests should be made in the House of Commons, but the British Government can do nothing directly in the nature of things, and as it was stated on Wednesday evening, in answer to a question, to allow food to go into the country to relieve the inhabitants from Allied sources would merely enable the enemy to export Serbian produce to feed his own people and so prolong the war. It is a miserable position, but one that unfortunately cannot be remedied.

The enemy, however, is not satisfied with oppression, but is endeavouring to sow despair in the Serbian ranks by representing England as ready to abandon their cause and country. There was another debate on war aims last week in the House of Commons—these debates are now as common as potatoes, but less nourishing—and the Austrian Government is using the speech made by Lord Robert Cecil on behalf of the British Cabinet to insinuate that we are ready to make peace with Austria, and that consequently we must be ready to abandon Serbia to her fate.

It is impossible to say whether this rather clumsy manœuvre will have any weight whatever in Serbia. If the Serbs can believe what the Austrian tells them, after a fairly long experience of Viennese economy of truth, they can believe anything. Lord Robert's point was that our chief enemy in the war was Germany, but that does not prevent us from having direct interests in the independence of small States in the Balkans, or from determining that Serbia shall not be crushed. These things have been stated so often that it seems superfluous to go on saying them, but memories are short, and it is the misfortune of these continual war debates that they always give the enemy some material. If the exponent of the Government's policy does not cover every point on the map, he is at once represented as having abandoned the cause on that particular point.

While Count Czernin has seized upon this small point, he has not deigned to notice the determination of the Jugoslavs at home to refuse to accommodate themselves with Austria or to abandon the cause of union with Serbia. As this is a vital factor in the future of Austria as a State, and directly affects both Adriatic and Balkan policy, his silence is the more remarkable. The manifesto which has been recently issued by the Southern Slavs opposes an uncompromising negative to Viennese aims, and furnishes a counter constructive policy which cannot be ignored by Austrian statesmen in fact, although it may be conveniently ignored in their speeches.

The Jugoslav programme is an excellent one, and it remains only to carry it out; it will do as much to settle the political future of South-Eastern Europe on a stable basis as a reconstructed Poland would do for Central and Eastern Europe. Unfortunately, it is only within the last few months that English publicists have taken the trouble to explain the matter to English audiences, and the Jugoslavs have not been so well served in this matter as the Poles, whose cause, perhaps from its being an older one, is better known and, therefore, more appreciated. There are signs of better things, but a general survey of the London and provincial papers—particularly the provincial papers—indicates a certain discretion in touching on the topic which can only be due to ignorance of the importance of the issues. In very many cases the Jugoslav programme was given entirely without comment, and for all the world as though it had no more bearing on the future of the world than an eclipse of the moon (invisible in Fleet Street).

The position in Greece has not materially altered, but a certain amount of uneasiness has been created, perhaps designedly created, by Members of Parliament asking questions about disaffection in the British force at Salonika. They would perhaps have been better occupied some time ago in asking questions about the health of the force, at the time when the advanced posts had to abandon the Struma line on account of malaria, but politicians fight shy of any but political diseases. It is admitted by the Government that there have been a few cases in which trouble has arisen, and that a small number of men have been sent home, some to serve terms of imprisonment of various lengths, a large part of which will be respited at the wish of the commanding officer and apparently of the Government. The truth appears to be that when men have nothing to do, whether at Salonika or Westminster, they make trouble, but in the one case they are sent home and in the other they refuse to consult their constituents. The latter is called constitutional government.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 9.

All arrangements have now been made for holding the annual pilgrimage to Mecca and for sending the usual Holy Carpet with its escort. The Prime Minister has this week issued a circular to the various provincial authorities laying down the conditions under which Egyptian Moslems will be allowed to make the pilgrimage. Owing to the difficulties of transport, it has not been possible to provide accommodation for more than one thousand persons from Egypt, and applications will be accepted in the date-order in which they are presented to the Government up to that total number. All the expenses up to Jedda and back must be paid in advance by intending pilgrims, but no deposit as in previous years will be required in respect of the transport expenses by camel from Jedda to Mecca and Arafat, in regard to which the Government is still carrying out negotiations. Pilgrims will, of course, not visit Medina again this year. The Holy Carpet ceremony has been fixed to take place in Cairo on August 25, and the Caravan will leave in September.

The Phillipides Case.

One of the most important witnesses in the Phillipides case, which was concluded last week, was Mahmoud Effendi Mahomed, assistant commandant of Cairo, who acted as agent for Phillipides in many of his bribery transactions, and finally obtained immunity from criminal proceedings by confessing his complicity. It has now been decided to the general satisfaction of the public to bring Mahmoud Mahomed, as well as two other police officers, the mamours of Abdin and Old Cairo, who likewise had a part in the affair and confessed, before a council of discipline. It is generally hoped that the severest possible sentence will be inflicted upon Mahmoud Mahomed, who appears altogether to have played a most disgraceful part in the whole affair. The day after her conviction Mrs. Phillipides had to be removed to the prison infirmary owing to her state of health.

The National Bank of Egypt.

With reference to a recent paragraph in this correspondence on the departure of Mr. Dickson from the National Bank of Egypt in order to fill the post of manager to the new Trade Bank that has been formed in London, I understand that Mr. B. Hornsby, who some little while back vacated the post of Controller-General of the National Bank in Cairo in order to take up the newly created post of Public Custodian at the Ministry of Finance, will very shortly return to the bank, and that he will succeed Mr. Dickson. The new Public Custodian will, it is believed, be Mr. J. Marshall, who has been employed for the past two years in the War Trade Department of the Ministry of Finance.

The Eclipse of the Moon.

The total eclipse of the moon set down for the night of the 4th inst. was plainly visible here on that date. The moon entered into shadow at a little before ten o'clock, and was completely covered by eleven o'clock. It remained concealed for about an hour, and then gradually emerged, the astronomical phenomenon being completely over by about one o'clock in the morning. As might well be expected, the eclipse greatly excited the Egyptian masses, who were very much impressed by the fact that it coincided with Ramadan and the war. Pans and drums as well as other noise-making appliances were beaten by them as long as the phenomenon was visible, and even after its disappearance, many servants refused to go to sleep on the roofs.

The Behera Torture Case.

Recently I referred in this correspondence to the investigation which was carried out in the province of Behera into certain allegations of torture made against local police officials in connection with a crime which had been committed at Teh el Baroud, and for which four men had been condemned to various terms of imprisonment. As a result of the evidence which then came to light, the four men in question were given a fresh trial, and were acquitted of the charge of murder. It has now come to the turn of the officials against whom the charge of torture was brought to stand their trial at the Assizes. They appeared this week before the Alexandria Assize Court, and were duly sentenced, the commandant of police of the province of Behera to two years' imprisonment with hard labour, and the police inspector of Tewfikia district to twelve months' imprisonment and a fine of £E10. The accused were suspended from their posts for periods of four and two years respectively; this suspension is, however, merely a formality, as no man who has undergone a term of imprisonment can remain in the Government service, and a council of discipline will in due course do what the Court had no power to order, viz., decree their dismissal from the service of the State.

JUSTICE IN EGYPT.

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—III.

The Cantonal Courts.

Taken as a whole, the Cantonal Courts in the Markaz towns are those with the largest volume of work. Since it is obvious that in such towns the village conditions, which are the basis of the Cantonal Court system, do not obtain, the Judicial Adviser thinks that the exclusion of such towns from the scope of the Cantonal Law might well be considered. There is also a possible danger that the Cantonal judges may be asked to do more work than can reasonably be expected of them. In the year under review in only three courts did the total number of cases disposed of exceed 3,000; in the previous year, with the much greater number disposed of, that figure was exceeded in twenty-seven cantons, in one of which more than 7,000 cases were dealt with. Even the lower figure of 3,000 the Adviser considers too much, for "the result of any such strain upon the good-will of unpaid judges must necessarily be the accumulation of arrears, one of the principal objects of the system being thereby defeated." It is suggested that one possible means of lightening their work would be to relieve them of the obligation to examine cases within the jurisdiction of the Summary Tribunals with a view to effecting a settlement. Of the 52,326 such cases submitted to them last year only 2,757 were settled, and in three cantons upwards of 1,000 summary cases were examined by each of the courts. As the Adviser very rightly remarks, the framers of the law cannot have realised that so much work would have been entailed, whilst the result scarcely justifies the delay in sending on these cases which the preliminary procedure necessarily involved. Whilst these courts have, in his opinion, met a definite want as regards the collection of petty debts, the fact that only 856 cases outside their normal jurisdiction were submitted to them by agreement between the parties appears to him to indicate that they have scarcely gained the confidence of the fellahin for any wider purposes. In regard to the limited jurisdiction enjoyed by these courts in matters connected with irrigation, etc., the Adviser thinks that the services of the Cantonal judges might be better utilised by the remission of such cases to them by the Summary judge for an expert opinion instead of their being responsible for the final decision, a procedure which, "if it proved successful, might be capable of extension."

Inspectorship of Native Tribunals.

The Committee of Judicial Surveillance, which was created by the late Sir John Scott when he was Judicial Adviser, for the inspection of the Native Tribunals, has now ceased to exist. When it was first instituted this committee had a separate inspectorate to that of the Ministry, but in 1906, owing to the strongly disintegrating effect which the independence of that inspectorate had on the general organisation of the Ministry, it was decided to combine its staff with that of the Ministry in a newly created directorate of Native Tribunals. Whilst being of opinion that the change was a wise one, the Adviser thinks that the time has come for taking the further step which is its logical outcome—viz., that the inspectors should report to the Minister through their director, and that the Minister should in his own name take upon their reports such action as may be called for. It is for this reason that the committee has now ceased to meet. The change he points out is more one of form than of substance, and he proceeds to indicate what he understands to be the proper scope of the inspectorate of the Native Tribunals. When the above committee was first set up, the magistracy it

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had to supervise was inexperienced, and had little sound knowledge of legal principles and no traditions of judicial independence. There was, therefore, ample scope for a system of inspection directed to the correction of errors. But at the stage now reached the Adviser is clear that "we can better help our judges by reviewing their work upon broader lines." The judges, especially in Summary Court work, still make mistakes upon minor points of law, but these mistakes, as revealed by the inspectors' reports, are of the kind incident to hurried work rather than mistakes of principle, and he cannot think that an elaborate system of inspection is worth maintaining for the sole purpose of detecting them. On the criminal side, where the success or failure of the work of the judges, regarded as a whole, can only be judged in connection with the end to which it is a means, both judge and inspector require to be familiar with all the circumstances of the district in which the former sits, so far as they are relevant to criminal work. But under the existing system the inspector is not possessed of such knowledge. On the civil side the salient points appear to him to be that on four-fifths of the cases submitted to them the decisions of the Summary judges are final and without appeal, and that the judges come to their civil work with no previous training at the Bar. The Adviser suggests a remedy, but says that so long as the present system is retained some system of inspection appears to him necessary in the public interest. He adds that "whenever our judicial system comes to be recast, proposals for the transfer to the Superior Courts of some part of the responsibility at present vested in the Ministry for the supervision of the inferior courts would have my warm approval."

Civil Procedure.

Sir William Brunyate, who has just finished a four years' connection with the Courts as an advocate, proceeds to give the impressions left on his mind by the existing civil procedure. He says:—

"I had been led to suppose that before both the Mixed and the Native Tribunals I must expect a rather exaggeratedly high standard in passing judgment upon the action of the Government. As I have already had occasion to say, I found that I was expected to show that any discretion vested in the agents of the Government had been reasonably exercised. . . . There were, I admit, occasional judgments with which I was not in entire agreement, while in the case of the inferior courts such judgments were apt to be more numerous, but that I understand to be the universal experience of advocates. And I had at all times the feeling that when my delegates had anything to say worth saying they could count on a patient and not unsympathetic hearing. The question of procedure in the technical sense caused me at the outset some anxiety, because, while I was aware of the keenness with which minutiæ of procedure can be fought, with the minutiæ of Egyptian procedure I was frankly unfamiliar. On the whole my experience in that respect was disappointing. I never came across any details of procedure worth fighting about. Once or twice I took somewhat elaborate precautions to meet a difficulty I foresaw, but the difficulty was never raised. In a general way I found myself permitted to say anything I wished to say, and to rely on any document upon which I wished to rely. . . . As regards procedure in the wider sense, what specially impressed me was the absence of any attempt to come down to the exact facts of the case. I have fought and won on appeal a case in which, in first instance, an expert had found that we had unlawfully inundated land belonging to the plaintiff of greater extent than the whole of the land the plaintiff claimed to possess; and, again, a case in which the plaintiff claimed for the cost of preparing and sowing land and for loss of profit, when he had, in fact, sublet the whole of his land and had recovered the rents. . . . A somewhat similar phenomenon was the readiness with which a plaintiff, by his advocate, would put forward a story wholly inconsistent with ordinary business routine, or indeed with any conceivable conduct of business. . . . These defects would appear to me to be largely due to the rules of evidence which exclude as witnesses the parties themselves, and, before the Mixed Tribunals, most of the other persons who, in many cases, are in a position to give evidence of any value. The argument is, of course, that the parties themselves and persons under their influence are not reliable witnesses. To which I would reply that I am prepared to run the risk of the Court being misled by the plaintiff, if I can have the right to test his story by cross-examination, a view of which very full advantage is taken in Continental procedure. As it is, he is at liberty to mislead the Court with impunity. And not only are his own statements subject to no control, but so also are those which his advocate thinks right to make in his name. I have heard the view maintained that the parties are under so strong an inducement to adapt their evidence, if they are allowed to give it, to the interests of their case, that at least they should not be liable to penalties for giving false evidence. I confess that with any such view I am unable to sympathise. As I understand the matter, the only purposes for which civil courts of justice exist are to put pressure upon persons who wilfully abstain from carrying out their admitted obligations and to decide between the parties in case of a *bonâ-fide* dispute. The temptation to make false statements is no greater and no less than that to make use of false documents; and I am convinced that in Egypt courts of justice will continue to serve as instruments of fraud until persons wilfully making false statements, whether on oath or not, are regarded as no less worthy of and liable to punishment than persons wilfully using false documents."

He then proceeds to deal with the question of experts in irrigation matters, his principal criticisms as to which are "that courts which ordinarily regard the hearing of witnesses as an exceptional measure habitually entrust experts with power to hear witnesses without the sanction of an oath; that inadequate pains are taken to define the expert's mission or to see that he keeps within its terms; and that neither the parties (as represented by their advocates) nor the judges appear to regard it as necessary to form an independent opinion on any matter on which the expert may be instructed or may see fit to report." His remarks as to experts, he takes care to point out, refer rather to cases in which sums so substantial are involved that the parties are prepared to go to considerable expense to make good their claim. His experience of cases of this type is that a plaintiff seldom submits his claim to critical examination in advance, that he relies almost exclusively on the expert appointed by the court to define technical points constitutive of the violation of his rights, and that his final claim follows strictly the expert's report, whatever its character, except in so far as the compensation assessed by him is regarded by the plaintiff as insufficient. If the expert's report is unfavourable the plaintiff would most probably ask for the appointment of three experts to present a further report. The judges also are apt to follow the experts no less blindly, and the Adviser cites a typical case involving many debatable points in which the judgment gave as sole ground the expert's declaration that the Government should pay the plaintiff a certain sum. The extent to which judges are guided by experts' opinion gives special importance, he says, to the practice of allowing experts to take evidence, not upon oath, but upon the scene of their labours. They are necessarily influenced by the information so obtained, and the findings of the judge are thereby indirectly influenced, without his mind being directed to the value of this evidence. In the Adviser's opinion the clearer fixing of the issues prior to the appointment of the expert would effect a material improvement, as it would relieve the expert to a material extent of the necessity of taking the evidence of the parties themselves, and it would make it clear that many facts at present left to the expert could only be properly inquired into by the judge. As, however, the time has scarcely come for entrusting such experts as are available with the power to take evidence on oath, he offers two alternative solutions to the problem. "Either the judge should himself accompany the expert and hold the inquiry on the spot, or any evidence given before the expert should as a matter of right be sifted later by the formal examination of witnesses upon oath, should the parties so desire." And he adds: "Under either procedure it would probably be found necessary that the expert should himself be examined as a witness, so that his expert opinion might be adjusted to the extraneous facts as found by the court, a measure which I have every reason to believe would command the approval of a large body of opinion."

LOST MAILS.

The Postmaster-General announces that the letter and parcel mails for the United Kingdom which left Aden July 14, Port Said July 21, and Malta July 25, have been lost at sea through enemy action.

The lost mails would include correspondence from Aden, British Somaliland, Cyprus, Egypt, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force, and the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force

Registration or insurance with the Post Office does not cover losses due to acts of war, and no claims arising out of the loss of this mail can accordingly be entertained.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters, newspapers, etc., but not parcels, for the Salonika Force which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between 2.30 a.m. on the 3rd ult. and 2.30 a.m. on the 5th have been lost at sea through enemy action, also letters, newspapers, etc., for the civilian population of Salonika and district, and many of the Greek islands, which reached the General Post Office, London, for despatch from the 1st to the 3rd ult. inclusive.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Island Travelling.

To complete what was said last week about island communications, it should be added that the weekly mail steamers carry passengers between the three or four ports at which they touch in normal times; and good use is made of them. There is no local steam service in this island of open roadsteads. As regards the small coasting craft, lighters, etc., there is little temptation to embark in them. Now and then it occurs to someone that it might be a pleasant experience to venture on a trip of forty or fifty miles. A fair breeze calls, with a promise that you should reach your destination in six or seven hours. All may go well half way or more; then the wind may drop or shift, and you may find yourself obliged, under a broiling sun, to take to the ponderous oars for a row of, say, ten or twenty miles, when, cursing your fate, you will probably vow never to repeat the experiment. For inland journeys, off the carriage roads, the best mode of travelling is on mule back. The muleteers of Cyprus are a very good class, and very pleasant tours can be made in all parts of the island, including the forests, the best seasons, of course, being the spring and autumn.

The Surplus Balance.

A Surplus Balance Appropriation Law has been passed by the Legislative Council. Provision is thereby made for certain calls not dealt with under any other law, by an expenditure of £22,000. This includes £4,000 for public works, to be spent on motor roads; £5,200 for forests (including forest roads and tree-planting); £3,000 for the anti-malarial campaign, and £8,000 for the relief of Cypriots abroad. Greek members of Council protested that the money should not be spent as indicated, but that it should be devoted entirely to progress in agriculture and the development of island resources.

Efforts Towards Afforestation.

Of the £5,000 voted for the Forest Department, the greater part is to be spent in the Famagusta district. One would imagine that the proposal would be hailed with great satisfaction in that region. Not at all. One of the Greek members for the division recently objected in the Legislative Council to the programme. He regards it as "a trap" to catch the poor villager. The Forest Department, he says, has cut down trees which ought not to have been cut. Then the Principal Forest Officer comes along and plants his favourite acacia, which brings with it the "white scale." When this is done, the forest, or plantation, is closed to goats, against which the department is waging a ruthless campaign. The flocks of the unhappy goat-herd stray and trespass, and the owner is heavily fined. Therefore the people do not want the new forests. *Timeo Britannos et dona ferentes.*

These new plantations are generally of the acacia, the Australian wattle, referred to. The tree has been found very useful as a drought resister, as a barrier against shifting sands and dunes, and on waste grounds, which it soon covers with a thick growth, that in time becomes to a certain extent remunerative for fuel. It is true that the tree is very susceptible to the white scale disease.

Meanwhile complaints are made that large tracts in the Government forests which have been denuded by fires have not been re-planted, and that had steps been taken to make good the damage these areas would be in a fair way to becoming wooded. Another grievance is that claims to ownership of lands included within the boundaries of the delimited State forests are still unsettled. Here it must be admitted that there is some ground for complaint. The matter is an example of the extreme slowness with which the Government machine has worked. After nearly forty years many questions respecting claims to private ownership still remain unsettled in various parts of the island.

Strictness in forest policy, and the enforcement of forest laws, which are so necessary in Cyprus, are a sore point. An honourable member who gets up a cry about them is sure to please a large section of the people; for the Cypriot has never got over his regret for the old days when he could take fuel, extract resin, and graze goats *ad libitum* in the best forests of the island, with nothing to fear except obstacles which a timely peace-offering could remove.

Personal.

The Imperial Service Order has been conferred on Mr. A. K. Bovill, Principal Forest Officer. Mr. Bovill came to Cyprus in 1882, being at first in the Public Works Department. In 1883 he became assistant to the Director of Survey and Principal Forest Officer, these offices being then combined, and in 1895 Principal Forest Officer. Mr. Bovill has travelled in the island more than any other official, and owing to his intimate acquaintance with all parts has frequently rendered valuable service to persons visiting the island on Government missions of various kinds.

Mr. Frederick Ongley has been appointed to act as a member of the Legislative Council during the absence of Dr. R. Cleveland, Chief Medical Officer. Mr. Ongley is one of the oldest officials, having joined the service in 1879, and has held various appointments. He became Director of the Land Registry Office in 1910. He is a good Turkish scholar. His translation into English of the Ottoman Land Code, published in 1892, has been a very useful work.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

The columns of The Near East *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* The Near East.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

ITALY AND THE BALKANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In your issues of July 13 and 20 Mr. F. Bonavia appears to have continued his attempt to prove the pretended "Italianità" of Dalmatia.

Mr. Bonavia states that it is necessary to consider not only the statistics of to-day but those of the last fifty years, and to inquire very carefully into the "astonishing changes" which have taken place. I will go back more than fifty years as regards the statistics, and will quote an impartial authority, a British author, Sir J. Gardner-Wilkinson, who in his work "Dalmatia and Montenegro" (London, 1848) states:—"The population of Dalmatia in 1833 consisted of Slavonians, 340,000; Italians, mostly from Venice, 16,000; Albanians, 882; Jews, 552." According to these statistics of nearly eighty years ago, at a time when not even according to the Italian extremists was there any supposed denationalisation of Dalmatia, an impartial British authority gives the number of Italians in Dalmatia as only 16,000, and these not as natives of Dalmatia, but as immigrants from Venice.

It is also incorrect to state that in the year 1880 most of the important Dalmatian towns were under the administration of the Italian party. The so-called Italian party in Dalmatia is only of quite recent date; the late autonomist party, which evidently Mr. Bonavia has in his mind, was not identical with the Italian party of to-day; that autonomist party, to which belonged also a large number of loyal Slavs, aimed at the autonomy of Dalmatia, as is shown by its very name.

Mr. Bonavia states that when the Venetian Republic fell the Dalmatian cities showed in an unmistakable manner their attachment to Venice. In my letter published in your columns of July 13 I put forward certain facts to prove the satisfaction of Dalmatia at being free from the Venetian yoke. I will merely repeat the statement of Gardner-Wilkinson:—"Zara rebelled (1038-1041) in favour of Petar Kresimir, King of Croatia." By this we see that nine centuries ago Zadar (Zara), the city in which are centred the greatest Italian pretensions, endeavoured to rid itself of the Venetian yoke and to place itself under Croatian rule. The Venetian Republic did its best to keep the Slav inhabitants of Dalmatia in a state of ignorance, so that they might remain her slaves. With regard to this, Gardner-Wilkinson says:—"The care bestowed on education in Ragusa rendered the people greatly superior to the Dalmatians under Venetian rule, who were purposely kept in ignorance by the narrow policy of that Government."

The Slavs in Dalmatia do not date from yesterday, but existed long before the formation of the Venetian Republic. Space will not permit me to quote here every authority on this subject, so I will confine myself to the above-mentioned British authority:—"Heraclius invited the Chrowates to drive them (Avars) from Illyria and occupy that province. . . . They (the Chrowates) advanced with considerable forces into Dalmatia . . . and reduced the Avars to subjection."

Mr. Bonavia avers that the Croatians of to-day are one of the mainstays of the Hapsburg Monarchy, and in the meantime the Italians are sacrificed. The manly bearing of the Croatians in the Parliament of Vienna, and on the other side the silence of the Italian deputies and the pro-Austrian declaration of Mr. Faidutti, the leader of the Italian Viennese deputies, clearly show that Mr. Bonavia has no right to make such a statement. Besides this, there are in Italy thousands of Croatians and other Jugoslavs who surrendered to Italy solely for the purpose of joining the Serbian army to fight against Austria. But Italy does not

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allow this, although both from the Serbian Government and from other quarters requests have reached her that she should grant this permission. One can count on the fingers the number of Italian irredentists of Dalmatia who have expressed a desire to join the Italian army, but there are large masses of Jugoslavs from Dalmatia who are anxious to join the Serbian army, but who are not granted the liberty to do so by Italy.

That it is not the Italians who have been persecuted in Dalmatia, but, on the contrary, the Jugoslavs, is shown also by the fact that all Dalmatian colonies and organisations in both Americas and the British Dominions consist of Jugoslavs; not one of them is Italian. And these Dalmatian organisations are the very ones which are providing the whole financial support for the Jugoslav movement and sending an aeroplane squadron, volunteers, etc., for the Serbian army.

To show how the Jugoslavs have been persecuted by the Italians, both civil and ecclesiastic authorities, I shall quote only the following instances:—For 80,000 Jugoslavs in Trieste the Italian municipality refused to provide even one elementary school, and the same treatment is applied by the Italian Government to the 40,000 Slovenes living in the North-East of Italy. In the Slovene village of Ricmanje (near Trieste), which is to-day included in the Italian claims, the peasants, for persisting in their ancient custom of praying in their own language, were denied a priest, and for years were obliged to bury their dead without the ministrations of a priest, to have no legal marriages, to leave their children unbaptised, etc.

This war is not waged for any "mastery," and, therefore, there can be no question of Italian mastery in the Adriatic. Freedom of nations. Freedom of seas. I will mention here the ninth clause of the official declaration of July 20, published and signed by Mr. Pashitch, Serbian Prime Minister, and Dr. Trumbitch, President of the Jugoslav Committee, which states:—"In the interest of freedom and of the equal rights of all nations, the Adriatic Sea shall be free and open to all." We hope that this official statement by the Serbian Government, showing its connection with the Jugoslav Committee, will put a stop to the continuous calumnies of the Italians, that the Jugoslav movement is backed by Austria.

The Italians lay claim to Dalmatia on the grounds of the historical rights of Venice; in Venice they erected a magnificent monument to the Dalmatian Nicolas Tomaseo; the Italians should remember the words of this same Tomaseo: "Dalmatia for centuries has been more successful in preserving her Slav character than Italy her Italian."

I am, etc.,

MICHAEL MICIC,
Member of the Jugoslav Committee.

45, Stanhope Gardens, S.W.,
July 31, 1917.

ZIONISTS IN PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—My attention has just been called to a letter in THE NEAR EAST of July 20, in which Mr. S. Tolkowsky accuses me of misrepresentation. I had said:

"Among the recent 'Zionist' settlers in Palestine there is an extreme and narrow fanaticism which their enlightened co-religionists in Europe hardly, I think, realise."

Mr. Tolkowsky writes: "On the contrary, they are the most enlightened and progressive element in Palestine, to the regeneration of which they have made notable contributions. . . . Both the record of the Jewish colonies and the avowed policy of the Zionist organisation show how baseless is the suggestion that the achievement of Zionist aims in Palestine 'would mean oppression for the other elements of the population.'"

Mr. Tolkowsky evidently attaches some special and eclectic meaning to the word 'Zionist.' I mean by it those recent settlers—as contrasted with the Jewish immigrants of three or more centuries ago—who are strongly desirous of restoring the Jewish State as it existed of old, including the Temple and its sacrifices; who regard the present owners of the land as mere intruders upon territory which is Jewish by Divine decree. In my experience of centres like Jerusalem, Safed, and Tiberias, I find these as the vast majority of recent settlers; and, although I know that there are others who profess a milder view, I do not think those others strong enough numerically to control the fanatical religious element in the event of an independent Jewish State being set up in Palestine. For the majority, the restoration of the Temple on its ancient site is the principal objective; but that ancient site is now the Haram es-Sherif, the second Holy Place of El Islâm! I am entirely friendly in my feeling for the Jews, and it is in no unfriendly spirit that I repeat the words of my address:—

"If the Jews wish to be shamed in the sight of the world, let them have an independent Jewish State in Palestine at this stage of their development."

With regard to the second statement to which Mr. Tolkowsky takes exception, here again I think he attaches a special and limited meaning to the word Zionist. And my statement obviously referred less to the Jews who were admitted into Palestine than to the multitudes who were refused admission by the Turkish Government.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

MARMADUKE PICKTHALL.

Padstow, Cornwall, July 29.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The discovery of a fine mosaic of the early sixth century Christian Church on the Palestine battlefield, under works recently occupied by the Turks, north-west of Beersheba, is not the first debt that archæology owes to British troops in this war. At Salonika, in conjunction with the French, they have converted the White Tower into a museum in order to house the archæological "finds" made in the course of trench digging and similar operations. I do not remember having heard what proportions the museum has attained, or whether any of its contents are of striking value; but the idea of collecting and preserving the antiquities for Greece's benefit would alone have given the lie to King Constantine's memorable dictum to the effect that he saw no difference between the occupation of Greek soil by the Allies and the German occupation of Belgium.

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Interesting archæological discoveries in Greece are by no means confined to formal or official excavations. When I lived in Athens, a good many years ago, it is true, now, it was by no means an uncommon occurrence to tap some fresh source of antiquities, when, for instance, modern requirements necessitated the foundations of a house or building to be taken lower down than the last. Similar experiences were common up and down the country, and, of course, the world owes to that circumstance part of the steady enrichment of its archæological museums. The Greek Government now keeps a sharp look-out on all antiquities, and nothing of any value is supposed to leave the country, unless the Ephors of the Athens Museum certify that they have no use for the antiquity in question. But, as may be supposed, some valuable objects still find their way to the outside world.

***

The old definition of "news" is something that ought not to happen. I am reminded of it by a recent item of news about the exploits of Russia's women soldiers. Perhaps I am out of date in my ideas, but I like this development of the Russian Revolution as little as the cowardice and treachery of certain Russian regiments. It all points, surely, to a lack of balance. Could anything stand more self-condemned, when we are informed that the women carry with them a poison tablet, or something of the sort, for use, if necessary, when captured? In East Africa the white women whom the Germans, when they retreated, left on the hands of General Smuts' force, were found to be provided with such tablets for fear of a native rising before the British troops could reach them. But one of the first things to be done after our occupation was, I am told, to throw the hateful tablets into the bush.

***

But to get back to the Russian amazons. Of course, it is easy to make a "good story" out of their exploits, and possibly political capital as well. Perhaps some such action on women's part in Russia was necessary to shame the men who were refusing to fight. But we are told that among the German troops whom they captured women were also found. Is this an intermediate stage to the German Emperor's last cat and dog? The one thing Russia does not lack is man power, so there is no necessity for the women's corps; and if any considerable body of women was found so eager to take their part in the national defence, it would have been thought that ample scope could have been found for their energies in the munition factories which are lying idle, because the men are demanding impossible wages or are refusing to work. It looks as if we had to be rather chary as to the extent to which we heap eulogies on all the details of the Russian Revolution.

CORSAIR.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

According to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office, parcels may again be transmitted, in limited quantities, to prisoners of war in Turkey. Such parcels are, therefore, again being accepted at post offices, subject to the general regulations governing the acceptance and transmission of parcels for prisoners of war.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE EXPANSION OF EUROPE.*

Although Mr. Ramsay Muir does not profess to have written either an exhaustive or a very novel book, he has set out in clear and accurate form the various forces which have led to the growth of European Powers and to the spread of their colonising activities. If he is a little contemptuous of the commercial motive at times, and rather prone to insist on the free trade ideal of the British Empire, that is perhaps natural in a professor at Manchester, which in these times thinks to-day what England thought yesterday. The balance is redressed in Mr. Colvin's book, "The Unseen Hand in English History," which attributes a commercial motive to everything.

Mr. Muir does well to point out the supreme weight of the Baghdad Railway scheme in the German politics of domination; it is a point that is constantly forgotten in England from our absorption in the West. It would have been well, if he had given some details of the German methods of gaining concessions in Asia Minor, both before and since the war—it would have given his story just those convincing details in which it is something lacking at present.

We note his statement that a treaty between Britain and Germany, dealing with the future of the Baghdad Railway was on the point of being signed when war broke out. He does not give the details, but his reference to Herr Rohrbach's remark that England made generous terms prompts us to add that the terms were understood to be that Germany was the sole concessionnaire of the railway, but agreed to make its terminus at Busreh instead of the Persian Gulf; Britain and France obtained certain minor concessions, but on the strict understanding that these did not compete with the German line. In other words, we were to provide feeders for German traffic—a glorious rôle! But the curious thing is that the existence of these negotiations has been recently denied by Mr. Arthur Balfour, although they had been so generally commented on by both British and German publicists that a careful writer like Mr. Muir has no hesitation in accepting the statements as genuine. A cynic who has seen a good deal of history in the making once said that the only things which never happened were those which were solemnly vouched for by the leading documents in the case, and that sardonic view would seem to have some justification in the present instance.

Mr. Muir's book deserves to be widely read for its sane and balanced view of the forces which have led to the expansion of Europe, and precisely because it is so sound an exposition of the inevitable imperialism of a strong civilisation, it will be condemned by the pacifists and men of kindred schools.

THE ECONOMIC WAR†.

If anybody on the wrong side of the Rhine reads M. Victor Boret's "La Bataille Economique de Demain," he will see that France at least takes seriously the Paris Economic Conference. The author points out that the Entente consists of industrial and agricultural Powers, Britain being at the head of the former and France of the latter. He emphasises, however ,that France's position has some elements of weakness, since France cannot do without English goods, whereas England can do without French goods. That may be true in a strictly utilitarian sense, but it will be a bad day for this country when our men give up Burgundy and our women refuse the law of Paris. M. Boret recognises that neutrals may feel aggrieved by the Paris resolutions, but neither in France nor in England shall we lie awake o' nights over their tribulations; a more important matter is the development of commerce between Russia, Serbia, Roumania, and the Western Powers, on which he touches in one chapter, without, however, going into detail. Our own free traders, who are ready to be exploited again by Germany after the war, will derive no comfort from M. Boret's masculine reasoning.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have recently published the following war pamphlets, at the price of 2d. each:—"The Justice of Roumania's Cause," by A. W. A. Lepper; "Greater Roumania: A Study in National Ideals," by D. Mitrany; "The Welfare of Egypt," by J. S. Willmore.

The Broadway House will shortly publish a book entitled "Roumania," by Leonard Magnus.

In the early autumn Mr. Murray will publish "Inside Constantinople: A Diplomatist's Diary during the Dardanelles Expedition, April to September, 1915," by Lewis Einstein. The author was special agent at the American Embassy at Constantinople during this period.

When M. Jean Maspero, the Curator of Papyri for the Cairo Museum, left Egypt in 1914 to take his place in the French Army, he brought with him the manuscript of the third volume of his "Catalogue des Papyrus Grecs d'Epoque Byzantine," a work which he had been editing since 1910. He was killed on February 15, 1915, but his work on the third volume has been brought to a conclusion by his father, Sir Gaston Maspero, and M. Bernard Haussoullier. The three volumes deal with the administrative and public life of Byzantine Egypt.

Lieutenant-General Sir Bryan T. Mahon has contributed a Foreword to "The Pals at Suvla Bay." This volume forms a record of "D" Company of the 7th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and is written by Henry Harma. It is published by Mr. E. Ponsonby (Dublin) at 12s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Roumanian Songs and Ballads. By R. Stewart-Patterson. (London: John Long, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

A KITCHENER TABLET.

A memorial tablet to the late Lord Kitchener was unveiled in Lakenheath Church, Suffolk, on Saturday, by Mr. W. Hayes Fisher, President of the Local Government Board. The tablet, which has been erected by the London Society of East Anglians, bears the following inscription:—"In memory of Earl Kitchener, K.G., K.P., P.C., O.M., G.C.B., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., soldier and statesman, 1850-1916, whose ancestors having resided in this parish, this tablet was erected by the London Society of East Anglians, of which he was president. Te Deum Laudamus." The King was represented at the ceremony by Colonel H. A. Barclay, C.V.O., A.D.C., and others present were Lieutenant-General Sir J. Wolfe Murray, Lieutenant-General Sir Bruce Hamilton, Mr. J. H. Monings, Sir Courtenay Warner, Lord and Lady Bristol, Sir John and Lady Aird, and Sir Henry and Lady Bunbury.

During the proceedings, Mr. Hayes Fisher read a letter from Lord Derby, who was to have unveiled the memorial, but was unavoidably prevented from being present, in the course of which the Secretary of State for War said:—"I would much have liked to talk to my audience about Lord Kitchener, though I feel a great difficulty in doing so at the present moment. After three years of war, it is perhaps not to be wondered at that the public are rather more apt to try to find out the failings of their servants, whether high or low, rather than their good work; and I do not suppose that even Lord Kitchener, if happily he had still been with us, would have escaped criticism. But as time rolls on, and people are able to look back and see the events of this great war in their proper perspective, then will the greatness of Lord Kitchener become more and more apparent. A friend of mine told me that he had heard Lord Kitchener likened to a lighthouse, and I cannot think of a better simile. He stood with the waves of criticism and complaint breaking against him, and leaving him untouched and unharmed, shedding a steady light on determined purpose and devotion to duty. . . .

"Of his personal character I would say very little. Only those who knew him well really understood him, but I claim that my great friendship with him and devotion to him entitle me to speak of him in his private capacity. To many he was an enigma, and some have likened him to a Sphinx. They may be right, but I know he was a great soldier and a straightforward, upright English gentleman, with a stern sense of duty—a duty which he invariably carried out himself in the strictest possible manner, and which he expected others to carry out in the same way. He was a very faithful friend, always searching for the good qualities of those who served him rather than trying to detect their faults. He realised the difficulties under which his subordinates, both civil and military, were working, and, recognizing those difficulties, was tolerant to those who may not have come up to his expectations, but who, he knew, were doing their best—and what can a man do more than his best? He never varied for a moment in his confidence as to the final result of the war, and though a year or more has passed away since his death, I feel perfectly certain that had he lived he would still have been found with the same confidence, and rightly so. He had implicit trust in the nation, just as the nation had trust in him, and I venture to say in conclusion that the best tribute that we can now pay to his memory is that everybody, man and woman, should do their best to carry on his work by devotion to the duty which lies in front of them."

In performing the unveiling ceremony, Mr. Hayes Fisher spoke of Lord Kitchener's great tenacity of purpose, his grim determination always to pursue any path to the end when once he had entered upon it, and his indefatigable industry. His two greatest achievements were his work in Egypt and the way in which he raised millions of men imbued with his spirit at a time when the giant German Army threatened to eat up the little British Army. His death was even more striking than his life. He ennobled his life by the death he died, as thousands more were doing.

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX.

The Index for Volume XII. (November 3, 1916—April 27, 1917) is now ready. Copies may be obtained post free, by subscribers, on application to the Manager.

*The Expansion of Europe. By Ramsay Muir. (Constable, 6s. net).

† "Le Bataille Economique de Demain." By M. Victor Boret. (Payot et Cie, Paris. 3f. 50c.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. August.	1917. July.		1335. Shawall	5677. Av
3	21	Friday	14	15
4	22	Saturday.....	15	16
5	23	Sunday	16	17
6	24	Monday	17	18
7	25	Tuesday	18	19
8	26	Wednesday	19	20
9	27	Thursday	20	21

The Roumanian Minister returned to town on July 27 after his visit to Manchester.

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, visited Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on July 31.

General Rudeano, the head of the Roumanian Military Mission, left London on July 26 for Paris.

M. Beza, of the Roumanian Legation, arrived in London on July 26 from Jassy.

Viscount Gough has left his residence in Upper Belgrave Street for Harrogate.

Major N. Arion, Roumanian Military Attaché, left London on July 27 for the South of England.

M. Miroslav Spalaykovich, Serbian Minister in Petrograd, has been appointed Serbian Minister in Rome.

Mr. Dodge, the United States Minister to Serbia, arrived at Corfu with his family on July 24.

Mr. K. C. P. Struvé, Governor of the White Nile Province, returned to Khartoum on July 9.

Mahamed Ali Khan Ehtesham Homayoun, First Secretary to the Persian Legation in London, is confined to his room through illness.

The Greek Ministers lately accredited to Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria-Hungary, with the Legation staffs, have returned to Athens.

Prince and Princess Alexis of Serbia have arrived at Stratford-on-Avon, where they intend to reside for the next two or three months.

Capt. Percival F. Crommelin d'Erf-Wheeler, who was killed on duty on July 24, was a grandson of the late Dr. Blyth, Bishop in Jerusalem.

Lieut. C. A. M. van Millingen, the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor van Millingen, D.D., has returned to the Front after ten days' leave in this country.

The Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Order of the Nile (Second Class) on General Birdwood and the Fourth Class on the Marquess of Carisbrooke and the Marquess of Anglesey.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, arrived in London on August 1 from Paris, where he had been attending the Balkan Conference. The Serbian Minister in London met him at the station.

The Queen of Montenegro has forwarded a signed photograph to Lady Roper Parkington, wife of the Consul-General for Montenegro, in appreciation of the services she, as hon. treasurer, has rendered to the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith, K.C., was called within the Bar on Tuesday morning in the Lord Chief Justice's Court. He afterwards visited the other Courts in accordance with custom, and was formally invited to take his place within the Bar.

Further search at Khalandri, near Athens, has resulted in the discovery of 400 rifles and 28,500 cartridges. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was found in April after all arms were supposed to have been removed to the Peloponnesus.

Mr. N. E. Ambatielos, the Greek shipowner of Cardiff, Argostoli, and Paris, has made a donation of £20,000 to the French Government to provide for the dependants of the French soldiers who lost their lives at Athens on December 1 and 2 last year.

The death, from typhus, of Major Edward T. Waller, the Commandant of the Alexandria Fire Brigade, took place on July 4, at the 19th General Hospital, Alexandria. Major Waller, who was one of the most popular of Alexandria's officials, was born in London in 1870. After serving for some time in the Queen's Bays, he was transferred to the Egyptian Military Mounted Police, in which he served up to 1899, when he was appointed officer in command of the Alexandria City Mounted Police. In 1905 he was appointed commandant of the Alexandria Fire Brigade.

It is announced that the Greek Government has decided to dismiss two members of the Court of Appeal, M. Dounias and M. Tatarakis, on account of a decision of the Court releasing from imprisonment a lieutenant of reserves who was accused of being one of the principal actors in the attack on the Allied troops last December.

Mr. Justice Horridge, in the Probate Division, has refused permission to presume the death of Sir Marc Armand Ruffer, who was on board the transport Arcadia when she was torpedoed last April between Salonika and Egypt. His Lordship held that as it was only a short while since Sir Marc Ruffer had been missing, the matter ought to be brought on after the Long Vacation.

Flight Sub-Lieutenant Dragusam, who enlisted in the French Army at the outbreak of war, started from Salonika on July 18 in an aeroplane presented by the French Government, flew over Bucharest and Constanza, where he threw out proclamations, and arrived at Galatz on the 20th ult. He alighted in Roumania after having flown about 1,000 kilometres. He has been decorated by the King of Roumania with the Order of Michael the Brave.

An academy has been formed at the Sultanieh Library in Cairo, under the presidency of Sheikh Selim el Bishri, Rector of Al Azhar University, for the purpose of creating Arabic terms to meet the modern requirements of sciences, arts, and inventions, to replace the foreign or colloquial words which have so far been used, and of subsequently preparing a dictionary in Arabic containing all modern terms so created.

On July 28, in the presence of the President of the French Republic and distinguished representatives of France and Roumania, the standard of Stephen the Great was handed over to the representatives of the Roumanian Government in the grand amphitheatre of the Sorbonne. The standard was found by French troops in a Bulgarian convent at Mount Athos, and was sent to France to be handed back to Roumania.

The death at Cairo on July 18 is announced of Captain Ian Macfarlane, R.A.M.C., formerly a medical missionary at Nazareth, who had just been appointed to the Victoria Hospital at Damascus when war broke out. He joined the British Army as a doctor, and went with the Expeditionary Force to France. After a year he was transferred to Egypt, and served with the Sinai troops. His death was due to typhus contracted while in charge of a hospital for Turkish prisoners.

Permission to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon them by his Highness the Sultan of Egypt in recognition of valuable services rendered by them, has been granted to Archibald McCorquodale, Esq., formerly Director-General of the Central Gharbia Drainage Projects; Frank Ford Peregrin Walsh, Esq., formerly Inspector in the Irrigation Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works; and Arthur James Knowles, Esq., formerly Engineer in the Bridges Department of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works. Permission has also been given to Reginald Humphrey Lee Pennell, Esq., of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works, to wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile.

A correspondent in *The Times* quotes the following extract from a letter received from an officer interned at Castamouni, in Asia Minor:—"The British cemetery here, which up to now contains six graves, three officers and three privates, is at present engaging our attention. We are having tombstones put on each grave, and a wall built round the graveyard. To save expense, 150 officers of all ranks, from colonels to second lieutenants, did coolie work for two days, quarrying and carrying huge stones and baskets of mud up to the cemetery for the purpose of erecting this wall. And the six tombstones now being erected over the graves have been paid for by a general subscription raised by us. One of our senior majors has designed the stones beautifully."

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Sir Albert K. Rollit, the Roumanian Consul-General in London, has been presented with an illuminated address in album form and a neatly-fashioned silver casket by a number of gentlemen representatives of principals of commercial proprietary schools. The presentation, which took place at the London Chamber of Commerce, as a practical acknowledgment of Sir Albert's twenty-five years' successful efforts for the betterment of British commercial education, was made by Mr. George Clark (Clark's College).

As the result of a meeting held in the Town Hall, Manchester, in aid of the Roumanian Red Cross Society on July 27, a committee was appointed to raise a fund for the purpose. The Lord Mayor presided. Monsieur Misu, Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James's, spoke briefly of the friendly relations that had existed from times before the war between Great Britain and Roumania. He referred to the commercial development of Roumania, saying that the trade of the country was equal to the trade of all the other Balkan States taken together. He expressed his confidence that Great Britain would, after the war, take the biggest share in the development of a united and rejuvenated Roumania. Other speakers were Sir William Grey-Wilson, Miss Mary Henderson, who was in Roumania last year with the Scottish Women's Hospital unit; Bishop Welldon, and Mr. R. P. Goldschmidt, Roumanian Consul in Manchester.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lieut. F. V. Grierson, King's Own Scottish Borderers, Lieut. A. B. James, Royal Engineers, Lieut. W. G. L. Montagu-Douglas Scott, Lovat's Scouts, Lieut. G. L. Owen, Royal Artillery, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers with the temporary rank of Bimbashi.

Lieut. R. A. Willan, Royal Marine Artillery, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer. He has been granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi and attached to the 12th Sudanese for duty.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Percy Macclesfield Heath, Indian Army, whose death from the effects of heat in Baghdad on July 14 has been reported, had seen two and a half years' service in Mesopotamia. Colonel Heath was the elder son of the late Captain P. C. Heath, Indian Army, who was killed in 1880 in the Battle of Maiwand. He had been twice wounded in addition to being invalided with sunstroke in August, 1915. Prior to the advance on Kut Colonel Heath was made Deputy Governor of Kurnah. He held the Serbian decoration, Kara George (4th Class), with swords.

THE NEW ROUMANIAN MINISTRY.

The new Roumanian Cabinet is as follows:—

Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs	M. BRATIANO
Minister of War	General JANCOVESCO
Minister of the Interior and Food	M. CONSTANTINE CONSTANTINESCO
Minister of Finance	M. TITULUSCO
Minister of Munitions	M. VENTILA BRATIANO
Minister of Public Instruction	M. DUCA
Minister of Public Works	M. GRACEANO
Minister of Commerce and Industry	M. DELAVRANCEA
Minister of Crown Lands	M. MARJESCO
Minister of Justice	M. MICHAEL CANTACUZENE

Ministers without Portfolio:—M. TAKE JONESCU, who will be Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, and M. TERIKIDE CONTINESCO.

The Cabinet consists of eight Liberals and five Conservatives.—Reuter.

NATIONAL WAR MUSEUM.

The Committee of the National War Museum are anxious to make, as far as possible, a complete history of the war in photograph. Such a record should be of permanent historic value and European importance. Efforts to obtain similar national collections are now being made by all the other belligerents. The Committee wish, therefore, to make a strong appeal to all friends and relations of officers now serving, or who have at any time served, with H.M. Forces during this present war, for free gifts of bromide photographs. Such photographs should be unmounted and printed on bromide paper, this in order to facilitate docketing and to secure their permanence. If the donors will write on the backs of the photographs they contribute such details as will form a minute concise biography, with dates of promotion distinctions, etc., they will very materially assist the Committee. All photographs received, which should be addressed to the National War Museum, H.M. Office of Works, Storey's Gate, Westminster, S.W.1, will be duly acknowledged.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGES.

BEAUMONT—HOOLE.—On July 23, at Port Said, Major Henry Beaumont, Lancashire Fusiliers, to Dorice Hoole.

IRWIN—ARATCHITCH.—On the 25th July, at St. John's Church, Territet, Switzerland, by the Rev. A. H. Sewell, H. Greville Wood Irwin, Capt., South Lancs Regiment, only son of Henry Irwin, late of Sydney, Australia, and grandson of the late John Irwin, of Cheetham, Manchester, to Rougitsa V. Aratchitch, younger daughter of the late General Voukoman Aratchitch, of Belgrade.

DEATH.

CAMPBELL.—On June 27, at Jassy, Roumania, of blood poisoning, Ivan Stuart, younger son of the late James Campbell, of Craignish.

KILLED IN ACTION.

D'ERF-WHEELER.—Killed on duty, on July 24, Percival Francis Crommelin d'Erf-Wheeler, Captain, Dorset Regiment, attached R.F.C., beloved eldest son of Grace and Percy d'Erf-Wheeler and grandson of the late Dr. Blyth, Bishop of Jerusalem, aged 23. "Per ardua ad astra."

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1917.

THE ALLIED CONFERENCE IN PARIS.

The fact that a Conference of the Allied Powers should be devoted almost exclusively to a consideration of the position in the Near East is in itself a conspicuous development in the general situation. That its proceedings should have been as brief and as businesslike as they obviously were, and yet have apparently given satisfaction to all who took part in them, affords striking testimony of the solidarity of opinion in the Grand Alliance. For it was a discussion on Balkan matters at which Italians, Serbians, Roumanians and Greeks, as well as representatives of the Entente Powers, were present. If there could ever be any excuse for divergence of views in the Allied camp, it would be among the four peoples first named and in regard to the Allied programme in the Balkans. The decisions of the Conference have not been made public, and there will be no desire to go behind the veil of secrecy which, no doubt very properly, has been drawn over them. But certain points emerge from the Allied gathering which are of importance to a general understanding of the whole situation. In the first place, as the French Prime Minister reminded the delegates, it had been decided by France and Great Britain at the London Conference of May 28-29 that they should meet in July with representatives of other Allied Powers to consider their future military action in the Balkans. It is just two months ago that the decision to deal drastically with King Constantine must have been taken by the British and French Governments. Until then the Salonika army had been compelled by the equivocal attitude of the Athens Government to mark time, and it was evident that it must continue to remain inactive so long as it was liable to attack in the rear. But if the Allies had determined to secure the removal of King Constantine from Greece, nothing was more natural than that they should wish to review the military situation once more, as soon as the effect of the new conditions could be gauged. The course of events since the London Conference, it may be presumed, has been, as a German *communiqué* would say, according to plan, if not actually an improvement upon expectations. Greece is now ranged on the Allies' side, and her accession to their cause modifies the conditions which have hitherto prevailed in regard to the military situation in the Balkans. The purpose of the Conference, therefore, was to examine the new state of things and to decide whether it affected the policy of inactivity which for two years has been imposed by circumstances on the Allied army in Macedonia.

The decision of the Conference on this point will be known in due course. In the meantime the Paris gathering has other claims upon our attention. As already stated, all the Balkan Governments, with the exception of Bulgaria, were represented, and for the first time, we must infer, something like a comprehensive view of the whole question was possible. There was no longer any need for reservations conditional upon the attitude of Greece. Two important developments that had to be faced were the proclamation by Italy of a protectorate over Albania and the appearance of Greece on the side of the Allies. From the official statement we learn that the Conference at once approached these questions and came to an agreement in regard to them. As Greek loyalty to the Allied cause was assured, France, Great Britain and Italy undertook to bring to an end simultaneously, and as soon as possible, the military occupations which they had been forced to establish in the territory of Old Greece, Thessaly and Epirus, while maintaining for the duration of the war a naval and military base in the island of Corfu. Only a slight modification of this arrangement was necessary in regard to a portion of Greek Epirus where the new road constructed by Italian and French enterprise to link Santi Quaranta with Florina on the Salonika-Monastir Railway enters Greek territory. It was agreed that for the security of this road the triangle which it cuts out of Epirus should remain under Italian military occupation, but that civil administration should be re-established under a Greek Commissioner. Such an arrangement presupposes a general understanding between Italy and Greece regarding the future status of Albania and the delimitation of its southern frontier. Moreover, as the military problem in the Balkans is the defeat of the enemy, which entails the restoration of Serbia, and as we have to infer that all the Allies left the Conference well satisfied with the decisions taken, it can hardly be supposed that the representatives of Italy and Serbia could be conscious of the existence of irreconcilable differences between them, such as would be calculated to rob the Allies' victory in the Balkans of its real significance. In this connection we may hope that the recent statement in the *Giornale d'Italia* to the effect that the Adriatic question was settled by means of an equitable compromise between Juvoslavs and Italian aspirations as far back as the Pact of London means all that can be read into the words. If the compromise was accepted by both parties and still represents an equitable settlement, then publicists and speakers on both sides have wasted energy that could have been put to better purpose.

Thus there is every indication that the Conference at Paris constitutes a definite landmark in the progress of the war. Nothing is better calculated to clinch the depression that the enemy must feel with the realization of his military failure than the knowledge that the Allies stand even more firmly united than they have been at any previous stage in the war. It has been impossible to ignore the Press polemics between Italians and Jugoslavs over the Adriatic and Dalmatia, and it was difficult to believe that there could be so much smoke without some fire. But evidently pacificatory influences have been at work, and have succeeded in removing misunderstandings. We should like to emphasise the salutary effect that would follow from an explicit statement that all difficulties between Italy and the Jugoslavs had been satisfactorily adjusted. The anxiety of the German Government, which, after all, knows its own people, to provide for it throughout the war a series of tonics to keep it braced up for the part it has to play is an admission that the German will-power is particularly susceptible to extraneous influences. It will do no harm if the Allies take advantage of this weakness. For this reason we welcome the promulgation of the agreement that has been reached between representatives of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in regard to the new Southern Slav kingdom. There have been forebodings in many quarters that, however much the Southern Slavs might proclaim their unity, they would never attain it in practice. Time only can decide the question, but it will be admitted that the respective units of the future joint kingdom have taken an important step towards realizing their aim. They have threshed the matter out among themselves, and boldly published the terms of their agreement. The various divisions of the Southern Slav nation have now a definite goal in front of them, and those of them who are still under the Austrian yoke will know how far the prospect corresponds with the sacrifices they have made to achieve that goal. The declaration may not improve the present lot of those within enemy jurisdiction; but it will bring home to Austria and her Ally the strength of the forces against which they are vainly contending.

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LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN ANCIENT EGYPT.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

The Pharaonic government of Egypt has always been considered as one of the most complete examples of an absolute monarchy. The Royal will was law; the command of the King's officials no subjects could contest, unless it were the priests, who as a body sometimes ventured to do so. A Pharaonic functionary was a despot in his province, and all the inhabitants were subject to his rule. The loss of a certain amount of popular liberty, it now appears from newly-found evidence, had not taken place or had not been completed under the earlier dynasties. During what is known as the Old Empire, at any rate, side by side with the Royal officials and administrators there was another class or body of quasi-authorities termed Sarou, who were independent of the State functionaries, and acted as directors and advisers of the people. Like British justices of the peace, they possessed some powers, as is succinctly illustrated by the fact that the expressive hieroglyph of the four which went to make up their title—"a man with a baton"—was identical with that which acted as determinative in the similar word *srw-t*, which stood for other State officials. Perhaps a better rendering of the meaning attached to a Sarou's position would be to term him an Elder, or Notable, and the French word *prudhomme* comes very close to an interpretation. The Sarou's authority appears to have always been a local one, and not exercised individually, but by a small or large council, or committee, which probably in primitive times, as in ancient Palestine, sat within the shade of the city gate, prototype of the once, but now no longer so, Sublime Porte. Like many old Egyptian words the root of *Sarou* and of *srw-t* appears to be connected with a Semitic form, in this case the word *sar*, a prince, or governor, in Babylonian and in Hittite.

During the period of several dynasties there was a special body of the Sarou which apparently acted as arbitrators and justices in cases submitted from all parts of Egypt. This assembly was called the *Kenbit*, which means angle or corner; and M. Moret, in his essay upon the "Appeal to the King," in ancient Egypt, explains that the title was derived from the body holding its sittings in the corner of the great hall of the palace. The Kenbit does not seem to have been in any sense a privy council, or to have partaken of the nature of the modern Japanese Board of Elder Statesmen, because its jurisdiction, as far as we know at present, did not embrace State or national administrative matters. Its decisions were rather appealed to in disputes concerning contracts, boundaries, the subdividing of property, wills, and sales. There is no record of the special designation of the Kenbit which was associated with the residence of the Court; but we know that the Kenbits of the capital cities, such as Memphis, enjoyed the epithet of Great Kenbit in contradistinction to those of the minor towns and country districts.

A good deal of information as to the powers and performances of the Sarou can now be obtained from the valuable series of royal decrees of immunity granted to the persons connected with certain temples at Coptos, first edited by MM. Adolphe Reinach and Weil, to which one or two similar records have been added by M. Moret. These ordinances are for the purpose of restricting the Sarou of Coptos from compelling the privileged persons there from performing various corvée to which all ordinary persons were liable. The special protection Pepi the Second grants in these very early edicts was accorded to the hierarchies and their dependents of the temple of the deity of Min, and of a kind of theological college termed the King's House, a monastic confraternity created to act as hierophants in the cult of a divine statue of the deified Pharaoh, to provide funds for the upkeep of which an agricultural sacred domain had been set aside. Everyone connected with these establishments was for all future time to be exempted. From the wording of these decrees it is evident that the Sarou commandeered for the corvée by two different processes. The first was by ordinances issued by themselves, which were not, however, finally compulsory, unless countersigned by the administrator of Southern Egypt. This arrangement appears, as does the whole series of facts concerning the Sarou, to have appertained because the Sarou system was intended to mitigate the rigidity of rule by despotic royal power, there being no evidence that the Pharaonic bureaucracy, however elevated a member of it might be, could visé the Sarou's regulations. Their sanctioner had to be the great provincial ruler who would know the circumstances of the inhabitants, and perhaps his sympathies might be contrary to the views of the royal officials.

The second process adaptable by the Sarou was to issue regulations copied from royal decrees or laws. In this case the provincial administrator need not countersign them. They were already commandments having State benediction, and if they happened to be similar in terms to that which the Sarou desired to enforce, they could be utilised without requiring any supervisor's permission.

We do not know all about these questions yet, so are not certain that it was not the duty of the Sarou to issue all the Royal decrees by having them engrossed and distributed, or whether they did not merely issue them when it suited their purpose. What is clear, however, is that if their orders were copied from the Royal decrees, they were immediately legal, acting quickly, like a special summons; whilst, if they were a new kind of regulation, there was delay until the Governor endorsed them. If they were not only new, but opposed to the Royal edicts, the difficulty of securing his assent, if his office depended upon the Royal prerogative, may have caused still more postponement, and perhaps refusal. But still, the very existence of the Sarou, whilst they did exist, exhibits some attempt to protect the people by preserving a faint appearance of local self-government. Moreover, the inscriptions refer to the Sarou being employed for the collection of taxes and for the keeping of the district fiscal accounts. Thus they may have tempered the severities of a rapacious administration. We must not hope that too much benefit was the result of their functions, for at some time or other, if not from their first inception, the Sarou's ordinances were not enforcible by their own power or their own officials, but only by means of the Royal functionaries, who were subordinates of the Administrator of Southern Egypt. If questions or lawsuits arose between persons concerning matters that were unconnected with Government regulations the Sarou could decide them. Probably dissatisfied and rich litigants could appeal to the palace royal Kenbit-Sarou assembly, if they cared to do so. Multitudes of the population were tenants upon lands forming part of the Royal domains. These were eternally claiming exemptions of all kinds, and doubtless gave the Sarou much work to do. The clerics were still more importunate in such alleged or genuine privileges, and more difficult to appease.

These facts introduce a curious and interesting question of what may be termed a specially Egyptian character, which is, are all these Coptos decrees genuine?

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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They state that certain benefits were bestowed upon selected shrines and their entourage—very valuable benefits indeed financially. Similar documents alleging endowments to persons and places, to the hereditary enjoyment of emoluments set up in much later times are known now, although they state they are authentic and careful copies of ancient pious foundations, to be forgeries, because they are not inscribed in the terms or with the hieroglyphical or the hieratic writing forms proper to the age from which they profess to be derived. The Coptos decrees do not indicate any signs of being even doubtful. Their contents are a surprise, because they set forth a degree of culture and organised legislation unexpected at so early a period. The crudities of the religious texts inscribed in the contemporary Sakkara pyramids had led Egyptologists to consider the civilisation of the time of the Pepis and Unas as very primitive indeed. It is never quite safe to judge of an age's progress and its people's environment by its theological books, because they are probably copies of a sacred literature composed long ago, but held in reverence partly because of its antiquarian obscurities and old world beliefs. The terms and composition of the decrees and their script are familiar to those of the many other inscriptions and funerary texts of the same era, and they are certainly originals, and not late replicas.

Finally, it may have been noticed, nothing has been said about a salary for the Sarou. So far as the records have hitherto been read the office seems to have been honorary. But then they were dwellers by the Nile, and there, whilst rain is absent, baksheesh, as far as we know, has ever been present. May it not be that this explains the omission. The varying and often arguable status of the numerous disputants would, perhaps, render the right decision, or precedents for it, obscure, and then? Well, even Thoth, at the very tribunal of Osiris, seems to have in some cases accepted baksheesh. If mortals whose devotion to duty was unremunerated did so, shall we complain?

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Dardanelles Report. July 26.

Mr. BONAR LAW, in reply to Colonel Archer-Shee, said that he was informed that it was not possible to say when the Dardanelles report would be received. The Government would, as the hon. member suggested, consider the advisability of refraining from publishing any more reports of commissions of inquiry. He was not aware of any report having been published by the German Government of the result of their inquiries into their failure to attain their military objectives on many occasions.

Rations in Palestine.

Mr. MACPHERSON informed Sir H. Dalziel that he had received no complaints in regard to the poorness of the food supplied to the British forces in Palestine, but inquiries were being made as to whether it was possible to introduce some variety into the scale of rations there. A demand had been made recently for an increase of the monthly reserves of personnel in relation to the care of the sick and wounded in Central and East Africa. They knew of no shortage of equipment or drugs, and could fully meet all demands, but a recent cable asked for expedition in supply.

Widows' Pensions. July 27.

Colonel YATE asked the Pensions Minister if he would state what pension the widows and children of officers who died during the siege of Kut would be entitled to under the new Royal Warrant; and what pension the widows and children of officers who died of cholera and other diseases during the operations in Mesopotamia prior to April 1, 1917, would be entitled to.

Sir ARTHUR BOSCAWEN: In cases where the illness causing the officer's death is directly traceable to fatigue, privation, or exposure incident to active operations, whether under the first or second part of the hon. member's question, the pension to the widows and children will be, before April 1, on the scale known as the "intermediate," and after April 1 on the scale known as the "highest." The rates are fully set out in the second schedule of the new Warrant, but I may say that the rates for the family of a captain or subaltern will be £75 for the widow and £20 for each child before April 1, and £100 for the widow and £24 for each child after that date.

The Balkans Question. July 30.

Mr. J. A. BRYCE alluded to the speech made by Mr. Noel Buxton on July 24 on the Balkans question. He said that the hon. member appeared to have gone back on the views expressed in a book published in 1915, wherein he put the case forcibly for the break-up of the Austrian Empire. But now the hon. member gave the House to understand that the Slovaks, Slovenes, Czechs, Croats, and other subjects of the Empire all had *une idée Autrichienne*. This he (Mr. Bryce) questioned very much. He could not believe that the attitude of the new Government in Russia would be one of the maintenance of tyranny in any region. The House was entitled to a statement from the Government regarding its attitude to Serbia and its attitude to the whole quesion of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, in the course of his reply, said: My hon. friend who has just sat down (Mr. A. F. Whyte) and the newspapers all call for precise statements as to what we are going to do in this or that part of Europe—what is the proper method of treating the Jugoslav question, and what is the proper method of treating Austria. You cannot deal with these problems in the precise spirit in which you can deal with an historic problem in the past. None of us has the power of foreseeing the circumstances in which the world will find itself when these problems are finally decided, unless you can arrogate to yourself the gift of prophecy. How can anybody commit himself and his country—and perhaps in a certain sense the Allied countries—to precise statements upon these immensely important questions? You cannot do it, and I feel I should be doing a very ill service to the country were I to attempt to do it now. The debate began by a dispute as to the precise method in which the Austrian Empire was to be treated. What we desire, of course, is that the nationalities composing that heterogeneous State should be allowed to develop on their own lines, carrying out their own civilization and determine the course in which their development should take place. But some of my friends are not content with that statement. They ask:—Do you mean to do that by joining Serbia with Croatia, by separating Bohemia from Hungary? Surely a Foreign Minister dealing with events which are still distant, I fear—I mean peace discussions—would be foolish to discuss that to-day. In any event, as everybody knows, we entered into this war in those early days with little in our mind besides the necessity of defending Belgium and the necessity of preventing France being crushed before our eyes. Those were the two motives that brought us into the war. Nobody with the smallest knowledge of the facts supposes that when Sir E. Grey and the Government of which he was a member made that fateful declaration on Monday, August 3, there was in the mind of either the people who made the declaration or those who listened to it the smallest thought of those great problems which in the course of the war have opened out upon us. Only this is clear: we did not enter the war with any selfish purpose. We hear the phrase now echoed and re-echoed—No Imperialist policy. No war indemnities. We did not go into this war for an Imperialist policy, and certainly not to get indemnities. We entered into it and we have remained in it for purposes which—nobody who understands public opinion in this country will doubt it for a moment—are really unselfish. I do not think, therefore, that we have got anything from that point of view to give up.

The Mesopotamia Campaign. August 1.

Mr. MACPHERSON, replying to an inquiry by Mr. KING whether officers blamed in the report of the Commission on Mesopotamia would be tried by court-martial, said:—The Army Council have called upon the officers subject to their jurisdiction to furnish written explanations of the statements contained in this Report relating to their conduct of their official duties. On receipt of those explanations the Council will consider what further action is to be taken in each case.

The United States and the Balkans.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the United States accepted the invitation to send a representative to the recent Paris conference on Balkan problems; and, if not, what reason could be given for the absence of such representative.

Mr. BALFOUR replied:—The United States Government were invited to the conference, but preferred not to accept the invitation. Their reasons for this decision are entirely the concern of the United States Government themselves.

Distress in Serbia.

Mr. BALFOUR, replying to Lord HENRY CAVENDISH-BENTINCK, said:—The distress in Serbia and various suggestions for relief have repeatedly engaged the anxious consideration of the Allies. The position of Serbia is by no means analogous to that of Belgium. Prior to the war there were net exports of foodstuffs from Serbia valued at about two millions sterling, while in Belgium there were net imports of about 23 millions. As regards Belgium, the Germans gave comprehensive guarantees covering not only foodstuffs imported by the Relief Commission, but also the reservation of native foodstuffs for the Belgians. As regards Serbia, it has been impossible to secure similar guarantees, and the Austro-Hungarians and Bulgarians have requisitioned practically all native foodstuffs. His Majesty's Government have several times declared their readiness to consider sympathetically any practical scheme for Serbian relief embodying essential precautions. No such scheme has yet been presented, and, so long as the hardships of the Serbians are chiefly due to the requisitions of the enemy, his Majesty's Government are unable to accept suggestions which appear only calculated to replace by imported supplies the rations now allowed by the enemy, who would, therefore, benefit directly to the extent of any such imports, without the position of the Serbian population being materially improved.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Eastern Strategy.

Mr. Lloyd George has announced that the fate of Mesopotamia will be settled at the Peace Congress. Provided there is no confusion of thought between Germany's admission of defeat, with the implied acceptance of the Allies' peace terms, and the Congress which will re-draw the maps of Europe, Nearer Asia and Africa, no fault can be found with the decision. The new order must be formally accepted and ratified. In the meantime it is enough to have the assurance that Mesopotamia is never again to be "restored to the blasting tyranny of the Turk." The Russian fiasco, however, has given rise to some uneasiness with regard to the present military situation, a feeling to which the military correspondent of *The Times* is not altogether a stranger when he hints that

The Russian failure in Europe and the continuing absence of indications of any Russian activity in Asia Minor inspire serious reflections, and demand the reconsideration of all our Eastern strategy. . . .

As a matter of fact, climatic conditions are a formidable obstacle to military operations on the part of the Turks as well as our own forces, and before they mend the Russians will have recovered, let us hope, their self-mastery.

The Future of Mesopotamia.

The potentialities of the Arab race are the subject of an article by Dr. T. Miller Maguire in *The Outlook*. He dismisses the supposition that India will look favourably upon a scheme of colonisation in Mesopotamia:—

Are the Arabs fit to help us in our new burdens of Empire, especially if their present "Caliph" and head of their religious organisation, the Sultan of Turkey, is our foe? Are the wild Bedouin not the true descendants to-day of him from whom they claim descent—Ishmael? Is not their wandering spirit incapable of industrial rest?

All Arabs are not Bedouin by any means, and their townsfolk and tillers of the soil and caravan drivers and traders have no more fellow-feeling with Bedouin tribes than had Glasgow merchants with the MacGregors and with Rob Roy. Moreover, the several tribes are often at sincere variance with each other, just as were the Scottish clans in the seventeenth century.

It were a pity indeed if the Arabs could not take part once more in the revival of Syria and Assyria and in the further aggrandisements of their own Arabia Felix. Their present opportunities under British guidance and non-party rule can become unexampled, and unless I am strongly misinformed their revival is at hand, and cannot be interrupted either from Turkey or India, and their Egyptian and Sudan flanks are secure. Have they deteriorated? It is beyond any doubt that in physical prowess and types of body the Arabs are the equals of any other people in any land, and are superior, male and female, to the slum and feeble folk of the European manufacturing and labour types; in mental qualities they have still no superiors, and their religious and their traditional views and deeds under the influence of "Allah" (as lately expounded in London societies) become sublime. At any rate, we were well assured at the London meeting that the Arabs are a very fine race indeed, and capable of being rapidly organised for the restoration of the prosperity, agricultural and commercial, of Mesopotamia; and the sphere of industrial operations will extend from the mouth of the Euphrates to the site of ancient Nineveh.

In all schemes for the future of Mesopotamia, one of the chief problems must necessarily be the adequacy of the population to cope with the material capacity of the country. In other words, will the nomad Bedouins settle down to cultivate the soil? Dr. Maguire has no definite opinion to offer on this point. He writes:—

At present the so-called Arabs of the deserts north of Arabia and east of Palestine are rather marauders or guerilla soldiery than special constables for the safety of traffic and captains of industry. They must cease to trouble by their forays. One of our special correspondents is an expert soldier and man of science also, like the Arab engineers of the Caliphs, whose mighty dams and reservoirs and irrigation works still excite the awe-stricken admiration of the thirsty wayfarer in these lands. He writes to me: "I imagine if the Arabs—*i.e.*, certain Bedouin tribes—can be brought into order and the safety of peaceful settlers assured, that there will be an immense influx of non-Muhamadan settlers from Anatolia and the Caucasus." Indeed, in a very short time even Arabia itself, which has been more or less disturbed by civil wars and feuds of every description ever since Lord Byron, in the time of Napoleon, wrote about "Wahab's rebel brood," would be all the better if the fine qualities of mind and body and soul which were so distinguished in the seventh century could be diverted from Home Rule factions to restoring Mesopotamian civilisation in the early part of the nineteenth.

Great Britain and the Arabs.

The Statist, on the other hand, is attracted by the possibilities of Indian emigration to Mesopotamia. It takes it for granted that Arab interests would be safeguarded, and that the Arabs will supply a portion of the necessary colonisation. A settlement of extraneous populations of some kind, it holds, is indispensable, and it sees the probability of very great advantages in the introduction of both Arabs and Indians. But not the least interesting part of *The Statist's* article is the clear argument for Great Britain acknowledging unequivocally her interests and obligations in this region:—

It may well be doubted whether the Arabs, as they exist at present, are capable of forming an orderly, progressive, and self-supporting State. Presumably, therefore, it will have to be a protectorate of some Power greater than the Arabs just now are capable of creating. And there is much to suggest that the British Empire is the only Power capable of filling the place adequately. We do not think that the suggestion is dictated entirely by national greed or national ambition. Frankly, we of this journal are persuaded that the British Empire is already quite large enough, and that additions to it are much more likely to imperil its future than to strengthen it. Nevertheless, we fail to see what other State amongst the Great Powers can fill the place suggested. To begin with, Mesopotamia lies on the road to India, and it is important in the interests of India, to put the British Empire itself altogether out of the question, that there should not be introduced a neighbour that might prove a thorn in the side of India. In addition to this, Great Britain is intimately concerned with the Persian Gulf. She has made it known to be her policy for many a year that she will not tolerate serious interference with her interests in the Persian Gulf. Consequently, to avoid squabbling, it is advisable that no other Power should be put in a position which might enable it to dominate the Persian Gulf. It is unnecessary to adduce other reasons. Everyone who is capable of taking an impartial view will see that the most probable way of really giving Mesopotamia a chance of progress and of growth is to place it under the protectorate of the British Empire.

Serbia Reborn.

Under the above title a correspondent recently returned from the Macedonian front gives, in the *Illustrated London News*, a picturesque account of the reorganisation of the Serbian Army, and introduces his readers to the commander of the second Serb Army.

Near the camp of the Second Serb Army at Corfu a British motor transport unit had established a little open-air concert place. It was situated in an olive grove, had a central platform of raised turf, and circular benches of turf for seats. The Serbs, devoted to music, soon found out this grove. By some means a grand piano had been obtained. Serb national songs—the warring laments of Kossovo, the soft complainings of village love-songs—resounded from the grove, and were interspersed with "Tipperary" and with French chansonettes.

With the mornings, the music and the laughter of the night forgotten, the thinned numbers of the gallant Serbs remembered it was not so cheerful. The passer-by might see then from the grove, passing along a narrow path leading to a high cliff of the sea coast, Field-Marshal Stephen Stepanovitch, Commander of the Second Serb Army. Every morning, at the same hour he strode along the path—an old lion-like figure, his mane of white hair framing a weather-beaten, granite face. From that high cliff of Corfu, across the water, across Albania, the hills of Serbia could be seen; and the veteran general went up daily to look out on them, to plan, to hope, to resolve.

"Old Lion Stepanovitch."

This is the pen portrait of the Commander:—

A grand old man, Stephen Stepanovitch, standing out among a group of grand old men, as fierce and proud as Achilles, as wise (for he had seen many battles and had known the minds of many foes) as Ulysses. He could be tender to his soldiers, and he could be savagely stern in discipline. Rarely speaking, even to his officers, his few words won always instant obedience and respect. They say he entered the army as a private, and has fought his way up to be Field-Marshal. The story of his victories, and of his more glorious defeats, is an epic of heroism. During this last retreat—when the Serbs, having beaten back the Germans twice, were finally conquered through the foul and treacherous attack of the Bulgars—Stepanovitch brought forty-nine guns in safety over the Albanian hills to Scutari. His soldiers tell with awe and affection that the old Field-Marshal would at times himself haul at the drag-rope of a gun, and, crossing himself, the soldier would add: "His strength was the strength not of a man, but of horses."

Pathos—yes, in thinking of the old man on his daily pilgrimage to look upon the hills of Serbia! But hope and reassurance too; for now he is back to regain Serbia, and with such lion-hearted men the future of his race is assured.

The Balkan Theatre.

It is undoubtedly hard to accept as the last word in military strategy the statement that it is impossible for a regular army under modern conditions to carry out a successful campaign on the Macedonian front. The military correspondent of the *Times*, who has been in the forefront of the "Westerners," and was at one time very bitter against "side-shows," now admits that:—

We can certainly hope that the Allied Forces at Salonika, in Egypt, and in Mesopotamia, combined with such forces as

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the Russians in Asia Minor are able to produce, can reduce the Turks to submission, if all the forces in this part of the world are governed by a single and an intelligent will. They are adequate for this purpose, and the single strategic impulsion must surely at last emerge from the urgent necessity of the case.

From this cautious attitude all the changes are rung until we come to an emphatic demand for an advance in Serbia, such as that put forward by "M.P." in the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—

It requires nothing more than common sense, I think, to see that South-Eastern Europe is a decisive front, and that successful offensive action in this theatre is essential if the Allies are to secure the overthrow of Prussian militarism and establish the principles and ideals for which they are fighting. . . If we ask what stands in the way of vigorous action, we shall hear plenty of excuses and a great deal about the political and military difficulties. What we probably shall not hear will be an account of the means of overcoming them. Yet they can be overcome, if we resolve to act up to our honourable engagements and consult our highest interests. To say that Serbia is unhopeful campaigning ground is to forget the brave and successful Serbian Field-Marshal Misitch, who has fought and won on this very ground time after time. To hint that difficulties might arise in associating the various Allied contingents with a strong policy is to overlook the obvious fact that our own country is interested in nothing beyond the restitution of Serbia's nationhood.

If necessary, "M.P." considers Mesopotamia and Egypt should be allowed to develop along the lines of defensive campaigns in order to feed the Salonika army. Then all that would be required would be to make Field-Marshal Misitch Commander-in-Chief, or at least Chief of Staff.

Articles to Note.

"Sedes and its Marsh," by H. Russell Wakefield, in *Land and Water*.

"The Hope Heirlooms," in *The Field*.

"Armenia: Her Culture and Aspirations," by Arshag Mahdesian, in *The New Armenia*.

THE CORFU AGREEMENT.

A gala reception in honour of the delegates of the Jugoslav Provinces of Austria-Hungary was given at Salonika on July 26 by Prince Alexander of Serbia. These delegates, who for six weeks had been meeting in conclave with the Serbian Ministers at Corfu, had since visited the Serbian front in Macedonia as the guests of his Royal Highness. Both the Serbian Government and the delegates were highly pleased, according to the *Times* correspondent at Salonika, with the results of their joint deliberations, which have led to a complete agreement touching the main objects held in view and the means of attaining them. The essential features of this agreement, as published in the official organ of the Serbian Government, are as follow:—

The authorised representatives of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, recognizing that the desire of our people is to free itself from all foreign yoke, and to constitute itself in an independent National State, agree in declaring that this State must be founded on the following principles:—

(1) The State of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who are also known as Southern Slavs, or Jugoslavs, will be a free and independent Kingdom, with indivisible territory and unity of allegiance. It will be a constitutional, democratic, and Parliamentary Monarchy, under the Karageorgevitch Dynasty, which has always shared the feelings of the nation and has placed the national will above all else.

(2) This State will be named "the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes," and the style of the Sovereign will be "King of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes." The State will have a single coat of arms, a single flag, and a single crown, its emblems being composed of the present existing emblems.

(3) The special Serb, Croat, and Slovene flags and coats of arms may be freely hoisted and used.

(4) The three national denominations will be equal before the law, and may be freely used in public life.

(5) The two alphabets, Cyrillic and Latin, will also rank equally throughout the Kingdom.

(6) All recognised religions shall be exercised freely and publicly, and in particular the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, and Musulman creeds, which are chiefly professed by our people, will be equal and will have the same rights in regard to the State.

(7) The calendar shall be unified as soon as possible.

(8) The territory of the Kingdom will include all territory compactly inhabited by our people, and cannot be mutilated without attaint to the vital interests of the community. Our nation demands nothing that belongs to others, but only what is its own. It desires freedom and unity. Therefore, it refuses consciously and firmly all partial solutions of the problem of its deliverance from Austro-Hungarian domination, and of union with Serbia and Montenegro in a State forming an indivisible whole.

(9) In the interests of freedom and of the equal rights of all nations, the Adriatic Sea shall be free and open to all.

(10) All citizens shall be equal and enjoy the same rights towards the State and before the law.

(11) Deputies to the National Parliament shall be elected by universal suffrage, with equal direct and secret ballot.

(12) The Constitution, to be established after the conclusion of peace by a Constituent Assembly elected by universal suffrage, will be the basis of the life of the State. It will create the possibility of organizing local autonomies. It will come into force after receiving Royal sanction. The nation thus unified would form a State of 12,000,000 inhabitants, which would be a powerful bulwark against German aggression and an inseparable ally of all civilized States and peoples.

NIKOLA PASHITCH, Premier and Foreign Minister of the Kingdom of Serbia;
DR. ANTE TRUMBITCH, President of the Southern Slav Committee.

Corfu, July 7-20, 1917.

At the annual representative meeting of the British Medical Association, held at Connaught Rooms on July 26, a resolution was adopted asking the Council to bestow a mark of the Association's appreciation of the great services which Lieut.-Col. Carter had rendered to the Army and to the State by his public-spirited action in bringing to the notice of the authorities the defects in the medical provision for the Mesopotamia Expedition.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

Additional figures are now to hand regarding the trade of Morocco in the year 1916, which go to confirm all that was written on this subject in THE NEAR EAST a week or two ago. The value of the imports into Laraiche, Tetuan, and Arzila (the Spanish zone) was £833,814, to which the United Kingdom contributed £176,365, Egypt £35,586, and Spain £573,008. The figures are set out in greater detail elsewhere to-day.

***

Apropos Morocco, I observe that an important meeting of the British Merchants' (Morocco) Association was held in London on Wednesday at the Cannon Street Hotel. Mr. Robert Samuel Hunter, the chairman of the association, presided, and among the speakers was Mr. J. M. MacLeod, for long a British Consul in Morocco, who spoke from the experience he gained during his intimate residence in, and association with, the country. A fuller report will appear in next week's issue of THE NEAR EAST.

***

British merchants at home, and traders in the Near East, will appreciate the continued interest taken by the Board of Trade in the campaign to capture enemy trade. In order that British manufacturers may have an opportunity of familiarising themselves with German and Austrian methods of advertising, the Board have collected more than 8,000 specimen catalogues of German and Austrian origin, and these may be inspected at the British Industries Fair Office, 32, Cheapside, London, E.C.2. A new index has been prepared, in which the catalogues are classified both as regards articles of manufacture and names of manufacturers, thus rendering identification of any particular catalogue a simple matter. Copies of this index may be obtained by manufacturers in the United Kingdom on application to the Comptroller-General, Department of Commercial Intelligence, British Industries Fair Office.

***

A great deal of interest has been caused by the suggestion made the other day by the London Chamber of Commerce in its report on the Government control of trade that the Government in official undertakings should avail itself more extensively of the services of the business community. There is a general acceptance of the suggestion, although it is not alleged, of course, that the State is unable to manage any business concern successfully. The articles by our Cairo Correspondent, in which he deals with neglected trade opportunities in Egypt, suggest how conditions may be improved, emphasising the utility of State and private co-operation, and I think it will be in this direction that the greatest measure of success will be achieved.

***

The Empire Resources Development Committee supports this view, I see. "Past failures, or but partial successes, have been due to the inadequate recognition" of that principle, the honorary secretary of the committee pointed out recently, "and the committee, in advocating the development by the State of the natural resources of the Empire with a view to paying the Empire's war debt, has consistently laid it down that any board appointed for the development of Empire resources should be composed chiefly of business men. . . ." I do not necessarily express agreement with the aims of the committee—that is another question altogether—but its view regarding the introduction into State affairs of the outside business element is important and worth consideration.

***

I have before me the twelfth annual report of the British Cotton Growing Association for the year 1916, and all interested in this expanding and vital industry should provide themselves with a copy of the document. No point of interest is excluded, cotton interests in every part of the producing world are discussed, and many points of view bearing on production are set out with much lucidity. New fields have been opened up, or are being experimented with, difficulties are explained, and grievances — there are grievances in the cotton-growing business as there are in all others—are shown up.

***

An interesting matter discussed in the report is lack of tonnage. Owing to this exigency of the war, we are told, "it has only been possible to ship a very small proportion of the cotton seed produced in West Africa, Uganda, and Nyassaland, and in consequence many thousand tons of seed have had to be destroyed. It is a great pity that more shipping was not available. . . . It is estimated that the value of the cotton seed destroyed in 1916 amounts to more than £200,000." At the same time, the Council of the Association pay a tribute to Messrs. Elder Dempster and Co., Limited, "who have done everything possible under very difficult circumstances to maintain regular sailings."

***

Shareholders of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, were in great form at the annual ordinary meeting held in London on July 31, when the chairman, Major Le Breton, placed before them an elaborate statement of the working of the company in 1916 and of its position. The dividends and general results of the year have already been described in THE NEAR EAST, but Major Le Breton had many satisfactory things to place before the meeting. "Our present position *vis-à-vis* the Government is very satisfactory, and we need not be without hope that we might be able to continue under an extended or modified contract with the Government" (the concession is terminable in 1938) was one. "Our trading business, on the lines we are conducting it, requires but very little provision of money from us, and we hold that any surplus can be best utilised for the acquisition of further markets," was another.

***

These are matters which my readers may find for themselves in the report of the meeting, which will be found elsewhere to-day. It is a report of success and of progress, and the tribute paid to the management and staff was deserved, for no concern in the Near East has been better controlled and more efficiently administered.

***

The latest "deal" of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, Limited, does not concern ships, but buildings—they have just purchased from the Public Trustee, who had taken possession under the Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act, "Hamburg-Amerika" House, the London headquarters of the famous German shipping company. These are magnificent premises in a fine thoroughfare in a leading locality, and everything in them testifies to the thoroughness of our chief enemy. As the auctioneer declared when putting the building up to sale, "even the indiarubber mat, which spread all over the ground floor, cost between £600 and £700"! The building is now in the occupation of the Ministry of Munitions. The price paid for it by the "P. and O." was £60,200.

***

The troubles of the Bibi Eibat Oil Company have been acute ever since the war broke out, and the chairman, Mr. Herbert Allen, has written to the *Financial Times* a letter in which he amplifies the statement he made at the annual meeting a fortnight ago. In his address to the shareholders, Mr. Allen declared that speeches of Ministers showed that recent events in Russia had brought the industries of the country into such a condition that only a miracle could save the country from economic ruin. He writes in the letter to which I have referred: "Since then" (the date of the meeting) "further letters and newspapers have arrived, and from these I gather that the Government . . . . has now requisitioned the oil required in the interior. That would matter little to the producers were they paid for each month's deliveries on the 15th of the following month, in accordance with the practice which has prevailed in Baku since the oil industry was first created. But the Government is getting more and more behind in its payments, and in the middle of June was only paying for oil taken last February"! Comment does not seem necessary.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Whisky de Luxe
Is held in high esteem by those who know it because of its delicacy of flavour, its creamy smoothness and beauty of bouquet.
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THE SUDAN.

No. II.—The Nuba Mountains Province.

BY PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

As was pointed out in a previous article, dealing with Kordofan, the beginning of 1914 witnessed the dismemberment of that province to the extent of some 31,560 square miles of territory, the area being formed into a separate political department, under the title of the Nuba Mountains Province.

It is a country of many hills—few, however, being of any great elevation—but covered for a certain part to a height, say, of 300 ft. to 400 ft. from their base, with a generous soil, which enables cultivation of food crops to be undertaken with success. There are, likewise, lakes—such as the Abu Serai, the Sherkeila, El Rahad, and El Birka—some of which, however, dry up completely after the rains—picturesque wadis and mountain streams. Altogether a desirable land, one might say, but settled with a population not as yet exceeding 35,000.

Products.

The natural products of this favoured region are many, and with more systematic and assiduous cultivation they might be enormously increased. Dukhn, simsim, cotton, tobacco, and other crops are raised, and a small but increasing trade is carried on in the capital, Talodi, which one day may become a flourishing and important centre. Other trade centres and, at the same time, *mamurias* are Dilling, Kadugli, and Tendik.

As part of the Kordofan province, the country had long been regarded as a substantial contributor to the revenues of that department, so that a start had already been made on the road to prosperity. Year by year the area under dura has been extended, the Nubas unexpectedly proving themselves a very enterprising and hardworking lot when their own interests—clearly explained to them by their rulers—are in question. Particularly is this noticeable in the northern half of the province, where the proximity of the railway affords the inhabitants admirable facilities for the ready and lucrative sale of their produce.

When other parts of the Sudan have done poorly, the Nuba Mountains have been enabled to make quite an encouraging showing. Cotton, for instance, has done, and is doing, extremely well, the rains in this region of the Sudan being rather more dependable and, as a rule, more generous.

Not content, however, with the classes of produce enumerated, the Government has encouraged and has practically assisted the planting of date-palms on the banks of the Khor Tendik, near the headquarters of the district of that name. The plants have so far done well, but it must necessarily be some time yet before the experiment can definitely be pronounced a success. What can be said, however, is that Doleib palms flourish remarkably well all along the banks and in the neighbourhood of this khor.

Trade in 1917.

A feature of the trade of the Nuba Province this year has been the exports of simsim from Talodi to Omdurman. This has occurred for the first time in the history of the province. It is hoped that next year even a larger amount of the product will take place, since the natives are beginning to understand the advantages of cultivating it. The fact may in no small measure be attributed to the decrease in transport rates between Tonga and Khartoum. Things look very encouraging in the Nuba Province; the last news to hand shows that some slight showers of rain have been experienced with the promise of more to follow. For the year 1917 the revenue is expected to reach the sum of £E18,750, as against £E19,100 in 1916; on the other hand, the expenditure is expected to be £E21,631, against £E20,257 for the previous year.

Much care and attention have been given to the making of good roads, and one of the best in the Sudan is that between Talodi and Kadugli, the principal thoroughfare for interior trade. Unfortunately, the keeping in repair of this road is a continual expense, the heavy rains invariably causing great destruction to the surface.

Public Works.

In order to facilitate the transport of the ever-extending export trade of the province there has been lately constructed a permanent bridge over the Khor Abu Habl, between Rahad and Jebel Daier. It is believed that this route, at least, will be passable at all times of the year, notwithstanding the heaviest of rains. Another bridge is also contemplated—if not already commenced—over Khor-el-Afin, near Kadugli, on the main road between Talodi and El Obeid. Meanwhile, the road between El Sheg, in the centre of the Awlad Hameid country, and Kaka, on the Nile, has been greatly improved, and wheeled traffic upon its surface is now at almost all times possible. The provincial Administration is evidently, and rightly, of Carlyle's opinion that "good roads are the best proof of a country's advancement in civilisation."

Tendik is becoming of more importance as a trading centre, and has advanced since the headquarters of the district were removed there (some time in 1913) from Tagalle. Tendik is not only more centrally situated, but it has the advantage of being on the El Obeid-Rahad-Talodi road, and traversed also by one of the main Baggara Arab cattle routes of the province. That Tagalle has not itself suffered grievously from the change, however, is shown by the improvements that have ensued there also, the "Sultan" having dispensed with his common grass *tukl* and built himself, if not a "lordly pleasure house," at least a substantial two-storeyed residence, an example which has been followed by several of his more opulent subjects. That the Nubas and the Dinkas, who mainly form the inhabitants of the Nuba Mountains Province, are exceedingly prosperous is rendered abundantly clear by the manner in which many of them now live. They now demand money in place of trade goods in payment for their grain, and they prefer to purchase at their discretion such luxuries as mostly appeal to them—sugar, tea, coffee, and other things such as no native of the Sudan had even heard of before the British Government brought them the means of making money, and either keeping it or expending it upon articles of pleasure. Many of the women of their households have their own sewing-machines, and it is said that more Singer machines have been disposed of in this province than in any other.

Cattle Breeding.

The people have not been without their troubles. In 1914 there was a lamentable outbreak of contagious pleuro-pneumonia among their cattle, and some heavy losses among the stock, as well as among the goats, which were attacked in the Talodi district, ensued. But, with commendable promptitude, the Veterinary Department of the Government took the situation in hand, and the result was the suppression of the disease and the speedy reopening of the province to cattle trade. Herein there is undoubtedly a great future.

In the south there is a small and very active breed of goats, which seem to carry more meat in proportion to their size than the ordinary Arab breed. They could be multiplied and sold at good prices in Egypt or locally. The future of the horse-raising industry might also be assured were some pains to be taken in this direction. The Baggara tribes own a particularly poor-looking, weedy breed, which might, however, be very much improved by importing a few good stallions, and which, it is believed, would do very well in the country after a time.

The one drawback to Nuba Mountains is the climate for some—indeed, for the greater—part of the year. The rains being very heavy, there is always more or less malaria in the district, while the number of disease-carrying insects is very considerable. Nevertheless, the general health of the people, both European and native, is said to be "good," and if this is so, it is doubtless due to the precautions that are taken to keep in subjection, as much as is possible, the pests referred to.

TRADE AT MOROCCAN PORTS.

Figures of the Spanish Zone in 1916.

H.M. Agent and Consul-General at Tangier (Sir H. E. White, K.C.M.G.) has furnished the following particulars of the foreign seaborne trade of the ports of the Spanish and French Zones in Morocco during 1916, compiled from statistics published in the respective Official Bulletins of the Zones:—

The value of the imports during 1916 into the various ports of the Spanish Zone was as follows: Laraiche, £385,762; Tetuan, £423,020; and Arzila, £25,032; making a total of £833,814. The total value of imports into the above-mentioned three ports in 1915 was £853,996.

The value of imports from the principal countries of consignment during 1916, as compared with 1915, was as follows:—

—	1915.	1916.
	£	£
United Kingdom	218,882	176,365
Egypt	25,924	35,586
Spain	511,951	573,008
France	38,071	22,693
Netherlands	31,036	12,057
United States	9,544	9,380

The value of the exports from the ports of the Spanish Zone in 1916 was as follows: Laraiche, £103,934; Tetuan, £7,390; Arzila, £655; making a total of £111,979. The total value of the exports from these three ports in 1915 was £84,661.

The respective shares of the principal countries to which exports were consigned were as follows:—

—	1915.	1916.
	£	£
United Kingdom	27,792	28,212
Spain	43,179	79,368
France	8,147	4,205
Italy	5,204	137

It will be observed that the total value of imports into the Spanish Zone in 1916 was somewhat lower than in 1915, whilst that of exports was considerably higher. As was to be expected, it was Spanish trade that especially increased, whilst British and French trade both decreased. The importation of sugar from Egypt caused the greater part of the rise in the value of imports from that country.

The increase in the import trade of Tetuan as compared with that of Laraiche is a notable feature in the return, the trade of the former having been previously insignificant, whilst that of Laraiche was important, goods for Fez passing largely through the latter port. This trade, however, is gradually being diverted to Kenitra and Rabat, so that the imports at Laraiche are declining. It is difficult in the absence of detailed statistics to account for the great increase in the import trade of Tetuan in 1916, but, if statistics were available, it would probably be found that a large proportion of imports into that port consisted of Government and military stores.

The French Zone.

Supplementing the information contained in the notice on pp. 167-8 of the *Board of Trade Journal*, of April 26, relative to trade at French Moroccan ports in 1916, Sir H. E. White has forwarded provisional statistics showing the values of the principal articles imported into the various ports of the Zone during 1916. The most important items are the following (the values being calculated at par):—

	£
Sugar	1,723,723
Cotton piece goods	1,315,261
Tea	451,555
Candles	235,256
Machinery, iron, and hardware	215,245
Mineral oils	166,522
Flour and semolina	157,385
Coal	147,634
Cement	124,794
Soap	96,010

The *Neues Pester Journal* declares that crop prospects in Austria are unfavourable.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Diminished Demand for Piece Goods.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, August 2.

There have been indications of a falling demand in the market during the past week and sellers have met with rather less encouragement. The quieter state of affairs has been somewhat due to the uncertainty which prevails as to the position of the industry when the scheme of the Control Board with regard to the curtailment of production is put into force. It is understood that the proposal is for a stoppoge of 40 per cent. of the spinning and weaving machinery throughout Lancashire, but at the time of writing no official statement has been made.

The outlook for supplies of Egyptian cotton continues rather better, but there is much difficulty in shipping supplies from Alexandria to this country.

In the Egyptian yarn section there has been some anxiety owing to rumours relating to the financial position of certain firms. It is understood that the owners of some mills have gone short in the raw material, and of course the market has gone against them.

Buying in carded and combed qualities has been very irregular. The inquiry in cloth for Egypt remains healthy, and a fair turnover has again transpired in a variety of goods. The embargo on exports to Greece is very harassing, as supplies in that market are wanted badly.

Miscellaneous sales have occurred for India, chiefly in light goods, but the dulness in grey shirtings continues very pronounced. For China the turnover has not been so important as in recent previous weeks, but sales in bleaching and grey goods total to moderate dimensions. The prospects for manufacturers remain uncertain, but some makers have more work to go on with than a month ago. American yarns have moved off quietly, and, speaking generally, spinners have met with very little encouragement. It is extremely difficult to keep down stocks in certain counts and qualities. A steady demand has come through in single and two-fold yarns for India.

AMERICAN REPORTS.

A Reuter telegram from Washington dated August 1 reports that the United States Department of Agriculture states the average condition of the cotton crop up to July 25 was 70.3 per cent., as against 72.3 per cent. to the same date last year. The total cotton crop is estimated at 11,949,000 running bales.

A later message states that the announcement by the Agricultural Bureau that the crop condition was only 70.3 per cent. caused an excited and violent advance in cotton, as for several days prices have eased in expectation of the report showing an improvement. Consequently there was general surprise, and within ten minutes October advanced from 23.74 to 25.30.

Cotton opened steady, but 16 to 23 points lower. Values declined at first owing to selling by foreign and spot interests; then advanced rapidly on shorts becoming scared over the bullish Bureau condition report and Southern operators buying. Some realising followed on bearish private crop advices, but further advances took place later under buying by spot houses. The market closed steady, 63 to 77 points up. Spot quiet at 60 points gain. New Orleans spot is 25 points higher.

TRADE NOTES.

Tunis.

H.M. Consul-General at Tunis reports that a Swiss subject in that town, who claims to have had a considerable business experience in France, South Russia, Algeria, and Tunis, wishes to secure agencies in Tunis for United Kingdom manufacturers of cotton tissues (including shirtings, calico and madapollams); chemicals (including caustic soda, carbonate of soda and copper sulphate); aniline dyes; and also hardware (including nails, tinplates, and rod tin).

United Kingdom manufacturers and producers of the goods mentioned, desirous of appointing an agent in Tunis, may obtain the name and address of the enquirer on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2. In making application the reference number (266) should be quoted.

Algeria.

The following is a translation of the French Ministerial Decree of July 8, published in the *Journal Officiel* for July 9:—

Article 1.—As from July 9, 1917, the provisions of Article 7 of the Ministerial Decree of April 13 last, namely, that until the quantities which may be imported had been fixed French import licences need not be obtained in respect of goods subject to the arrangement as to "contingents," are withdrawn.

Consequently, as from that date, and except in the cases of "temporary importation," transhipment and transit operations and of goods in respect of which a general relaxation of the prohibition of importation has been decreed, goods produced in or coming from foreign countries may only be imported in virtue of a special licence granted on the advice of the "Comité des dérogations aux prohibitions d'entrée."

Article 2.—Unless they have duly lodged applications for import licences and have received notice of the decisions thereon, (French) importers are required to suspend all shipments and to refrain from ordering any shipments from abroad under penalty of liability to re-export any goods arriving before the necessary formalities are completed.

Article 3.—The preceding provisions do not apply to consignments of the goods referred to in the first paragraph of Article 1, which proved, to the satisfaction of the competent authorities, to have been shipped direct to France or Algeria prior to the publication of the present Decree (*i.e.*, July 9).

MORATORIUM IN TURKEY.

The German periodical *Deutsche Levante-Zeitung* of June 16 announced that the moratorium in Turkey had been extended until September 1-14 of this year. By that date 80 per cent. of all debts affected must have been paid off.

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SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty on Wednesday evening issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended July 29, 3 p.m.:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,747
Sailings	2,776

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons (gross) or over	18
Under 1,600 tons (gross)	3
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	6
British fishing vessels sunk	0

In the Admiralty report for the week ended July 22, 24 British merchant vessels were stated to have been lost by mine or submarine—namely, 21 vessels over and three vessels under 1,600 tons.

The following statement was issued in Paris on August 1 for the week ended July 29:—

Entries of vessels into French ports, 1,068; departures, 1,072; French vessels sunk, over 1,600 tons, two; below 1,600, one; vessels unsuccessfully attacked, three; fishing boats sunk, none.

During the week ending at midnight, July 29, the number of merchant ships of all nationalities entering Italian ports was 610, of which the gross tonnage was 412,045, is reported in a message from Rome. The sailings numbered 536, with total gross tonnage 401,168. These figures do not include fishing craft or small coasters. The Italian losses in all seas were four sailing vessels, only one of which was over 250 tons. One steamer was attacked and damaged, but was saved.

CEMENT IN THE SUDAN.

Among the projects which now receive the attention of the Egyptian Minister of Public Works, in connection with the construction of the dam on the White Nile, is one for the supply of the cement required for this great work. It is fortunate that there is a prospect of the required cement being obtained locally. *Al-Mokattam* states that the Finance Ministry has commissioned an expert to proceed to the Sudan to study the subject and select the most suitable place for the erection of the works. It is stated that the locality will probably be in the vicinity of the site decided upon by the Public Works Ministry for the White Nile Dam.

COTTON GROWING IN THE EMPIRE.

Presiding on Friday in Manchester at the annual meeting of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation, Mr. J. B. Tattersall welcomed the appointment of the Cotton Control Board, and urged the Federation to co-operate with it heartily. He complained of frequent lack of co-ordination between Government Departments, instancing cases in which men whom one Department held to be employed on vital industrial work another Department sent into the Army. A matter for profound congratulation was that the Board of Trade had appointed a committee to consider cotton-growing in the Empire—a step which might have been taken profitably many years ago.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Value of Lignite.

When coal in England is so scarce and prices are so prohibitive, it is easy to imagine the difficulties experienced abroad, especially in industrial centres, owing to the existing "famine." In the Near East the position is extremely difficult, and many factories have had to be closed, while electric lighting and power supplying plants have been disorganised, or temporarily discontinued—simply for want of coal. All kinds of available substitutes have been tried—wood, straw, olive residue, acorns, even seaweeds—but without satisfactory results. There is a substance which can be obtained in the Near East, and in considerable quantities, which forms an excellent substitute for coal, however. It is, in fact, undeveloped coal, sometimes called brown coal. It is the lignite which is found in many districts not far from the coast of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Ægean and Black Seas, also in many midland districts of the Balkan States and Asia Minor. In some parts there are developed or working mines, as, for instance, in Greece, in the island of Euboea, or Negropont, and elsewhere; while in others the existence of lignite is evident from deposits and other signs of it found on hillsides, gullies, etc., and where the natives often use it as coal for domestic purposes. In cases of emergency it has been used on board coastal steamers, but, of course, not with the same results as coal, although in some cases by a rearrangement of the fire-bars better results were obtained.

What is Lignite?

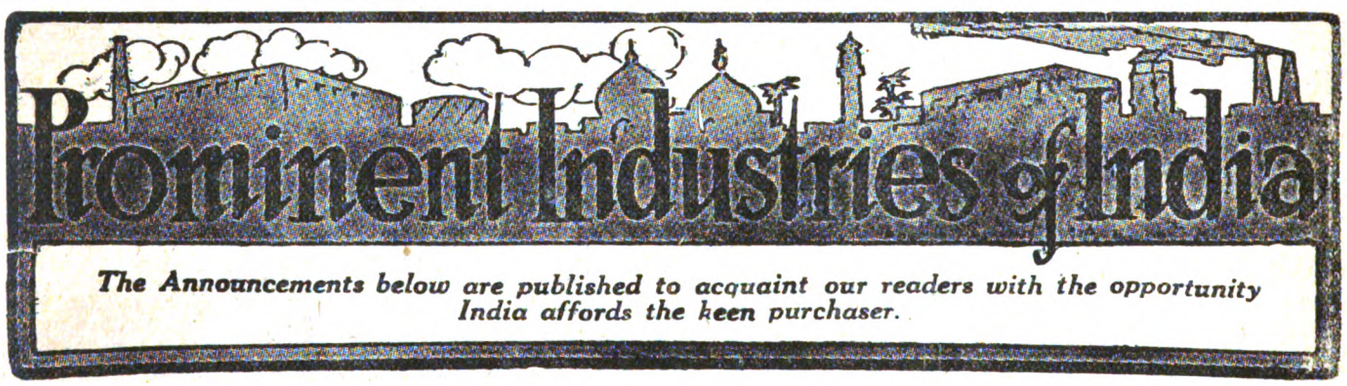
Lignite, or brown coal, is a kind of partially carbonised wood. It is formed when peat, which has subsided some distance in the earth, is submitted to a moderate pressure. Lignite contains about 55 per cent. of pure carbon, as against about 85 per cent. found in good coal. In Australia, according to official reports, the Institute of Victorian Industries has approved the utilisation of lignite as a source of power; and as the conditions under which the lignite is found in Australia, and the test results obtained there, are not dissimilar to those in the Near East, the observations and recommendations of the Australian institute may be of interest to local authorities or owners of lignite properties in the latter region. The institute recommends the use of lignite, as an efficient substitute for coal, for the supply of electrical power to various towns and districts of the State, also for producing town gas, tar and its derivatives, ammonia and coke, and for making briquets for household and other requirements.

The Cost.

With regard to cost, it was found that while Newcastle (N.S.W.) slack coal costs in Melbourne 20s. per ton, the cost of lignite is 2s. 3d. per ton at the mine, situated some eighty-five miles from Melbourne. Lignite, with 40 per cent. moisture, has 0.416 the heat value of Newcastle coal. Electrical energy produced at the mine by 5s. 5d. worth of lignite equals the amount produced in Melbourne from 20s. worth of Newcastle coal, and can be transmitted to town at about half the fuel cost of the latter. With regard to briqueting, lignite briquets need no binder, and can be produced for 11s. to 13s. per ton. The subject is worth the attention of local authorities in the Near East, where the question of fuel is often an impediment in the progress of industry.

The Big German Gun.

We heard much of the 17-in. German gun at the beginning of the war, but not so much recently, especially since the appearance on the battlefield of the "terrible," as the Huns call it, British arm, which has proved superior to the German war-machine in every way. However, the latter is still a wonderful machine. Two hundred men are necessary to work each gun; the mounting takes twenty-five to twenty-six hours, as every gun is composed of 172 parts. The complete gun weighs about eighty-eight tons, and the foundation-plate about thirty-eight, and twelve railway wagons are necessary for the transport of one of the weapons. It is electrically fired from a distance of 300 yards. The projectile weighs 880 lbs., and is about 5 ft. 6 ins. long. Each shot costs £550. The range of the gun may be estimated from the fact that the forts at Liege were destroyed from a distance of eighteen and a-half miles.



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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

The ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Markets, Ltd., was held on July 31 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Major W. I. Le Breton (chairman of the company) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen,—My colleagues and I felt considerable satisfaction in issuing to the proprietors on the 17th of this month our report and the accounts for the year 1916. I trust that your study of these may have afforded you similar satisfaction and that I may now take these documents as read. (Agreed.) The result of the year's working enables us, as you have been informed, to recommend what I will call our ordinary dividend of 10 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent. We propose the distribution in this form because we consider the bonus due to circumstances more than usually subject to variation, and because we also ask your acceptance of it as making up to 10 per cent. the smaller dividend of 8 per cent. paid for the year 1914, and you will therefore be able to regard it that a continuous return to our ordinary shareholders of 10 per cent. has been made for six consecutive years. Our deferred shareholders stand to receive £3,945, equal to £13 3s. per share; we have added £2,348 11s. 6d. to our general reserve so as to bring it up to a round figure, and we have set aside the sum of £10,000 estimated to be due to the Government of Egypt as their participation in the year's profits and to the British Government as tax on excess profits. The balance carried forward is increased by £904 13s. 5d. This is by far the best showing that we have ever made, and again I hope to show you that our progress has been satisfactory in all important directions. (Hear, hear.)

On this occasion I wish to refer to the fact of which I know you are well aware, that our profits are derived from two main classes of our business—the one protected and the other unprotected by our contract with the Government of Egypt. In the first category fall the market earnings proper, including a very small amount received from three such establishments held by us outside our concession. This business constituted the basis on which this company was formed. In the second category falls our trading business, which has been gradually and independently built up by ourselves in recent years and from very small beginnings, and this is, and will be, we are proud to feel, a special testimony to the care with which your interests have been looked after by those to whom they have been entrusted, from the highest to the lowest. The gentleman to whom pre-eminence should be given in this matter is our general manager, Mr. C. E. Duffield—(hear, hear)—more particularly because during these many years he has hardly ever been free from some such addition to his work, the success of which depended upon his careful personal attention to it. In regard to the variations in our market earnings I cannot usefully repeat, and I have really nothing of interest to add to, the information supplied by the directors' report, while, in explanation of the special circumstances affecting our position during the past year, I am reduced to repeating what I said a year ago of the effect upon our markets of existing war conditions. We continued to be deprived of all supplies of camels and sheep from the countries both east and west of us, while war work has attracted numbers of inhabitants from our districts to places outside our zone of operations.

On the other hand, we have doubtless derived benefit from the prosperity of the cultivator owing to the higher prices obtained by him for his produce to meet the requirements of the largely increased army at present stationed in Egypt, and by the record prices which have ruled for Egyptian cotton. There is one other matter in this connection on which I have to speak. None of us can forget the losses and anxiety we suffered in earlier years from the prevalence of cattle plague. In more recent years I have had the satisfaction of describing the measures taken by the Government for dealing with it, and their success owing to the efficiency both of the measures themselves and the manner in which they were applied. More recently still I had to tell you that on the score of expenses the Government had been obliged to curtail its operations in this direction, but still I felt we had seen the worst of it. This opinion I still hold, but I regret to inform you that there has been some recrudescence of it, and in consequence of this and other diseases of cattle we have lost 853 market days, against 681 in the previous year. It has since become more serious, and at the date of our latest advices from Egypt we had all our markets closed to horned cattle, against about a quarter of that number at the corresponding time of the previous year.

In miscellaneous business, our report will have shown you that we made a profit of nearly £17,000, as against rather more than £7,000 in the previous year. You will remember that in reviewing the accounts of 1915 I pointed to the fact that in that period we had made our largest profits from sales of nitrate of soda, but we felt that this business must suffer from our reluctance to lay in stocks at the excessive costs of freight, insurance, etc., then, and indeed still, prevailing. We were practically forced to our conclusion in spite of the serious facts that we felt we were depriving ourselves of this source of present profit, and might be damaging the future prospects of this business. I am pleased to say that we have done neither to any serious extent, and, moreover, we see sufficient reason to believe that our decision may prove to be of advantage to the company. I told you that we were a year ago negotiating for a somewhat different business in another commodity of the same nature as, but generally considered superior to, nitrate of soda for our purposes. These negotiations, which were initiated by a friend in Egypt, to whom our thanks are due, were brought to a successful issue, and as a result we are now, and have been during part of the past year, conducting a business on commission in sulphate of ammonia with Messrs. Miller and Co., of Glasgow, who in this matter, and so far as we are concerned, represent the well-known Sulphate of Ammonia Association.

You will, of course, realise that the volume of the past year's business in this has been affected by a fractional period of time and by the high prices ruling, but we are satisfied with our beginning and have every reason to hope that it will to a large extent take the place of nitrate of soda. Our agreement provides that, where it cannot do so, we are free to continue business in nitrate of soda, but you can form your own opinion of the course of events when I tell you that, as against our fears of running short, we still had at the end of 1916 a small quantity of nitrate of soda in our possession—not by any means because it was not saleable at a good profit to ourselves, but because we wished to preserve the one for special purposes and to push the other. If all goes well I have said that the company will derive an advantage from the change, and no one will have so great a reason to welcome it as your board. Apart from the recognised security of a commission business, there did exist much cause for anxiety in the outright purchase of large supplies of nitrate of soda even in ordinary times. I may tell you, with considerable satisfaction, that we never made a bad bargain, and we made some exceptionally good ones—(hear, hear)—but in justice I must add to this statement the explanation that we were very efficiently protected by the advice of Mr. G. M. Bauer, one of our shareholders, whom I am pleased to see present on this occasion. I must also add that this gentleman materially assisted us in effecting the arrangement with our sulphate of ammonia friends, and I am not on forbidden ground in saying that these latter, in their turn, have now shown their confidence in us by becoming shareholders. (Hear, hear.) You will recollect that I also told you a year ago that we were embarking upon a business in phosphates with the Egyptian Phosphate Company, of Glasgow. The untutored and local use of the crude phosphates obtainable in Egypt for agricultural purposes is of ancient date in the vicinities of some of the existing beds, but attention has only recently been given to the more general use of this substance in improved forms. Some few years ago our company started upon the supply in the form of superphosphate, which had to be imported and was difficult and costly to handle. The company which we now represent claims to produce a specially treated basic phosphate, to which they have given the name of Ephos, and which is free from these objections. They assert that this is in every way superior to superphosphates; their works are conveniently situated for us, and we have the sole rights of sale in Egypt. We have recently taken over from Messrs. Cooper and Sons an agency for their cattle dip and other specialities.

Turning now to the net results of the year's working, I told you a year ago that the then resulting dividend was four times that of seven years before. If we now take the bonus into consideration we may say that it is nearly five times that figure, but this alone is an inadequate measure of our advance. The net revenue for the year from all sources amounted to £44,745 16s. 5d., against our previous best year, 1911, when it amounted to £33,605. On the present occasion we have had to provide for the excess profits tax payable here, and for an increased participation in our profits by the Government of Egypt, as well as for a higher rate of income-tax But in spite of this there remains to be dealt with on our operations for the year the sum of £34,745, against £32,504 in the year just referred to as our previous best. (Applause.) From this amount, in addition to our fixed charges, we are carrying nearly £2,350 to our general reserve, the total of which now stands at £6,500. (Applause.) It is the existence and probable more rapid growth in the future than in the past of our reserve fund which supplies the reason for my having asked you to keep in mind that our business is in part dependent upon and in part independent of our contract with the Government.

You are aware that our concession is terminable in 1938. Between this and then much of course, may happen. We know that our present position vis-à-vis the Government is very satisfactory, and we need not be without hope that we might be able to continue under an extended or modified contract with the Government; but in the absence of anything of the kind we should find ourselves much in the following position. Our debentures—that is, in 1938—would have been previously paid off, and our share capital would be then repaid at par by means of our sinking fund. We should have to relinquish our 120 markets covered by our concession, and should remain in possession of what I will call the rest. This latter would be comprised of our miscellaneous trading business and any duly authorised markets then worked by us. You will readily realise that these two classes of our remaining business would assist one another, and more especially that, in order to maintain our trading business, already of importance and promising, it is very necessary to have a sufficient number of markets as distributing centres. Our trading business, on the lines we are conducting it, requires but little provision of money by us, and we hold that any surplus can be best utilised for the acquisition of further markets. Even in the interval between now and the termination of our concession they are useful to us in adding to our earnings without materially increasing our expenses. We now have three outside markets, with the prospects of which we are satisfied. If it had not been for the outbreak of war we should by now have owned others. The directors believe that it is in the company's best interests to proceed in the direction indicated, and that, after the war, good opportunities will present themselves of doing so, some of which we have

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already studied. We think it right to mention this, even at this early stage, for it will remove the impression that either our growing reserve will be available for distribution, or that the year 1938 is necessarily the end of all things for the company. (Hear, hear.) As usual, I will say a few words about the prospects of the current year. Our net earnings for the first quarter of the year show an increase of close upon £2,500, and at July 19 our markets' earnings showed an increase of more than £5,000 over those of the corresponding period of the year we have had under review. (Hear, hear.) The improvement indicated in these figures should be considered in connection with the fact, which I have already mentioned, of the serious increase of cattle plague—the one, indeed, being in spite of the other. (Hear, hear.) Such an event would in itself be satisfactory, but I ask you to regard it as more especially so, because the one represents the continuous growth of our business, and the other is, we may hope, a removable and, consequently, a temporary misfortune. The Government of Egypt has proved its ability to deal with the matter when other circumstances are favourable, and if somewhat out of hand at present, it is so, we may hope, like other ills, for the duration of the war only. The other conditions affecting our business remain practically the same, excepting that they are more unfavourable in regard to supplies of our most important fertilisers. At present the export of these is prohibited, but we have obtained from Egypt a recommendation to be allowed to ship a certain amount of sulphate of ammonia considered to be absolutely necessary for agricultural purposes there. On the other hand, we may look for a considerable increase in our business in forage for the Army. In conclusion, and again as usual, it is my pleasure and privilege to refer to the excellent services continued to be rendered by our general manager, Mr. C. E. Duffield, by our assistant managers, and by our indoor and outdoor staff generally. Our increased profits involved increased work and attention to it on their part, and this was intensified by the fact that nine of our European staff are absent on military duty. I feel that our best thanks are due to the staff, and again I have to give special prominence to the name of Mr. C. E. Duffield. (Applause.) If any shareholder has any question to ask, I shall be pleased to reply to the best of my ability. (Applause.)

As there are no questions, I beg to move: "That the report of the directors, dated July 17, 1917, together with the audited statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1916, be and they are hereby approved, confirmed, and adopted."

Lieut.-Col. A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, and the dividends already paid and recommended to be paid were respectively confirmed and approved.

The retiring directors, Lieut.-Col. A. St. John Cooke, D.S.O., and Mr. W. Home, C.I.E., were re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs. Price, Waterhouse and Co., were re-appointed.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
August 2.

This has again been another good week for Egyptian shares, and there is a further almost general rise in prices. The demand has continued both from Egypt and on local account, and a very fair amount of business has been put through; but much more would have been done had there been a more plentiful supply of shares.

Government stocks have remained a firm spot, and Unifieds at 84½ are again ½ higher and with very few sellers. Agricultural Banks are ⅛ up at 5⅜ and Land Banks have been done at 6¼—also ⅛ up. Anglo-Egyptians have further improved 1-16 to 12 13-16, and Nationals have been a very strong market, closing over ¼ up at 16 bid after small dealings at this latter price.

In Land shares Behéras have jumped a further ⅞ to 12½ on buying orders from Egypt, and Behéra Prefs. have improved 5-32 to 4 5-32, but there have been no sellers of the latter.

In Delta Lands a steady local demand has carried the price up a further 3d. to 11s. 3d., and Foreign Trusts have also been fairly largely dealt in between 6s. 3d. and 7s. 3d., closing at the latter figure. Gharbieh Lands have been done at 30s. and 30s. 6d.—about 3s. up—and are still wanted, but for the moment there are no further sellers.

In New Egyptians there has been a steady inquiry, a fairly large number of shares changing hands, and the price closes 4½d. higher at 12s. 7½d. Union Foncières have changed hands to the extent of some 600 shares between 38s. 9d. and 40s. 6d., finishing at 40s., being a rise of 1-32. In United Lands some few thousand shares have been bought on Egyptian and local account.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters are a further ⅛ higher at 12¼, but sellers are very scarce. Salts and Sodas have been dealt in between 24s. 10½d. and 25s. 6d., finishing 3d. higher at 25s. 3d. In Khedivial Mails the market has been absolutely stagnant.

Greek securities, with the exception of Monopoly, which is ½ down at 53, are mostly firmer. The 1881, 1884, and Rente loans have improved a point, and Larissa are ½ higher.

Oil Shares.

Oil shares have been moderately active, but the tendency of the market has been towards irregularity. Anglo-Persian prefs. have been firmer at 23s. 3d., and Anglo-Egyptian "B.'s" fairly active round 15s. 3d. Roumanian Consols reached 12s.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included the following:—Crédit Foncier Egyptien 720 (unchanged); Imperial Ottoman Bank 442 (against 447).

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
July 25, 26	450,000	380,000
July 27, 28, 29	500,000	540,000
July 30	130,000	120,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week July 20.	1917. Week July 19.
Cattle markets	396 ..	264
General markets	382 ..	482
Cattle markets closed	28 ..	123
Receipts (£)	778 ..	746
Total for year	31,271 ..	36,647

The production on the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields last week was as follows:—Gemsah 22 tons against 365 tons, Hurgada 1,129 tons against 1,035 tons.

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STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price July 27.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	58	59
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	58	59
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	53½	53
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55½	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53	53
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	60½	60½
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74	74
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92	92
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, 8c., £60p.	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅜	5⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	12⅜	12⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅛	2⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6¼	6¼	6¼
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	15⅝	16⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/6	15/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	2⅛	2⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	11⅛	12½
Do. Pref.	4½	4	4⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	11/-	11/3
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Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	27/6	27/6
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Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)	1,298,069
Special Reserve	78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	7,334,708
Mixed Tribunals	1,750,768
Egyptian Government	4,358,312
Bankers Accounts	209,815
Cheques and Bills payable	147,819
Sundry other Accounts	384,722
	£E.18,487,213
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	£E. 10,259,047
Sundry Securities	224,824
Advances on Merchandise	557,876
Advances on Securities	1,139,174
Advances otherwise Secured	659,192
Sundry other Advances	307,690
Bills of Exchange	1,504,898
Local Bills Discounted	126,283
Buildings and Furniture	226,189
Money at call and at short notice	536,250
Bankers Accounts	1,106,770
Sudan Government	155,355
Sundry other Accounts	182,782
Cash—	
Notes	1,321,206
Gold	51,019
Silver, Nickel, etc.	128,658
	1,500,883
	£E.18,487,213
Issue Department.	£E.
Notes issued	19,000,000
Gold	5,019,909
* British Treasury Bills	4,480,091
	9,500,000
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	6,068,239
	9,500,000
	£E.19,000,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journel Officiel" of October 30, 1916.)

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Hist.

THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

No. 327.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1917. (Postage, ½d. Foreign, 1d. Annual Subscription, £1.) Price 6d.

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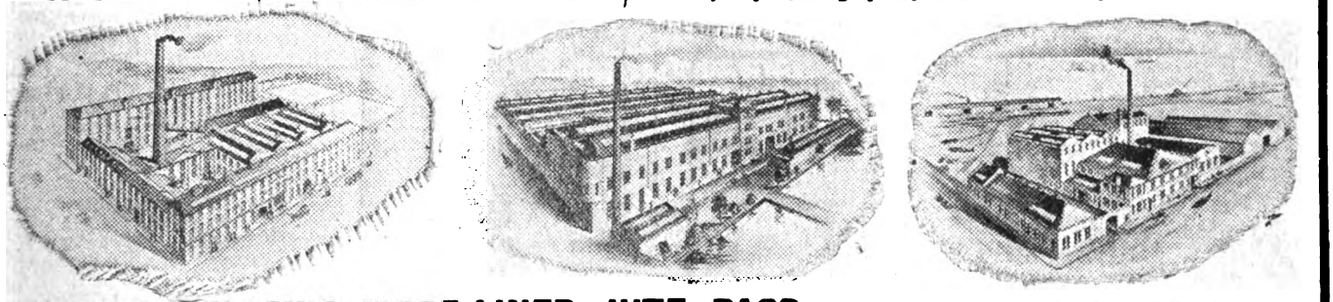

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 327.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Roumanian offensive, which promised so well, and which succeeded in breaking the German-Austrian line on a long sector and securing a large number of prisoners and guns, has come to an end—only temporarily, it is to be hoped. This cessation of activity was not unexpected, for it was easy to foresee that the break-up of the Russian army in Galicia would affect the whole front, and the abrupt stoppage of the Roumanian advance was a necessary outcome of that astonishing collapse. Roumania has nothing to be ashamed of in turning from offensive to defensive; indeed, there was nothing else she could do when her mighty neighbour was stricken with paralysis. Her business now is to husband her strength and wait patiently while Russia restores internal order, and then march forward to victory. But it is clear that this can hardly be hoped for this year; in another few weeks the 1917 campaign must come to an end, and there is little chance of the necessary conditions for success being attained before the winter.

While Roumania necessarily depends on Russia, Russia has not yet learned to depend on herself. Some of her troops still collapse and flee at any German threat; others appear to put up a brave fight, but are overwhelmed by the flight of their comrades, not by the strength of the enemy. In Petrograd M. Kerensky labours hard to restore order, but against immense odds. The Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates will neither accept nor repudiate responsibility, but apparently still desire to be a superior power outside of and controlling the Government—plainly an impossible position, and one that is bound to mean a continuance of trouble, possibly of anarchy. One sign of advance, however, may be noted. M. Kerensky has succeeded in forming his Cabinet, and has secured the co-operation of the Cadet party, whose assistance will be an element of strength, as well as of two of the Socialist parties who support the war.

If this Cabinet can obtain the general support of the country, it should be able to maintain itself and restore order. Its first business, no doubt, will be to rout out the pro-German element and those in German pay; if it can succeed in silencing this propaganda, which has ruined the army and had much to do with the separatist troubles in Finland and the Ukraine, it can then proceed to restore the moral of the troops and prepare for a renewal of the offensive next spring. But internally a long and difficult way has to be traversed before any effective movement against the enemy can be inaugurated.

There has been some talk in apparently well-informed circles of a renewed Turkish offensive both in Palestine and Mesopotamia, under German direction. The German newspapers announce that Marshal von Falkenhayn has arrived in Palestine, presumably to oversee the condition of the Turkish troops, and if that announcement is true, it presupposes an active campaign against the British at Gaza, or possibly a feint in that direction and a real offensive against the British occupation of Baghdad. While it is, of course, impossible to foretell the intentions of the enemy, there are two relevant considerations which make a renewal of activity in the Ottoman Empire seem probable. In the first place, the collapse of Russia has removed a menace in the north-east corner of the Sultan's dominions; Russia can no longer advance in the Caucasus or Mesopotamia, and any hope of her co-operation with the British armies must be definitely abandoned for a long time to come. That fact naturally frees a large number of Turkish troops.

In the second place, the British capture of Baghdad was a serious blow, not only to German prestige, but also to German plans for domination in Asia Minor after the war. The Baghdad Railway scheme becomes a mockery if Baghdad is in British hands, and Mesopotamia cannot be exploited from Berlin; nor has German opinion lightly acquiesced in its loss, although the Press, probably under orders, has said little about it since the first grief at its capture was expressed. Further than that, German statesmen and strategists have long recognised that Egypt was the vital point in the British Empire, and that, if communication by way of the Suez Canal be interrupted or its control taken permanently from Britain, our hold on the East becomes precarious. For that reason, too, it is evident that, if we control Palestine, we secure the eastern route beyond dispute, and Germany has watched with apprehension our advance across Sinai and towards Gaza. On that account it is by no means unlikely that another "hammer-blow" is preparing in that direction.

No fault can be found with the Greek speech from the throne, except perhaps in Berlin and Vienna. The King recognises in explicit language his position as constitutional ruler of the country; he admits, both by implication and directly, the justice of the complaints against his father's methods of government; he rejoices that Greece is now ranged on the side of the

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Allies. More could not well have been expected, and this frank statement will do much to encourage public opinion in France and Britain. The speech was obviously framed by M. Venizelos, and the fact that the King has accepted it publicly after taking his oath as constitutional sovereign is a good augury for the future.

M. Venizelos has also made a statement regarding the future of Epirus, in answer to a petition from the deputies of Northern Epirus demanding their admission to the Greek Chamber. It was the criminal policy of preceding Cabinets, remarked the Premier, which resulted in the withdrawal of Greek troops in occupation of Northern Epirus, and therefore the deputies cannot be admitted. He hoped, however, that the participation of Greece in the war on the side of the Allies would result in this question being settled in favour of Greece at the forthcoming Peace Conference. Had it not been for King Constantine the problem would never have arisen in this shape at all.

Italian organs continue to discuss the position in Epirus and the Corfu manifesto with animation. In the first place certain misconceptions have been cleared away, and the baseless idea that Mr. Balfour and Lord Robert Cecil were prepared to abandon the cause both of Italy and the Southern Slavs in favour of a separate peace with Austria has been dissipated by a statement that their recent speeches in the House of Commons were not intended to cover the whole ground. If any further assurance were needed, the presence of Baron Sonnino in London and the speeches at the third anniversary of the declaration of war and at the Serbian lunch on Wednesday should be sufficient. Britain has not, and will not abandon the cause of Serbia, and the propagandist work of the German and Austrian Press Bureau to that effect is therefore futile. It has, indeed, defeated its own purpose by causing British statesmen to reaffirm our attitude towards the Balkan nationalities.

The Jugoslav manifesto is now accepted as the policy of the Entente, and Italian opinion, which was distinctly contrary to the recognition of that document when it was first issued, is now veering slowly round to an admission of its necessity. The dilemma, indeed, is now frankly recognised that either Italy must see a Southern Slav State set up with an outlet on the Adriatic or allow the Southern Slavs as a whole to be incorporated with the Austrian Empire. There are certainly points at issue which may make for friction between the Italians and the Southern Slavs, and nothing is gained by denying the fact; but it is equally clear that those points are far less dangerous to Italian security than an aggrandisement of Austria, which would be inevitable were the Southern Slavs to make terms for themselves—supposing any reasonable terms were possible—at Vienna. It remains true that Austria is the permanent enemy of Italy, and that the weakening of Austria must continue in the forefront of Italian policy. Other matters, however important, are secondary to this main task. Once it is understood that Italian supremacy in the Adriatic has less to fear from a Southern Slav State than from a predominant Austria, the choice is clear.

Serbians in exile and those at home, if any report of the proceedings is allowed to reach them, will be cheered at the sympathy expressed for them at the luncheon to M. Pashitch in London. There was no ambiguity in the speeches of Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Robert Cecil, and M. Pashitch, in reply, made it clear that the Corfu agreement forms the basis of Serbian national aims. It is, of course, true that we cannot at this moment lay down the exact terms of peace; it would be folly to delimit frontiers at this stage in the war. But there has been so much ignorance and misunderstanding already, not only among the general public, but in circles that ought to be well informed, that the general outlines of our Balkan policy must be defined before the Peace Conference meets. Those aims, it is again made clear, are a final settlement in the Near East on a basis of nationality; and that policy, as President Wilson recognised, implies the creation of a Greater Serbia with an outlet to the sea, and consequently the disappearance of Austria as we now know it. This attitude, which is just and logical, may conceivably lengthen the war by forbidding any separate peace with Austria—a prospect which was already sufficiently remote and treacherous. But the possibility of a longer war is lightly purchased by the certainty of a longer peace; and the bringing into harmony of divergent aims in the Near East is an indispensable preliminary. Fortunately, the recent discussions have shown that these aims are not irreconcilable in presence of a common enemy, and that with time and patience conflicting interests can be brought into line.

A report has been spread from German sources that the harvests in Serbia and the occupied districts in Roumania are above the average, and will shortly be available for German and Austrian consumption. It is certain that the enemy have done their best to enforce cultivation of the soil, and that they will reduce the ration of the unfortunate inhabitants engaged in agriculture to the very lowest level consistent with existence, in order to export as much as possible to the German cities and so aid in the task of "holding out" for which the Kaiser now makes such agitated appeals. But in view of the known conditions of Serbia and to a less degree of Roumania after the terrorisation that both have passed through, it seems highly improbable that those countries should have produced as much as usual, and even less likely that they should have exceeded their normal supply. Frightfulness, whether of the German or Bulgarian variety, is not a good foundation for a policy of increased production. The report has very likely been spread to put the German people in good heart; they were similarly deceived last autumn by the promise of a vast booty from Roumania. But the booty never materialised, and it is possible that the crops will not. The chief product of Serbia at the moment appears to be disease and misery.

It is understood that a Jewish regiment is to be formed in the British Army, which may or may not attract to its ranks some of those able-bodied young men in the East of London whose affection for civilian costume has been rather forcibly commented on of late. Should the proposal materialise kosher meat will be provided, Jewish ceremonies will be observed, and a rabbi will be assigned as chaplain. Further, it is believed that after training they will be detailed for service in Palestine, and it is seriously suggested that they may arrive there in time for the siege and capture of Jerusalem. If anything could appeal to the martial instincts of the race that prospect should do so. It remains to be seen whether the attractions of Stepney are superior to those of Gaza. A very large number of Jews whose parents are settled in England have, it must be remembered, already enlisted in the regular regiments of the British Army, but it is a matter of regret in Jewry that the more recent arrivals in this country have abstained, and so brought some discredit upon the Jewish community which it by no means deserves. These people now have the opportunity of redeeming the stigma they have cast upon their creed.

It is natural that there should be some disquiet as to the position at Aden when a member of Parliament states, as did Mr. G. Lambert on Wednesday, that he has information that exceptional sickness exists among the troops there. The Government denies all knowledge of anything unusual, but inquiries are being made. The British force at Aden, which has fought very gallantly and with small recognition of its work, has been seldom mentioned in the newspapers, and has consequently almost dropped out of the public mind; but it is to be hoped that after this inquiry the Government will promptly obtain the information desired and publish it with all despatch.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 15.

The High Commissioner.

The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate are devoting a good deal of their time to visiting the various institutions in Alexandria, just as they did in Cairo during the past winter. This week their Excellencies visited Victoria College, the headquarters in Alexandria of the British Red Cross and Order of St. John, and the Schools of the Jewish community. In addition, Lady Wingate inspected the Alexandria branch of the Empire Nurses' Club. At each of these institutions their Excellencies spent considerable time, inspecting everything very thoroughly and discussing the work done with all whom they met during their visit. The lively interest which both Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate take in the social work that is being carried on in this country is very much appreciated by those immediately responsible for its execution.

An Egyptian Academy of Letters.

A few months ago, on the occasion of a dinner given in celebration of the anniversary of the foundation of "Al Muktataf," the scientific periodical conducted by the proprietors of "Al Mokattam," certain of the guests emphasized the necessity for a thorough overhaul of the Arabic language with a view to providing it with proper terms to meet the requirements of modern science, arts and industries. Since that date little had been heard of the question, and it was generally thought that the proposal to set up a special committee for the purpose, carried unanimously at the dinner, had met the fate that has so often befallen similar projects in this country in the past. The question has, however, been occupying the earnest attention of the leading Egyptian scholars, and it is now announced that as the result of recent negotiations, an Egyptian Academy of Letters has been formed, and that it has already started its labours. The new Academy consists of Sheikh Selim El Bishri, Rector of Al Azhar University, President; Sheikh Mohamed Bekhit, Grand Mufti of Egypt, Vice-President; Ahmed Bey Loutfi Sayed, Director of the Sultania Library, Secretary; and twenty-two members, amongst them some of the most distinguished Arabic scholars in the country. It has been laid down that the membership of the Academy is to be limited to twenty-eight members, three of whom must possess a knowledge of the Hebrew, Persian, and Syrian languages, as well as Arabic. The need for some such overhauling of the Arabic language as is now proposed has long been felt. Editors, men of science, and schoolmasters have been greatly handicapped in their work by the lack of expressions adequately rendering in the Arabic language the scientific and other modern terms currently used in the West. To meet the requirements of the situation phrases have had to be coined to represent these terms, or the latter have been given an Arabic form, and in this guise have been introduced into the Arabic language, which has consequently suffered in clearness and elegance of expression. The new Academy will endeavour to remedy this state of affairs, and, while regularizing by their inclusion in the Arabic vocabulary those newly coined terms which can be at once accepted, it will find for others phrases which, while leaving no doubt as to their meaning, will at the same time not affect the elegance of diction and expression for which the Arabic language is so justly famous. In view of the fact that the Academy includes amongst its members such well-known scholars as H.E. Ahmed Zaki Pasha, the Secretary of the Council of Ministers; Dr. Faris Nimr, whose renown as a stylist is known throughout the Arabic-speaking world; and Dr. Yacoub Sarruf, who is equally well known as a scientific writer, there should be little fear of the Academy not finding a satisfactory solution to its labours.

A Red Cross Libel Action.

The Supreme Consular Court in Cairo has been occupied for ten days with a case which has aroused the keenest interest in the local British colony. It was an action brought by Captain E. Yates. of the New Zealand Medical Corps, and lately of the Medical Staff of the Red Cross Hospital, at Giza, against Colonel Sir John Rogers, Commissioner for the Red Cross Society, for slander in respect of a statement made by him that Captain Yates was a disturbing element and that he had no right to wear the King's uniform. Mr. J. P. Foster, barrister-at-law, appeared for Captain Yates, and Mr. R. L. Devonshire defended Sir John Rogers. There were a great number of witnesses, including several high staff officers, Lieutenant-Colonel L. L. P. Phillips, Commandant of the Red Cross Hospital, and some of the staff. The jury found that the words "disturbing element" were uttered maliciously, and that the statement that the plaintiff had no right to wear the King's uniform was not true at the time it was made nor was it true now. They awarded Captain Yates the sum of £180 damages with costs, and associated themselves with Judge Grain in expressing regret that it had not been possible for the parties to settle their difference outside the court. It should be mentioned that every effort was made by the lawyers to obtain a settlement, and that the plaintiff in the early part of the hearing made quite a reasonable offer, but that the defendant could not see his way to accept it.

Whilst it is certainly in the highest degree regrettable that this case should have had to come into court, and thus waste the valuable time of many officials and residents, who at the present juncture could have been more profitably occupied, nevertheless, the public interest will in the long run undoubtedly benefit from the publicity given to the condition of things existing in the organisation of the Red Cross in Cairo. The impression which the evidence has made on the general public is that the internal organization leaves much to be desired, that too much work has been put on the shoulders of one or two of the members of the local committee, and that the various incidents which led up to this action, as well as those, of which details transpired in the course of the hearing, ought not to have taken place.

The Cotton Seed Market.

A curious situation has arisen in the local cotton seed market. As everyone knows, the price at Hull has been fixed at £19 per ton, and yet purchases have been, and are still being, made at Alexandria at prices which, if freight shipping and insurance are added, bring the C.I.F. Hull price to well above that fixed at the latter port. An explanation of this extraordinary state of things may be the very great activity of the local crushers, who are working night and day, turning out enormous quantities of cotton cake, oil and other by-products, and who since neither cake nor oil have had their maximum prices fixed in England can well afford to outbid exporters of seed. The situation merits the attention of the authorities, who might well consider whether it is really sound to limit the price of cotton seed and yet leave that of cake and oil entirely free. The Customs and other statistics are eloquent of the greater trade done by this country in oil and cake during recent months compared with pre-war days, despite the fact that the crop this year has been an exceedingly small one.

THE FOURTH YEAR OF WAR.

On the occasion of the third anniversary of the war the following telegram was despatched by King George to the King of Serbia and the King of Roumania :—

"On the third anniversary of the day on which my country entered the great struggle still in progress I desire to express to you the unwavering determination of the British Empire to pursue the contest until our joint efforts are crowned with success and our common aims attained. I am happy in the confidence which is shared, I feel assured, by you that the untiring will of our peoples and heroism of our forces will achieve a final victory securing the possibility of the peaceful progress of humanity.—George R.I."

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Visit of M. Thomas.

The visit which the French statesman paid to Roumania was the occasion of a reassertion of the strong sentimental ties which unite that country to the Republican sister nation. The reception accorded to M. Thomas shows how deeply the Roumanians appreciated his presence in their midst in one of the most difficult moments of their history. "It is in human nature," Franklin once wrote, "that injuries as well as benefits received in times of weakness and distress, national as well as personal, make deep and lasting impressions." It is no wonder, therefore, that M. Thomas was the object of enthusiastic ovations on his visits to the Roumanian front and to various institutions in Jassy. He was the guest at a joint meeting of the two Houses of Parliament, when M. Mortzun assured him in a spirited speech that "the Roumanian people will never forget that at the most dangerous corners of our destiny we always found France at our side, leading our steps, helping our efforts, and rendering our sufferings fruitful." As a proof of their deep-felt gratitude, the Roumanian Parliament presented the French nation with one of the most charming residences in Jassy, the Villa Greerul, "to be a home for French scholars, artists, and travellers coming to Roumania to learn to know the country and its people." At the same time a special law bestowed upon General Berthelot, the chief of the French military mission, the quality of citizen of honour of the Roumanian kingdom.

M. Thomas addressed in Jassy a meeting of Russian soldiers, and also attended a sitting of the Parliamentary Committee entrusted with the drafting of the proposed internal reforms.

Russian Troops in Roumania.

The unrest which set in among the Russian troops in Roumania after the outbreak of the revolution was of short duration. Committees of officers and soldiers were established everywhere, but they proved an element of order and discipline. It is significant that two truck-loads of goods, presents to the Russian soldiers from an organisation of followers of Lenin, were returned to their senders by order of the committee of officers and soldiers in Jassy. The enemy made strenuous efforts to further disintegration among the troops at the front. Manifestoes were thrown into the Russian trenches, and a delegation of German officers waited upon General Strepin at Roman with an offer of armistice and peace. The delegation was sent back before it had time to expound its brotherly sentiments, and the committee of Russian officers and soldiers issued a manifesto from which we quote the following illuminating passage:—"If the enemy really wishes our good, then let him free the territory of our country and of Roumania, and in return we will help him to upset his Government, which is the enemy of all liberty. Then, and only then, will a lasting peace be possible."

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The War Office issued the following announcement on August 2 concerning Mesopotamia:—

The intense heat, which was particularly severe during the middle of July, has subsided. On July 20 the highest shade temperature of Baghdad in recent years was exceeded by 4½ degrees, and the average shade temperature for the first 24 days in July exceeded the average of recent years for July by over 6 degrees. In spite of this heat, the health of the troops is very satisfactory, and the percentage of sick for the four weeks ended July 22 shows a great improvement over the corresponding period of 1916. There is no special military operation to report.

The Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom is to consider at its next meeting a motion "that no subject of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, or Turkey should be at liberty to hold land in this country to a greater extent than a seven years' lease without the consent of the Crown."

According to the *Arbeiter Zeitung*, of Vienna, six of the eleven prisoners sentenced for complicity in the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and the Duchess of Hohenberg at Serajevo have died from the effects of solitary confinement and insufficient food.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Problem of Goats.

Rustem Pasha, when Governor of the Lebanon, used to say that what gave him most trouble was the goats and the priests. In Cyprus the question of goats has always been a source of worry and anxiety; but, unfortunately, it has never been handled with the firmness that the circumstances required. Just as the preservation of what remained of the forests became one of the principal subjects of consideration for the British Administration, so the depredations of goats called for serious attention and repressive measures. The British Government at once took in hand the protection of the forests, though with quite inadequate means at its disposal. On the other hand, the evil caused by goats both to forests and agriculture was left to a great extent unchecked. It is precisely as if a patient were treated methodically for a serious complaint, while allowed at the same time to indulge in a poisonous luxury which undermined the whole system.

Injury to Forests and Agriculture.

The earliest and best report on the Cyprus forests by M. Madon, an officer lent by the French Government, stated clearly the lines upon which forest policy should be based. All authorities have insisted on the fact that forest growth and the grazing of goats are incompatible. Anyone, indeed, who has studied treatises on the subject is perfectly well aware of this truth. Flocks of goats, however, have been allowed to exist and multiply in Cyprus, with the result that the island has suffered year by year injury which the principal forest officer has endeavoured roughly to estimate in recent reports. It would have been far better, in the long run, had the Government taken a firm line from the outset, and, putting up with perhaps a little outcry from a particular class, had served the general interests of agriculture by the reduction or destruction of this inveterate foe to husbandry. No doubt there would have been some bitter feeling and grumbling, even outside the flock-owning class; but that has been the case wherever action has been taken against goats.

As regards the State forests, the delimitation of which was undertaken in the early years, goats were excluded (though in a few localities rights to graze, possessed *ab antiquo*, were respected); but, of course, much depredation must inevitably take place over large areas which cannot be adequately patrolled by the small staff of forest guards. As to private properties the difficulty has been great, but in reality it only required firm handling. It has been left to the Legislative Council to discuss what remedies should be adopted, and the results up to date have certainly not been satisfactory. A law passed a few years ago allowed the inhabitants of any village to decide by majority whether goats should be tolerated in their lands or not. A fair number of villages have taken advantage of the measure, but ambiguities as to its application have rendered amendments necessary.

Either Goats or Agriculture.

Fortunately it would seem that the good sense of the native communities is at last tending more and more in favour of eliminating this island plague. At any rate, it is very satisfactory to know that there are now members in the Legislative Council who have the courage to defend a strict forest policy and war upon goats. No one has insisted on this more vigorously than Mr. Theodótou, one of the members for the Nicosia-Kyrenia division. A short time ago he warned his countrymen that it was a choice between goats and agriculture, and told them plainly that goats were just as great a pest as locusts. He aptly referred to the case of Algeria, where, owing to measures such as are required in Cyprus, the area of forest land has been quadrupled in about forty years. "Whenever I go on district tours," he said, "and advocate tree-planting, I hear the same reply: 'Let us plant trees, in order that shepherds may destroy them.' No wonder our agriculture does not advance." Those who kept goats, he continued, were in reality condemning the country to economic disaster, and he expressed himself in favour of the gradual abolition of goats "in order that the resources and productiveness of our fields and forests may prosper and be further developed." Breeds of sheep and cattle, he rightly argued, should be raised in their stead. Mr. Theodótou stated, as an example of the mischief caused, that in one village 3,000 trees were planted a few years ago, and of these all but thirty were destroyed by goats or shepherds. If a villager prosecuted a shepherd, and a fine was inflicted, next day he might find his animals mutilated, his trees cut down, his crops destroyed, or even his life in danger. This is one aspect of rural life in Cyprus. Very large sums have been spent in the destruction of locusts, and it might have been wise and expedient to devote a sum annually to the compensation of flock-owners while compulsorily reducing this other pest of the agriculturist.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE SOUTHERN SLAV QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your correspondents who handle the Jugoslav problem ignore the vast issues which underlie it. These are fairly stated in Mr. A. D. McLaren's "Germany from Within" (Constable and Co., 1916); and I may add that its author's long residence in Germany qualifies him to write with knowledge of the designs of the Central Powers. At p. 108 we find:—

Germany, quite as much as any other nation, goes to war for an idea, and is willing to make any sacrifice to realise it. But she also knows how to bide her time. The establishment of German ascendancy from the North Sea to the Persian Gulf and control of the Balkan Peninsula are essential conditions of that ascendancy—that is what *Drang nach Osten!* means. Hence the Balkans form the pivot of the world-war, and the main point of leverage for the realisation of German ambitions. This all-important point was seen by every educated German as clearly as by any member of the Government. The real cause of the war was not the collision between Teuton and Slav civilisations—the time for that phase of *Weltpolitik* had not matured—but the determination of Germany to proceed viâ the Near East to a universal Kaiserdom to be built on the ruins of the British Empire.

In this remarkable passage the "Balkans" means Jugoslavia, including Serbia, Montenegro, and ten Slav provinces of Austria-Hungary. Welded into a State numbering 12,000,000 citizens, it is destined to play a great part in the new Europe which will emerge from the existing chaos.

For forty years Austria-Hungary has toiled and plotted to prevent this contingency from materialising. The Jugoslavs under her heel are "politically oppressed, socially persecuted, menaced in their intellectual, economic, and national development." As Mr. McLaren remarks at p. 67:—"The whole history of the smaller nationalities in Austria-Hungary—the *Nationchen*, as they are often contemptuously called in Vienna—is one chequered canvas, on which the lines of oppression cross the lines of revolt. It is exactly the same policy as Austria pursued against the Italian States (before 1859), a policy which materially helped to unite them."

The Jugoslav peril bulks largely among the causes which led Austria-Hungary to become the catspaw of Berlin three years ago; and the Pan-Germans who rule her know full well that a strong Jugoslav State would sound the death-knell of their sinister designs. It must, therefore, be one of the conditions imposed by the approaching re-settlement of Europe.

But Roman statesmen are asking, "Where do we come in? Is not the population of the Adriatic littoral largely Italian by birth and culture? Must we surrender Trieste and Istria to a brand-new Power which may become as aggressive as that which it has superseded?" Dangerous friction is engendered by the conflict of forces which should work in harmony to promote the interests of civilisation. On June 30 the Marchese Viti di Marco, who is an ardent advocate of a common understanding on this absolutely vital question, was greeted in the Italian Parliament with shouts of "Down with the Jugoslavs!"

The time has surely come for a conference between representatives of Italy and leaders of the Jugoslav revolt. With common-sense and a disposition to give and take, they would solve a problem of vast importance to Europe.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. H. S.

London, August 7.

SERBIA'S GRATITUDE.

We have been asked to give publicity to the following letter addressed to Mrs. Carrington Wilde by the Serbian Minister of Education:—

Madame,—In the tragical times through which we are passing our children have had from Great Britain a truly maternal and most unforgettable welcome. The Serbian Relief Fund, seconded by the people of Great Britain, has generously tried to soften for them the bitterness of exile. When these children landed on English soil, almost broken-hearted, they found a second motherland, and people who knew how to comfort them and wipe away their tears. And they are now preparing to become a generation worthy of the sacrifices made for them.

I count much on this generation. Soon it will be representative of British thought in Serbia and become a permanent link between your great country and our unfortunate one; it will be the means of making known to us your powerful Empire, for which we have always had the greatest admiration and sympathy; it will initiate our young country in your excellent methods, your splendid science, your incomparable education, your noble ideas, your practical sense, and that characteristic perseverance, continuous effort, and methodical work which rank among the highest qualities of your great nation. These young people will take a great part in the regeneration of Serbia.

In the misfortunes which are crushing us it is a great consolation that this generation should receive the exemplary education which your country is giving to it. Those who are contributing towards this work are rendering us valuable service. Your glorious motherland has already conferred upon us inestimable benefits, but the benefit to our children is, perhaps, that which will bear the most useful fruit. At any time this benefit would be very great; in the tragical days through which we are passing and when the number of our children has been so sadly diminished, this benefit is of the greatest value.

M. Pavle Popovitch, whom I have chosen out of the best of our educationalists to represent me in England, has given me a wonderfully detailed account of the circumstances in which our children find themselves in England and in Scotland—of the really maternal care with which the Serbian Relief Fund surrounds them. This account has moved me to tears.

I infinitely regret that very important work in connection with my own Government prevents me for the moment from going to London to bear witness to the great benefits your country has conferred on our children; but I wish to express to you my very sincere gratitude.

To you particularly, madame, our thanks go first, and through you to the whole of the Serbian Relief Fund; to the members of the Education Sub-Committee; to the local committees of education; to the administrator of the Education Branch; to all the heads of schools and the teachers therein; to all those persons who shrink from no sacrifice to secure the comfort of our children; to those who load them with favours and contribute so largely to their happiness.

It is not only my personal gratitude that I express to-day; it is that of the Royal Government of Serbia, and it is particularly that of those parents still in Serbia who know that their children are cared for; this will enable them to bear more hopefully the cross of suffering which is imposed upon them. I would also speak of the gratitude of the fathers who are fighting on the front against the common enemy, and who will discount even death for themselves, knowing that their children have escaped it and are safe in your glorious motherland.

L. M. DAVIDOVITCH, Minister of Education.

An interesting archæological discovery has been reported from the little island of Rouad by Naval Lieutenant Albert Frabaud, the Governor, in the shape of a Greek inscription in honour of Julius Quadratus, referring to his governorship of the mainland. This is, presumably, the C. Antius A. Julius Quadratus who is referred to in a Greek inscription from Ephesus in the British Museum as having been Governor of Syria under Trajan. Julius Quadratus held a number of important posts in Asia, and was at various times Legate of Pontus and Bithynia, Pro-Consul of Crete and Cyrene, and Proprætor of Lycia and Pamphylia. It may also be mentioned that Aelius Aristides refers to him as having made great donations to his native city of Pergamos.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE RUSSIAN ENIGMA.*

Mr. Marcosson has no doubt foreseen one obvious objection which the hardened reviewer is almost bound to bring against the attempt to write a book on the Russian Revolution; it is that the time for journalistic sketches of that event is over, and the day for a real history of it has not yet come. Indeed, as the revolution itself is by no means over, it is rather difficult to write even a contemporary record in any but a day-to-day diary form. Mr. Marcosson, however, keeps to the usual form of chapters, and, having been in Petrograd during the upheaval and an eye-witness of most of the events he narrates, we were prepared for an illuminating record of the last four months.

Unfortunately he does not tell us the very things we want to know. The whole world is aware that there was enthusiasm, excitement, bloodshed, and speechmaking in Petrograd; the newspaper correspondents have run amok with phrases about the millennium, and sober Reuter has burdened the cables with some of the innumerable manifestoes issued by the committees (several of which reappear like excitable midwives in *The Rebirth of Russia*). But talk does not decide events, as even the House of Commons is finding out in these days; and though we have had the talk, we have not yet had a connected account of the events behind the revolution. It would seem to be clear, for instance, that the Tsar and some at least of the Court party went into the war with a good heart. When and how did they change? And why? Count Witte and the Empress have been constantly spoken of as German partisans; yet in one of his books—"Ourselves and Germany"—Dr. E. J. Dillon speaks very highly of Count Witte as a statesman who had Russia's true interests at heart, and states categorically that the Empress did not rule her husband. There have been many sensational "revelations" of pro-German scandals, which were obviously invented to discredit the Russian Court. No doubt some of the accusations were true, particularly that which branded the Tsar as an individual infirm of purpose—witness his conduct on the black day of the 1905 revolution, when his appearance would have rallied the workmen to his throne; but how much of the gossip that was retailed to greedy ears in Petrograd had any foundation? Mr. Marcosson does not tell us; nor does he solve the extraordinary enigma of Protopopoff, who appears to English readers as a kind of lesser Strafford.

Then, again, it is quite clear that the scheme of the Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates was largely planned in advance. From information received, as they say at Bow Street, it cannot be pretended any longer that those who directed this movement were a purely fortuitous concourse of single-minded patriots, whose sole desire was to purge their country of all evil; but our author tells us nothing of the origin of this committee, or even the names of those who composed it—names, it will be remembered, which were indiscreetly blurted out by the *Morning Post* correspondent some weeks ago. If we remember rightly, the most essentially Slavonic name on the committee was something like Apfelbaum. Of this committee, whose constituents sounded more like the ingredients of a Palestine soup than a Council of National Safety, Mr. Marcosson has little that is new to say.

He is more communicative about the Duma, whose weakness was clearly that of every moderate element in every revolution—it is driven along against its will by the extremists who are necessary to its purpose, but when it wishes to slacken the pace it finds itself ignored or suppressed. But he does not tell us anything of the political forces behind the actual events. Who, for instance, started the "No annexations" cry? Was it one of the Apfelbaums, and, if so, what were his antecedents? Again, the "No offensive" theory, seeing that the Tsar was given his *congé* on the ground that he intended to make peace with Germany, is it not rather remarkable that the chief anxiety of his successors in the actual power in Petrograd was not to make further war on Germany? Probably the Stockholm bankers know more about the Russian revolution than Mr. Marcosson after all. Only unfortunately they do not write books about it.

This matter of "no annexations" may indeed turn out to be the root of the matter. Last year, when Germany desperately wanted to make peace with one at least of her enemies, she offered Russia certain terms which included Eastern Galicia and certain rights, apparent or real, at Constantinople. The old *régime* seems to have shown no great anxiety to accept these terms; the Entente, as a matter of fact, made a higher bid for the continuance of Russia's support, and she was promised the possession of Constantinople outright, on the implied condition that she captured the prize of war herself. The point is that both sides believed that the old *régime* was out for annexations and the aggrandisement of its territory, which may be right or wrong, but is at least intelligible. The people who succeeded to power condemned the Tsar as a pro-German, entreated the Allies to make what could only be a German peace, and took care to get rid of M. Miliukoff, who stood for the expansion of Russia. Now, does it not seem probable that those who acted in this fashion had either pro-German hearts or pro-German pockets? Yet we look in vain in this book for any explanation.

There is nothing about the happenings in the Baltic fleet, nothing about the troubles at Odessa, the interference with the Black Sea fleet, no indication of the anarchy and little about the rioting and the plunder.

A. W. T.

* "The Rebirth of Russia." By Isaac F. Marcosson. (John Lane, 3s. 6d. net.)

THE SLOVENES.*

"Les Slovènes" originally appeared in German at Jena last year. It was suppressed, at first for the duration of the war, and then altogether. But it is an entirely inoffensive book, which might be read by a German baby without detriment to its alleged morals or character. As M. Krek merely gives a succinct account of Slovène history and literature, with some pages on its geography, we must conclude that the Germans intend to deny the existence of a history or literature to one of the constituent nationalities among their Allies.

* "Les Slovènes." By Ivan Krek. (Librairie Félix, Boulevard St. Germain, Paris. 1 franc.)

A MORALIST ON MESOPOTAMIA.†

The medical service has done magnificent work in this war, and it has also contrived to produce some of the most interesting war literature. "In Mesopotamia" and "A Regimental Surgeon in War and Prison" are certainly among the most readable books dealing with the psychology of this world-struggle. The identity of our author is concealed behind his *nom de plume*, but if his medical work is up to the standard of his book the Mesopotamia armies will have reason to link his name with those of Sir Victor Horsley and Major Carter as being in the forefront of their benefactors.

The text does not set out to be more than the diary of a shrewd observer who was a member of that ill-starred Indian Expeditionary Force "D" in the earlier stages of the campaign; but the writer through all that trying time was apparently able to keep his sangfroid and his health. Both in his water-colours and his pen-pictures he has portrayed vividly what was, after all, the one dominant factor in the whole situation—the appalling heat. It was rendered the more insufferable because it was untempered by few, if any, of the comforts which experience has shown to be necessary. Such heat may just be borne in complete idleness, but those who had to face it in Mesopotamia were responsible for all the work connected with a modern campaign. Little wonder that men's nerves and brains were strained—that things were left to run themselves. The mischief, however, was not restricted to those who were suffering from the Mesopotamia climate. Behind the moralising of our author we see the breakdown of the system at the Indian end, as well as its inherent defects, not least among which was the senseless overlapping of authority, that compelled the smallest indent to run the gauntlet of innumerable departments or officials, gathering papers in triplicate or more at every stage.

The more obvious defects of the system have been remedied, we believe. In any case the conditions so graphically depicted by Martin Swayne no longer hold good, as far as the personal comfort of the troops is concerned. It is well, however, that the nation should have the details of that distressing chapter burnt into its consciousness. Those who take an interest in the future of Mesopotamia will also find much to interest them in these pages. Our author does not allow himself to go deeply into the subject. But he has no doubt regarding the fertility of the soil, and his comments on the Arabs ought to serve as a warning against a too easy optimism in this direction. No one who knows the country questions the potentialities of the future; but for them to be realized there must be firm and enlightened rule. This must be provided for the native population from without.

The "major, a dreamy soul," quoted by Martin Swayne, was not far wrong. "'All this show of ours out here is nothing in itself,' he said. 'It's a beginning of something that will materialize a hundred or two hundred or a thousand years hence. We are the great irrigating nation.

† "In Mesopotamia." By Martin Swayne. Illustrations by the Author. (Hodder and Stoughton. London. 5s. net.)

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and that's why we're here now. We'll fix this land up and get it going, and then far ahead all the agricultural produce which we made possible will move the wheels of a new humanity.'" The major, it is to be hoped, will be a long way out in his dates; but only if the Mesopotamian problem is handled with wise foresight by the British Government.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. Allen and Unwin have recently published "The Tenedos Times," at the price of 21s. This work was compiled, sub-edited, and issued in editorial offices "somewhere in the Ægean Sea."

M. Berger Levrault announces "Face aux Bulgares," by Captain Henri Libermann, an officer in a French infantry regiment. The author describes the battles on the Tcherna, the defence of the bridgehead of Vozarçi and of the heights of Dracevisko Brdo, and, finally, the horrors of the retreat of the Vardar.

Mr. Andrew Melrose has just published a bright description of daily life in Salonika, entitled "In Salonika with Our Army," by Harold Lake, priced at 3s. 6d. net.

Major C. H. Barber is the author of "Besieged in Kut and After," published by Messrs. William Blackwood and Sons at 5s. net. The book contains a record of Major Barber's journey from Busreh to Kut, the return of the army from Ctesiphon, the siege, and a description of the author's life as a prisoner in Baghdad.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Pals at Suvla Bay. By Henry Hanna. (Dublin: Ponsonby, Ltd., 12s. 6d. net.)

En Campagne avec La Légion Etrangère. By Albert Erlarde. (Paris: Payot et Cie., 3 fr. 50.)

The Man from Egypt. By Headon Hill. (London: Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd., 5s. net.)

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Most people would hardly require much further evidence as to the cordial nature of the relations existing between the Turks and their German allies. Still, for what it is worth, I am inclined to quote a Rome telegram referring to Falkenhayn's visit to Turkey for the interesting light it throws on the question. According to the telegram, his object is to persuade and, if necessary, to *goad* the Turks to an offensive. It is an interesting commentary on the whole-hearted enthusiasm with which the Turks are continuing the war against their former friends. In any case, I am sure that it will only be at a price that Falkenhayn will gain his alleged objective, for the subjects of the Sublime Porte are far too astute to lose such an opportunity of negotiating a little financial transaction. And I should imagine that the cost of an offensive would be rather heavy.

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For his own sake, I trust the Kaiser is not a student of history, for it would be so mortifying, living as he is at a time when the "heroic" pose is distinctly unpopular and the theory of "Divine right" no more than an anachronism, to read the exquisite experiences of his ancestors in the kingly rôle in the Dark Ages and before that period. So many of them seem similar to him in all respects, except one—that in their case the stage fitted the part. One can quite well imagine, for instance, the Kaiser making the speech of Xerxes before his expedition to Greece, given by Herodotus in his "Polymnia," and quoted recently by a correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette*. There is a very proper reference to an invasion with fire and sword, and then the pompous utterance, "For I intend . . . to march through all parts of Europe and to reduce the whole earth into one Empire, being well informed that no city or nation will dare to resist my arms. Thus not only the guilty, but likewise those who have not offended us, must equally submit to the yoke of servitude." It really is a thousand pities that the Kaiser did not live in those days.

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The perpetual incursion of new place names during the war has been a constant source of trouble to journalists and others whose pursuits lie in the writing line, the more so as few people, and, indeed, few papers are sufficiently consistent to spell them alike. It is a very old grievance, but it has been intensified by the war, and the Near East, in particular, has played a very fair share in increasing Fleet Street's difficulties. Where even the name of a country—Roumania, for instance—can be spelt in various ways, it is obviously hopeless to expect agreement over lesser-known and more complex names. It has always been a mystery to me why the Press has not united on the subject, and arranged for one spelling of all names which could possibly be the subject of divergence. Perhaps this will be done some day, and in the meantime I take consolation from the fact that our names are none too easy. I find confirmation of this view in the statement of a contemporary that in Greece the names of our King and the Prime Minister are spelt in different ways, while Mr. Balfour's name is charmingly rendered as "Mpalphour."

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M. Pashitch has been commenting on the unhappy position of Austria. His view finds confirmation in signs which point to the fact that the strain of three years of war is producing an unenviable state of friction in the Dual Monarchy. Thus, according to a recent Paris telegram, news has been received from Budapest to the effect that Count Tisza has accused the Karolyi party in the *Igazmondo* of having incited the war against Serbia in July, 1914, and, what is even more amusing, Count Karolyi seems to have been "drawn" to the extent of accusing Count Tisza of taking part in the affair. This incident, which rather forcibly reminds me of the adage about honest men coming into their own, is one of the straws that show which way the wind is blowing.

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I have often thought what an extraordinary freak of chance it was which led to the establishment of Byzantium on the shores of the Bosphorus. It seems difficult to give the Megarians credit for realising the precise importance of the site; indeed, is it not more likely that they were simply swayed by a more or less fatuous utterance from Delphi? Whatever their reason, they, no doubt, "builded better than they knew," and in so doing laid the foundation stone of a tradition destined to endure in another form to the present day. Chance, as a matter of fact, seems to be almost indelibly associated with the site, for a long series of fortuitous circumstances has marked or marred the history of Constantinople.

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To give one instance. Constantine might quite easily have persuaded himself that some other site was preferable for his capital, for, whatever the evidence we have to-day of the impregnability or otherwise of the city, the fact remains that in his time it was singularly open to attack on one side at least. But then the redeeming merit of the site was not security pure and simple; it was its commanding position as a main artery between East and West. If safety had been all that Constantine desired, he would have chosen a site similar to that of Ravenna, a city useless for any purpose other than defence, but ideal as a fortress with its surrounding marshes.

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The subject of prophecy, whether one likes it or not, continues to crop up. The Russians would seem to have found time to read Daniel, and have fixed fulfilment for May, 1918, That date certainly fits in better with the present state of affairs in our Eastern theatre than any month or day in 1917; but it shows that interpretation is not the cut-and-dried business that most of our modern seers would have us believe. Two more months have yet to run to enable us to witness the "certainty" promised for October—namely, the collapse of Turkey and the liberation of Palestine. This event has to take place before the middle of October, because by the 15th or 16th, I think, the Turkish year 1335 comes to an end. It is to be hoped that Falkenhayn, pig headed fellow that he is, who is now reported to be at Jerusalem, is not going to rob us of the pleasure of congratulating the Editor of *The Young Man and Woman* on his really comforting theory.

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The suggestion I ventured to make that the prophet Ahmad of Qadian must rely on something fuller than a halfpenny pamphlet to carry conviction for his prophecy, seems to have commended itself independently to some of his followers, as I have now received a slightly thicker publication on the same subject. It deals mainly with the reference in the prophecy to the troubles in store for the Tsar, even to the extent now of over-labouring this particular subject. True, in a matter of this sort it may be difficult to hit upon the golden mean. In any case the followers of the Ahmadia movement—in the prophet's own language I suspect a happier term is used—will be glad to have all the proofs carefully marshalled. As the brochure points out, "the followers of different religions read in their respective scriptures certain prophecies, and then, accepting them as true, they begin to argue the supremacy of their respective creeds over all others, while as a matter of fact the nature and authorship of the prophecies are not above suspicion." Ahmadists are not troubled with any such difficulties. "The Promised Messiah lived (?lives) under a Government which professes an alien religion—I mean the British Government—and according to the laws of this Government a copy of each and every book, periodical, tract or notification that is published in India is sent to the Government Office for file at the time of its publication. Consequently the fact that these prophecies were actually published beforehand may be ascertained by reference to Government records and files."

CORSAIR.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917.	1917.		1335.	5677.
August.	July.		Shawall	Av
10	28	Friday	21	22
11	29	Saturday.....	22	23
12	30	Sunday	23	24
13	31	Monday	24	25
	August			
14	1	Tuesday	25	26
15	2	Wednesday	26	27
16	3	Thursday	27	28

Madame Take Jonescu has left London for Cromer.

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister in Paris, has left London for France.

Captain Ilitch, of the Serbian Army, has arrived in London from Corfu.

The Hon. Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley have left London for Scotland.

Lord Hardinge of Penshurst has arrived at Alloa House, Clackmannanshire.

The Bishop of Rochester has left Bishop's Court, Sevenoaks, for a few weeks' rest.

Lord Oranmore and Browne has left London for Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough have returned to their residence in Cavendish Square from Dorking.

M. Polychromaeles, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Greek Legation at The Hague, has arrived in London.

M. Roussos, who has been appointed Greek Minister at Washington, has arrived in London from Athens.

Princess Soutzo, wife of a former Roumanian Military Attaché, left London for Bournemouth last week.

General Peano, who has arrived in London from Rome, has been appointed Italian Military Attaché to the Legation in Jassy.

Mohamed Ali Khan Ehtesham Homayoun, First Secretary to the Persian Legation, is making satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Mr. Balfour saw the Roumanian Minister at the Foreign Office on August 2. The Greek Minister also visited the Department on that day.

On the occasion of his birthday on August 2, H.M. King Alexander gave a luncheon party at Tatoi, when those present included M. Venizelos and other Cabinet Ministers.

Earl Grey, who has been under the care of Sir Berkeley Moynihan at Leeds for the past few weeks, was able to be removed to Howick House, his Northumberland seat, on August 7.

Sledmere, the seat of Sir Mark and Lady Sykes, which was destroyed by fire some years ago, has now been restored, and on Monday the completion of the work was celebrated by a garden fête in aid of the Red Cross.

The Greek Minister and Madame Gennadius entertained at luncheon on August 7, at the Legation, De Vere Gardens, Kensington, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, M. Nicolas Misu, the Roumanian Minister, M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister, and Madame Yovanovitch.

An engagement is announced, and the wedding will shortly take place, between J. Angus Gillan, Sudan Civil Service, elder son of the Rev. James and Mrs. Gillan, 4, Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, and Margaret Douglas, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ord-Mackenzie, Headley Mount, Headley, Hampshire.

The Roumanian Minister, M. Nicolas Misu, was received in audience by His Majesty on August 6, and, on behalf of the King of Roumania, handed to the King the Order of Michael the Brave. Major Nicolas Arion also had the honour of being received by the King on his appointment as Roumanian Military Attaché.

M. Poincaré, who sent a telegram of congratulation on the recent Roumanian successes, has received a message from the King of Roumania declaring that although the offensive so auspiciously begun had had to be stopped for reasons independant of his will, his troops were burning with impatience to resume the forward march.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, who arrived in London last week for a short visit after attending the Balkan Conference in Paris prior to returning to Salonika, visited the Foreign Office on August 2, and afterwards called at the Embassies and Legations of the Allied Powers. The same day he was visited by the Serbian Minister.

A meeting of the British community at Alexandria on August 4, presided over by Mr. Cameron, the British Consul-General, enthusiastically adopted a resolution reaffirming their intention to prosecute the war to a successful end. The meeting was also addressed by Sir Alexander Baird and Mr. Harry Farnall, and a stirring letter was read from Sir Reginald Wingate.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister, and Mme. Yovanovitch entertained at dinner at the Legation on Tuesday evening M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier; M. Jean Gennadius, the Greek Minister, and Mme. Gennadius; M. Nicolas Misu, the Roumanian Minister; Colonel J. Nicolaievitch, Military Attaché to the Serbian Legation; Mlle. Nicolaievitch; and M. Koitch, Secretary to the Serbian Premier.

The marriage was celebrated, on July 18, at St. Paul's Cathedral Church, Valletta, of Capt. H. R. Veale, R.N., son of the late Fleet Paymaster W. E. L. Neale, R.N., and Miss A. E. Denniss, daughter of the late General A. E. Denniss, R.A. The Rev. Michael Longridge performed the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. E. Edmonds Smith. The bride, who was attended by two bridesmaids, Miss Ballard and Miss Scott Moncrieff, was charmingly attired in a white dress, with hat to match. A large congregation was present at the service, including the Governor of Malta and Lady Methuen. A reception was subsequently held at Admiralty House, Vittoriosa, and later Capt. and Mrs. Veale left for Fort St. Angelo.

By command of the King, Mr. C. H. Montgomery called on the Greek Minister on August 2 to offer His Majesty's congratulations on the anniversary of the birthday of the King of the Hellenes. His Excellency thanked His Majesty's representative for King George's gracious message, the full text of which was immediately telegraphed to King Alexander. Sir Arthur Walsh, the King's Master of Ceremonies, also called on the Greek Minister to convey the King's congratulations.

Reuter's Athens correspondent, in a message dated August 1, says:—M. Sofoulis, Deputy for Samos, and the Government candidate for the Presidency of the Chamber, was elected to that post to-day by 180 votes to 14. The members of the Opposition, except M. Socolis, Deputy for Corfu, were not present. M. Sofoulis, on assuming the Presidency, emphasized the legality of the convocation of the Chamber, and declared that the Venizelist movement had brought about the salvation of Greece. M. Sofoulis then referred to the help which the Allied nations had given Greece, who, by tradition and spirit, had always sided with the Entente. The President's words were received with warm applause.

On the recommendation of the President of the Board of Trade, the King has awarded the silver medal for gallantry in saving life at sea to Belkacem den Mohammed Lekmiti, an Algerian villager, in recognition of his services to the survivors of a shipwrecked British crew on February 20.

M. Marcel Hutin states in the *Echo de Paris* that General von Falkenhayn, who has taken the place of von der Goltz, has just inspected the Turkish front at Gaza.

If you are willing to help

THE SERBIAN ARMY

SEND YOUR DONATION FOR

THE SERBIAN RED CROSS

to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."

There is a separate fund for the

RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION

at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

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OBITUARY.

CAPTAIN P. F. C. D'ERF WHEELER, R.F.C.

A correspondent writes:—Captain Percival Francis Crommelin d'Erf Wheeler, Dorsetshire Regiment, attached Royal Flying Corps, who was killed on duty on July 24, was the eldest son of Captain d'Erf Wheeler, R.A.M.C. (formerly head of the English Hospital, Jerusalem, now attached Egyptian Expeditionary Force), and Mrs. d'Erf Wheeler, a daughter of the late Bishop Blyth of Jerusalem; his uncle, Captain R. C. Popham Blyth, Gloucestershire Regiment, was killed at Gallipoli in 1915. Captain Wheeler was born at Jerusalem on April 5, 1894, and was educated at Clare House, Beckenham, and Trent College. In May, 1913, he was gazetted to the Dorsetshire Regiment, and was trained at Belfast and at Weymouth. In September, 1914, he was sent out to France in charge of a draft from the regiment, and a month later was badly wounded at La Bassée in one of the severest engagements at that place. He tried to keep up with the advance, but was ordered out of action, and he then crawled along on hands and knees until a stretcher-party picked him up. As he was being carried along on the stretcher he was fired at by the Germans. He was not able to return to active service for fourteen months, during which time he remained in England under treatment, but for the last six months he was able to do duty with the regiment. He was made captain in February, 1915, being not yet twenty-one. In December, 1915, Captain Wheeler was sent to Mesopotamia, where he served for eight months, doing much valuable work; but he had several attacks of malaria during that time, and finally he was sent to Bombay to hospital, suffering from a severe attack of para-typhoid. He was about to return to Mesopotamia when he was recalled to England for training in the R.F.C., and he arrived home on January 1, 1917. Captain Wheeler trained in England and in France, his work here, as before, being very distinguished. He had finished his course, and was on the eve of receiving his wings, when he met his death flying on duty at an aerodrome in England.

Captain Wheeler's three years of active service were distinguished by excellent and faithful work, the real value of which could only be judged by military men. From his childhood he was always a leader, and his instinct and capacity to lead and to control men were never at fault. As a soldier and as an airman of whom a very brilliant future was confidently predicted, his loss is a severe one. Of the more intimate side of his character it is not possible to speak here, but few men had his power of calling out, and retaining, the affection of those with whom he came in contact. He had no thought of himself when he could help anyone. To those who knew him well remains the memory of one who was entirely single minded and steadfast, who spoke no evil nor listened to it, who in high ideal and achievement has won place in that great company of young soldiers whose unblemished record is their country's reverence and pride.

"O, Valiant Hearts, who to your glory came
Through dust of conflict and through battle-flame;
Tranquil you lie, your knightly virtue proved,
Your memory hallowed in the land you loved."

We regret to announce the death, which occurred on August 2, at The Warren House, Coombe Wood, of Lieutenant-Colonel Albert Edward Sydney Louis Paget, M.V.O., the eldest son of General and Lady Paget. The greatest sympathy will be felt for his parents in this bereavement, more especially as it comes at a time when they are undergoing anxiety with regard to their other two sons, both of whom are reported wounded, though happily not seriously. The late Lieutenant-Colonel Paget had been ill in hospital abroad for some months, and had been removed to a London nursing home. He was only thirty-eight years of age, and his early death will come as a great shock to his many friends. His military career met with a check at the commencement, for when he had passed into the Army he was declared medically unfit. When the South African War broke out, however, he volunteered, and was given his commission by Lord Roberts in the 11th Hussars. Subsequently he was for a time A.D.C. to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and from 1908 to 1902 acted as A.D.C. to his father, who held the Eastern command. In the present war he had been mentioned in despatches three times.

A memorial service was held in St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, on Wednesday, for Lieutenant-Colonel Paget. Canon Sheppard, Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal, officiated. The congregation included Lady Paget, Lady Alexander Paget, Miss Paget, Miss Amy Paget, Miss Alberta Paget, Lord Arthur Paget, Sir Ralph and Lady Paget, and Mr. Almeric Paget.

Major Arthur Justin Ross, D.S.O., Royal Engineers and Royal Flying Corps, who was accidentally killed while flying on August 2, was the only surviving son of Mr. G. E. A. Ross, K.C., and of Mrs. Ross, of 101, Warwick Road, S.W. He was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army in January, 1911. In June of last year Major Ross was appointed Flight Commander, Royal Flying Corps. He was awarded the D.S.O. in the Birthday Honours List of 1916, and also held the Egyptian Order of the Nile (4th class).

We regret to announce the death from rheumatic fever, which occurred on July 27 at Vomero, Naples, of Ronald Silley, aged twelve years, the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald H. Silley, late of Lisbon and Constantinople.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH.

HORTON.—On August 4, at Alexandria, Egypt, to Jean (*née* Dunford, Newcastle-on-Tyne), wife of Lieut.-Col. Horton—a son.

MARRIAGES.

BURNETT—LEIGH.—On July 30, 1917, at St. James's, Grimsby, Lincs., by the Rev. Canon Markham, D.D., Francis Edgar Burnett, Lieutenant R.E., only son of Mrs. Scaramanga-Ralli, 2, Lygon Place, S.W., to Ethel May, daughter of Mr. William Leigh, Elmfield, Grimsby.

CAMPBELL—CARVER.—On August 1, at All Saints, Ramleh, Alexandria, by the Bishop in Jerusalem, assisted by Archdeacon Walow, Donald Swinton Campbell, Captain Yeomanry, eldest son of Mr. Collin and Lady Angela Campbell, Everlands, Sevenoaks, to Margaret Emily (Madge), eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Carver, Bulkeley, Alexandria, Egypt.

DEATHS.

HOARE.—On July 18, after a trying illness, contracted whilst on active service in Gallipoli, the Rev. Henry James Hoare, B.A., Chaplain of All Saints' Church, Ramleh, Egypt, and formerly Principal of the C.M.S. Edwardes College, Peshawar, India, aged 51.

HORE-RUTHVEN.—At Warwick House, St. James's, Alistair Malise, infant son of Zara and Alexander Hore-Ruthven.

KILLED IN ACTION.

CONRAN.—On July 28, when out on "night bombing" duty, Major Owen Mostyn Conran, R.F.C. and "King's Own" Regt., and late attached to the Egyptian Army, son of the late Major Conran and of Mrs. Conran, Brondyffryn, Denbigh, aged 36.

MAHOMED.—Killed in action, on July 31, Lieut. Claude Atkinson Etty Mahomed, Scots Guards, only son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mahomed, of Bournemouth. Argentine papers, please copy.

RODOCANACHI.—On July 27, 1917, killed in action, Second-Lieutenant Paul Rodocanachi, Royal Flying Corps, elder son of the late I. M. Rodocanachi and of Mrs. Rodocanachi, aged nearly nineteen.

WHERE TO STAY.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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ITALIANS AND JUGOSLAVS.

Last week the hope was expressed in these pages that the circumstances in which the Allied Conference was recently held in Paris pointed to a satisfactory understanding having been reached between the Italians and the Serbs on the subject of the future of Dalmatia. It was not to be supposed that all the details of a final agreement had been reached; and the fact that the Conference was adjourned for a few days, to meet again in London, implied that further discussion probably on this as well as on other subjects was found to be necessary. The main consideration was that a pregnant source of future friction between some of the Allied States should be definitely removed. That this has actually happened receives confirmation in an article that has since appeared in the *Corriere della Sera*, which constitutes a striking appeal—possibly the first of its kind—from the Italian side for a moderate attitude towards the Southern Slav question. Starting from the premise that, in order to uproot German domination in the midst of Europe, Austria must not be allowed to survive in her present form, it is argued that it is indispensable that all the aspirations of the peoples directly engaged in warfare against her, or longing to throw off her yoke, shall be satisfied, and that around a central nucleus new independent States shall be formed as defences against all attempts at aggression. The best future guarantee against a beaten Austria, the Italian journal continues, consists in an agreement between the nations who can only satisfy their most sacred aspirations at the expense of Austria. In the Entente's duty of cementing the harmony between Austria's neighbours Italy should assume the leading part, as the formation of an anti-Austrian State beyond the other shore of the Adriatic is to her a vital interest. "It is a question whether we are to have as neighbours on the other shore an organic friendly nation ready to make common cause with us against every Austrian attempt at aggression, or shall tolerate the existence of a wedge on the Adriatic between the Italian and Serbian borders which Austria, backed up by the German *bloc*, could use for the inevitable attempt at getting even." Not unnaturally the article includes an appeal to the Jugoslavs for moderation on their part as well; but it is an eloquent recognition of the all-important fact that Italy has little to gain and much to lose by any policy calculated to leave bad blood between her and "the kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes" after the war.

Those who have followed the recent exposition in these pages of the Italian case in regard to Dalmatia by an Italian writer and the reply from a Jugoslav source will have been able to satisfy themselves that an adjustment of the two conflicting views ought not to prove difficult. Briefly summarised—there can be no question that it was ably presented—the Italian case rested in part on an historical basis. Dalmatia, it was urged, had been Roman or Venetian for twenty centuries, and the fact that it now showed a preponderating Slav majority was due in part to the systematic persecution of Italians at the hands of the Austrian Government in pursuit of a definite policy of denationalising the Italian territories which came under its jurisdiction at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Thus a just settlement at the close of this war ought to make amends for the wrongs suffered by the Italians during the past fifty years. But in the end the Italian case came round with greater weight to the purely strategical aspect. For the mastery of the Adriatic, so ran the contention, the possession of the eastern coast is an indispensable condition. As was to be expected, the Jugoslav protagonist had no difficulty in countering the historical argument. The record of all Near Eastern countries has been too chequered to render history a safe authority for either party to cite; the more so, if the range is to be extended over twenty centuries. Any Latin tradition attaching to the eastern shores of the Adriatic was broken by the Slav irruption, and although the newcomers ultimately failed to maintain their government over the lands they had conquered, they remained in occupation and proved by no means easy subjects for those who exercised lordship over them. A settlement to-day obviously must be based in the main on actual conditions, or at least on conditions that were accepted as normal prior to the outbreak of the war. There cannot be the least doubt that the Austrian Government has acted in the manner attributed to it by both Italians and Jugoslavs. The utmost it has ever allowed itself to do towards winning the support of the alien communities subject to its jurisdiction has been to play one off against the other, and according to the need of the moment each party in turn will have been victimised. At one time the Italian element will have appeared dangerous; but it is certain that for some years past the Southern Slavs will have suffered the more from a policy of denationalisation.

The two disputants are on the safest ground when they start off from the point laid down by the *Corriere della Sera* that the vital interests of both require for the future absolute agreement and genuine co-operation between the two races. Italy will have her attention fully occupied by her own economic development and the necessity of guarding against the measures of revenge that the fertile brain of Germany may devise. The Southern Slav State is likely to find its own domestic problems quite serious enough to make it undesirable that they should coincide with the possibility of grave complications abroad. Even at this stage the differences of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes have actually caused a split in the Serb-Croatian Volunteer Corps which has been formed from among the Austro-Hungarian Jugoslav prisoners of war taken by the Russians. No doubt the misunderstanding which has given rise to the incident will in due course be removed; but when feeling can run high enough to prevent the adherents of two different schools of political thought from fighting side by side in the common national cause, it is certain that in the spacious times of peace there will be abundant occasions for conflicts of opinion which will tax Jugoslav statesmanship to the limit. It may be assumed, therefore, that what Italy wants is a reasonable guarantee that no Power shall find in the situation in the Adriatic the least encouragement to prompt it to aim at undermining Italy's position in that sea; she is not really concerned to claim political power for Dalmatian Italians who, if they did exist at one time, have been dead for several decades. The Jugoslavs, on the other hand, have a similar interest in seeing that no loophole is left in the Adriatic for Austro-German intrigue, and they will have no difficulty in satisfying themselves that Italy's "mastery" of the Adriatic—however unhappily chosen the expression may be—will entail no encroachment on the freedom of navigation in times of peace. It is only necessary, therefore, for a round-table conference to decide the portion or portions of the eastern coast which Italy needs for her naval bases and their protection on the land side, in such a way that the choice shall not deprive the future Jugoslav State of its most situable harbours on the Adriatic. An announcement that such an agreement has been reached and ratified will prove a fitting corollary to the recently promulgated constitution of the future Jugoslav State.

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A GLIMPSE OF NORTHERN PERSIA.

By CHAUDERY LALL KHAN.

The following simple narrative of a week-end outing in Persia, told by a Persian, will not be without interest to those who try to picture conditions in that country.

It was the prime of the year, in the middle of July, when Persia is in the full glory of her youth that a party of Europeanized Persians (myself included) set out for an outing to spend their week-end at Umbran, an imposing little village situated at the distance of about twenty miles from Meshed, the capital of Khorasan. We quitted the city by Arak Gate, which, though crumbling into decay and ruins, reminded one still of the past glories of Persia and especially of the days of her old warrior Nadir Shah, the Napoleon of the East, whose sharp sword still flashes in the pages of its ancient history.

It was late in the afternoon, and the pale rays of the sun peeped into our carriage as we drove over a rough road, shrouded in the clouds of dust raised by the horses' hoofs. It is very uncomfortable to drive on these roads —or, rather, tracks, as there are no roads in Persia—in summer, when the surface is smothered in thick dust. The beautiful scenery, however, makes up for much discomfort. To the right, about half a dozen large fields of melons and water-melons had turned their gorgeous fruit towards the shining sun, while one corner of the field was flanked with maize, whose graceful plumes trembled and nodded at the gentle touch of the summer breeze. Beyond these was a long row of orchards full of fruit trees of various species, and especially of vines which had clothed the brown mud walls of the gardens with their stretching arms. Far away there stood a long line of poplar trees, bordering the banks of a stream which runs through the heart of the Holy City, their silver-lined leaves glistening like gems beneath the radiance of a tropical sun. To the left, the landscape was submerged in the golden sea of ripe corn, with here and there a farmer busy reaping and threshing, dressed in his picturesque garb typical of the Persian peasantry. In the distance beyond the fields stood a jagged rock known as "Koh-i-Sungei" beneath the shadows of a long chain of bare hills, as if spying the land round about. Looking ahead, the country is extremely wild and an uncultivated tract of land as far as the naked eye could reach, with the exception of a village here and there nestling either at the bottom of a hill or somewhere in the immensity of the plain. A drive of more than an hour through a solitary country, occasionally dotted with patches of furze, brought us to the steep banks of a stream winding quietly upon the pebbly bed of a low-lying river. After splashing through the water, we mounted the other side. It is here that the character of the scenery changes considerably; wild nature is left behind and an endless row of gardens, cultivated fields and villages appear. Hitherto, we had jogged along at a slow speed, but now the road began to be more promising, and we started off at a freshening pace. The fiery ball of the sun had set in the reddened sky behind the Nishapur Hills, and a beautiful moon had emerged, flooding the country with its light and throwing a silver sheen upon the vast expanses of land covered with limitless gardens and marked with low hills. Soon we came to the walls of a garden where the fragrant scent of different flowers and the intoxicating perfume of some aromatic trees, mingled with the penetrating fumes of some tiny shrubs growing wild on the steep bank of the brook, drifted into our carriages. On the farthest corner of the garden we halted for a few minutes at a country inn, "Kahwakhaneh," which makes no pretence to luxury, but its simplicity is charming to the lovers of country life. After having some refreshments, we were once more in our carriage and were driving upon a road lined with mulberry trees on either side. About a quarter of an hour's comfortable drive through the sweet-scented air of this beautiful land, where pleasure is rife and pain unknown on account of its healthy and pleasant climate, brought us on the verge of an extremely narrow road which winds in slight curves through the gardens to Umbran. The road is scarcely wide enough to allow two carriages to move abreast, and it often puzzled me to think what a driver would do if he was confronted with another vehicle coming from the opposite direction.

We had come through an extremely interesting stretch of country noted for its romantic scenery, magnificent panoramas, rushing torrents, picturesque gardens, and exhilarating air, and at last we found ourselves in the heart of a small village called Turkbeg. The village is surrounded by beautiful gardens and the houses are built of sun-dried bricks and small stones, bonded together with the cement of the same material, resembling much more tumbled-down cottages in outward appearance. As the further part of the journey had to be made on foot, we had to hire about half a dozen mules to convey our belongings to Umbran, which still stood two miles further on. There was no time to spend and we were soon out of the village once more. A narrow footpath ran by the side of the seemingly placid stream which, covered by the overhanging boughs of the trees, was winding through gardens full of alluring scent of the ripe fruits. There was nothing to disturb the stillness of this beautiful valley, with the exception of the echoes of the roar of many waterfalls, which seemed still to vibrate in the sweet-scented air. An exceedingly pleasant walk of about an hour brought us to the bottom of a hill on the brow of which perched the little village of Umbran, whose picturesque, beautiful and magnificent site enveloped in moonlight will always live vivid in my memory. It was here that we intended to pass our week-end.

Here, before giving further particulars of this place, I feel it my duty to thank Mr. Agha-Seyed Abol Ghassem, a member of the local staff of the Imperial Bank of Persia, who owns a valuable domain in the vicinity of this village, for it was in his beautiful garden where we spent our holidays. On the day following our arrival we woke at about seven o'clock in the morning on an elevated platform in the garden, aglow with the golden streaks of an early sun. The scenery of the surrounding gardens seen by the grey light of dawn was peculiarly charming. Sitting upon the gentle undulating slope of the hill, we could see the contents of all the gardens perched on the opposite slopes of the hills. We could also see a group of houses huddled together on the opposite slope of the valley, which is the village of Umbran. What this hill on the brow of which stood the little village of Umbran might be like in winter, when the cold winds sweep the corners of the houses and do not permit the inhabitants to thrust their heads out of the houses, that I leave my readers to judge; but if a traveller is fortunate enough to see this village and the beauty of its locality at this time of the year he will carry away with him a memory of a scene unsurpassed for picturesque beauty in the whole of Khorasan. This valley stretches in a continuous row of gardens for a long distance, until it is blocked by the Nishapur Hills. The gardens are crowded with fruit trees of nearly all species which could grow in a country where the winters are bitterly cold and the summers are correspondingly hot. The climate is delightful and pleasant. All that nature could do to beautify the place had been done. If only it could be made accessible, especially by railway, then Umbran would be the Switzerland of Asia, and the privilege of enjoying these picturesque gardens would not have been confined only to the sons of its soil, but many pleasure-seekers of Europe would have selected this spot as a place of resort. The fruits are plentiful, and as it is not possible for the farmers to transport all the fresh supplies for sale they resort to drying them for later markets. We spent our week-end in this paradise of gardens and listened to the birds' songs which filled the air with rapturous melody. The glorious afternoon in which we sped in two-horse carriages from Meshed to Umbran was not a festival—at least it is not so marked in the Persian Calendar—but the pleasurable excitement of seeing such an interesting country under such favourable conditions in the full glory of her beauty made it a high holiday to us all, and judging from the warbling of the nightingale and the beauty of the green summer mantle in which Dame Nature had arrayed herself, she, too, was making a holiday.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Men Missing at Gaza.

August 2.

Replying to a question on this subject by Sir HENRY DALZIEL, Mr. HOPE stated that up to Wednesday last there had been reported through various channels as being prisoners 246 of the men missing in March, and 185 of those missing in April. There had been received yesterday (Thursday) from the Netherlands Legation at Constantinople a report by the late United States Consul at Damascus, dated April 13, giving the names of three officers and 90 men captured at Gaza, who had reached Damascus. The Consul stated that he was permitted to communicate with the prisoners and to distribute to them relief in money, and, further, that on his representation to the local military authorities the men were supplied with such personal equipment as they lacked and it was possible to obtain locally. The three officers and 75 men left on April 15 for internment in Anatolia, 15 men being left in the hospital at Damascus. These were visited by the Consul, and most of them found to be suffering from fever.

Responsibility for the War.

Mr. DUNDAS WHITE asked the Foreign Secretary whether his attention had been called to the recent reference in the Reichstag by Herr Haase to the meeting on July 6, 1914, apparently at Potsdam, at which there appeared to have been present the Kaiser and the political, military, and naval leaders of Germany and Austria; whether the Allied Governments had any information about this or any similar meeting during that month; and, if so, whether they would consider the advisability of disclosing it.

Lord R. CECIL: I have seen what appeared in the Press on the subject. I cannot make any statement on the subject beyond saying that the information in possession of the Government indicates that the Central Empires decided in July on a policy which, in their views, would almost certainly lead to war against Russia, and consequently against France.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

August 3.

Sir JOHN SPEAR asked the First Lord of the Treasury if he could furnish any recent news of the condition of prisoners in the hands of the Turks, taken at Kut; could parcels be sent to them; and what means were being taken to improve their conditions.

Mr. HOPE: His Majesty's Government have received no recent reports respecting the condition of British prisoners of war in Turkey, but there is unfortunately no reason to think that it has improved. The Netherlands Minister at Constantinople is still pressing the Turkish Government for permission to visit the camps, and a request for a similar permission has also been made to the Turkish Government by the International Red Cross Society. The transmission of parcels through Austria was interrupted from February to April last, and again in June and July, but their transmission in limited quantities is now permitted. There is reason to think that a fair proportion of the parcels reached the prisoners, although irregularly and with great delay. As the hon. member is already aware, monthly relief allowance of £T3 is issued to all British non-commissioned officers and men in Turkey by the Netherlands Legation, which also forwards to them supplies in kind. There is no distinction in any of the above respects to be made between prisoners taken at Kut and other British prisoners in Turkey.

Italian Troops in Greece.

August 6.

Captain HERBERT asked the Foreign Secretary whether Italian troops were being withdrawn from Epirus, and, if so, whether the lives and property of the Albanian inhabitants of that country would be guaranteed.

Mr. BALFOUR: Negotiations are now proceeding between the Italian and the Greek Governments with regard to the withdrawal of troops beyond the Greek frontier. We may trust M. Venizelos to ensure that no unfortunate incidents will result from that withdrawal.

Policy in the Near East.

August 7.

Major DAVID DAVIES asked the Prime Minister whether, as a result of the recent Allied conferences on questions relating to the Balkans and our war policy in the Near East, he would make a statement in secret session before the adjournment of the House.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that he was not prepared to adopt the suggestion that, as a result of the recent Allied conferences on questions relating to the Balkans and other war policy in the Near East, he should make a statement in secret session before the adjournment of the House.

The Salonika Force.

Captain CARR GOMM asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware of the fact that, in consequence of official silence, recent statements had been made about the Salonika Army of an unfair and prejudicial character; and whether, in justice to the regimental officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of this force, he would cause such statements and suggestions to be refuted by some public recognition of their bravery and devotion to duty during a long and difficult period.

Mr. MACPHERSON: Any important operations carried out by the British Army in Macedonia are dealt with as fully as possible in official *communiqués*, and a dispatch, when received, will be published in due course. In the meantime, I may say that the British troops in Macedonia have acquitted themselves in accordance with the best traditions of the British Army, and that any statements to the contrary are devoid of foundation. In the matter of rewards to officers and men, recommendations by the General Officer Commanding in Chief, Salonika, have been and will be dealt with in exactly the same manner as those from other theatres of war. The Salonika Force received generous recognition in the list of honours and promotions published in the *Gazette* of June 4, 1917.

Colonel Carter.

Mr. GILBERT asked the Secretary for India what was the present position of Major R. M. Carter, I.M.S., was he still on service in India, or was he still detained in this country; if the latter, whether it made any difference in his pay and allowances, and, if so, to what extent; and whether, in view of the praise of this officer's action by the Mesopotamia Report, he proposed that he should be promoted or given any special recognition in view of his services to the British and Indian troops.

Mr. MONTAGU: Lieutenant-Colonel Carter is at present employed under the Admiralty on the equipment of hospital ships. Under Indian Regulations an officer placed on special duty in this country draws somewhat less than the full pay of his substantive appointment in India. Lieutenant-Colonel Carter's deputation pay—£1,057 10s. a year—is accordingly less than that attached to the last appointment which he held in India, viz., £1,360 a year. The answer to the last part of the question is in the affirmative, and I am in communication with the Government of India on the subject.

Mr. HOGGE: Does not my right hon. friend think that the one man who was responsible for exposing the scandal of Mesopotamia ought not to suffer either financially or in any other way as the result of his action?

Sir J. REES: Do not officers in the Indian Service regard serving at home for a time at slightly lower pay as a privilege and an advantage?

Mr. MONTAGU: It is because I recognise that the gallant officer's services deserve some recognition that I am in communication with the Government of India with regard to his promotion or other special recognition. The difference between service in England and service in India must, according to the regulations, obviously, and I think rightly, be represented by some difference in emolument.

Mr. HOGGE: Is it not a fact that Surgeon-General Babtie is serving at home on Indian pay?

The SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the question.

Mr. GILBERT: Why has this officer been transferred to the Admiralty and not kept in the Indian Medical Service?

Mr. MONTAGU: The gallant officer has shown himself peculiarly well equipped for the service he is rendering to the Admiralty, and has been loaned to the Admiralty for the purpose of assisting in the equipment of hospital ships.

The Troops at Aden.

August 8.

Mr. GEORGE LAMBERT asked the Under-Secretary for India whether excessive sickness prevailed among the troops at Aden; and whether any recognition had been made of the gallantry of the men there in fighting against largely predominant Turkish forces.

Mr. MONTAGU said no report had been received suggesting that there was excessive sickness among the troops at Aden. The names of a number of officers and men had been brought to notice for good service and a number of awards granted. A similar procedure would be adopted when the next despatch was received.

Mr. LAMBERT suggested that Mr. Montagu should specially inquire whether there was excessive sickness, as he had information that there was.

Mr. MONTAGU promised to make special inquiries, and asked for any information Mr. Lambert possessed.

The Navy and Baghdad.

Mr. GEORGE LAMBERT asked whether the First Lord of the Admiralty intended to issue any despatch recounting and recognising the services of the naval forces in Mesopotamia, without which the British troops would never have taken Baghdad.

Dr. MACNAMARA replied that a despatch would be published shortly.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has now contributed the sum of £647,785 to the British Red Cross Society, out of which over £400,000 has been spent on hospital work at home and the following places abroad:—Serbia, Dardanelles, Persian Gulf, Egypt, and Salonika. The fund has also agreed to provide £30,000 for hospital work in Mesopotamia. Further help is urgently needed, and all offers of assistance will be gratefully received by the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.1.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turkish Sandbags.

The Turkish method of dealing with a shortage of material for sandbags is indicated in a message from Jemal Pasha, which, according to the Beirout paper *El-Ikbal*, was recently sent to the Vali :—

"A million and a-half sandbags are required for the Gaza fortress for the construction of sand redoubts against the enemy shells, which are interminable. Their fleet and armoured trains also fire continually. The rents and breaches made daily must be repaired in this way. The bags should be made, if necessary, of all the silk hangings in all the houses of Syria and Palestine. The fortress of Gaza is of great importance to the future of the Hedjaz and Syria, and parapets constructed of sandbags made from the silk hangings will stand against the English shells."

"The bags," adds *El-Ikbal*, "have been distributed as follows: 250,000 to the vilayet of Adana; 250,000 to the Mutesarriflik of Jerusalem; 500,000 each to the vilayets of Aleppo and Beirout."

Commenting on this information, *El Kowkab* says:— "From a reliable informant who escaped from Syria at the end of last month we learn that the authorities are carrying out this order in the most brutal fashion; he has himself seen soldiers tearing off the *habbara* (long silk cloak) from Moslem women on the ground that it was required for sandbags for Gaza."

The Operations against Turkey.

In an article on "The Baghdad Railway in the War," in the *Fortnightly Review*, Mr. H. Charles Wood discusses the part played by that line in enabling the Turks to carry on their widely distributed military operations. Dealing with the probable effect of the pressure now being brought to bear on Turkey, he writes :—

Neither the Mesopotamian nor the Syrian campaign is in itself likely in the immediate future to bring about a situation destined to crush Turkey or Germanic power there. The capture of Baghdad has no doubt made a great impression in the Ottoman Empire, especially among the Arabs, and it must have increased British prestige throughout the East. Equally well our advance across the desert and our arrival in the more or less immediate vicinity of Jerusalem is clearly possessed of a more or less similar effect, and it must have strengthened the Independentist movement in Arabia. But, having regard to the distances between the areas in which we are fighting and any really vital part of the Ottoman Empire, and to the fact that our campaigns can have little direct connection with one another, it is not in the above-mentioned advantages that we must look for the *raison d'être* of a future desire on the part of the Turks for peace. The real value of these operations is twofold. From the military or more immediate standpoint it lies in the fact that, if they have not done so already, the allies or puppets of Germany must grow to understand that their future positions depend not so much upon the success of their local resistance as upon the general result of the war—a result which, sooner or later, they will recognise as destined to be favourable to the Allies. When that moment arrives they will also realise that the heavy cost of a continued resistance can have no counterbalancing advantages to set against those accruing from the early and independent conclusion of peace. It is then that Turkey, or at least the better elements of her people, may be influenced, partly by our actual successes on Ottoman soil, and partly by a knowledge of the real interests of the country, to turn her attention in the direction of the Allies, whose attitude towards the future of the Ottoman Empire has naturally been modified by the Russian Revolution.

A New Road in Southern Albania.

The reservation of a small portion of Epirus for military occupation by Italy is thus explained, according to the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, in a semi-official *communiqué* :—

This territory is at present absolutely necessary for the protection of the main road from Santi Quaranta to the southern Albanian posts held by the Italians, and is the only practicable road from the sea to the interior. The road from Santi Quaranta beyond Delvinon divides at Giorgincati, one branch rising to Argyrokastron, the other branch falling towards Janina. This latter branch, a few kilometres beyond Giorgincati, cuts the Greek-Albanian frontier established by the Florence Protocol of 1913 at Arinisti bridge, on the river Fitochi, and enters Greek Epirus in almost a direct line at Hain Kalibaki, where it again divides. The southern branch leads to Janina, whilst the northern branch mounts towards Liaskoviki, and, cutting the Greek-Albanian frontier at Melisopetra, re-enters Albanian territory. It will therefore be seen that the small triangle retained momentarily by Italy has as apexes the bridge on the Fitochi river, the cross-roads at Kalibaki, and the village of Melisopetra.

Only a large scale map gives all the names mentioned. The road is described by Major Claude Askew in the *Daily Express* :—

The road (he says) has been practicable for the last four or five months, but it is only quite recently that it may be regarded as an established line of communication and safely open to regular traffic. This new road throughout, thanks to Italian and French energy, is in excellent condition. The total distance from Salonika to Santi Quaranta, the Albanian port, is some 280 miles. The journey may be accomplished in two days, though that means pretty heavy travelling. For the first ninety miles, however, advantage may be taken of the train, and you will descend at Florina, the present terminus of the Monastir railway. Beyond Florina the road strikes into the mountains by a steep ascent. Koritsa, an important Albanian town, is remarkably modern and civilised considering its out-of-the-world position, but Liaskoviki, a little further on, might well be the mountain retreat of some sixteenth-century brigand chief.

We spent the night at Perati, on the Greek frontier, for some distance beyond which the road lies in Greece, and it is like nothing so much as driving for miles through an undulating English park. At Delvinaki an abrupt turn west is made and Albania is re-entered, and we found ourselves among stern, forbidding mountains once more.

It is from these fastnesses that we descend on Delvino, a pleasant and picturesque little town. From Delvino it is an easy run to Santi Quaranta—"the Holy Forty"—presumably a band of monks, the ruined remains of whose monastery are still to be seen upon the summit of an adjoining hill.

By the opening up of this road, Corfu—a short hour and a half's journey by boat from Santi Quaranta—assumes a much greater importance as a base for the Balkan campaign.

The Roumanian Surprise.

The military correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, in a critical survey of the third year of war, says that the Roumanian disaster was one of the worst that had overtaken the cause of the Allies :—

Yet another small country trusting to the power of the Entente had been overwhelmed in a few weeks and ruined by the fierce conqueror. This German victory in the Carpathians acted as a set-off to the Allied successes in France, while the material resources of oil and grain seized by the Germans in the richest district of Europe were of immense importance in the war of blockade and attrition. Worst of all, perhaps, was the widespread conviction engendered by these events that the Entente States had no unity of strategy, no common military policy, and consequently no certainty of acting in concert on the most important and critical occasions. The chief military authorities in London and Paris could not possibly have been aware either of the state of things in Russia, or of Roumanian and Bulgarian armed strength, and still less of the reserve German army lying in wait for the occasion, or they would never have fallen into the trap by pushing Roumania into her fatal declaration of war. It was the turning-point in the gigantic campaign of 1916. From the depth of despondency German arrogance rose once more to the heights of imprudence, which led to the breach with the United States of America.

Another aspect of the Roumanian disaster is given by "Bukarest" in the *National Review* :—

The year 1916 ended in disaster for Roumania, but she had the satisfaction of knowing that her sacrifice had not been in vain, and that these successes of the Kaiser's troops had been largely made up for elsewhere. For by drawing down on herself the thirty-seven divisions of élite which would otherwise have been employed on other fronts, she had saved the armies of Letschitsky and Brusiloff from a counter-offensive which had caused the gravest anxiety. She could also claim with pride that she had not been quite a stranger to the fullness of the successes of her Allies on the Somme and the Ancre, and that she had contributed to the definite and complete check of the Germans in the Battle of Verdun—a battle second in importance only to that of the Marne—and whose name will predominate in the history of the war in 1916.

Gallipoli.

An article in *The Times*, on "Gallipoli Memories," contains a vivid pen picture of the present appearance of the peninsula :—

To-day all is quiet at Gallipoli. The rows on rows of wooden crosses at Anzac and Helles, at Nibrunesi Point, and Brighton Beach look out over the Aegean, doubtless as blue as ever it was; the dead who lie beneath these little monuments of great deeds have reached their rest. In the scrub Lee-Enfields lie rusting alongside shattered Mausers. The pebbles on the long bleak beaches are mixed with shrapnel bullets, and in the sand of the dunes west of the Long Sap are buried bones and scraps of leather, clips of corroded cartridges, and shreds of khaki clothing. The "Vineyard" has blossomed, and the small green grapes cluster on the vines. The well by the Fisherman's Hut has run sweet once more. The cave dwellings by Shrapnel Gully, Quinn's Post, and Courtenay's are as quiet and still as tombs. Grass and weeds have crept over the winding paths that thread the valleys and skirt the hilltops. The sandbags of the traverses and trenches have rotted and burst, spilling their earth on the litter of these battles of yesterday. And out through the chessboard fields grave-mounds of earth that we patted down with spade and entrenching tool have blossomed with wild flowers and green grass. The warm, tideless Aegean washes these empty beaches where once thousands of men from the Empire's back-blocks made war as it had never been made before.

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SERBIA'S INDEPENDENCE.

The Serbian Society gave a luncheon in honour of M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, at the Savoy Hotel on Wednesday. Lord Treowen presided in the absence, through indisposition, of Sir Edward Carson, and among those present were Lord Robert Cecil, the Greek Minister, the Roumanian Minister, the Serbian Minister, Sir A. Firth, Sir G. Riddell, Vice-Admiral Troubridge, Admiral Sir Hedworth Meux, Mr. H. Samuel, M.P., Sir Alfred Mond, M.P., Mr. W. Brace, M.P., Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, Mr. G. J. Wardle, M.P., Sir H. Dalziel, M.P., Colonel Yate, M.P., Captain Amery, M.P., Mr. Mackinder, M.P., Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P., Major D. Davies, M.P., Mr. Ian Malcolm, M.P., Colonel Sir Mark Sykes, M.P., Sir Arthur Evans, and Mr. H. W. Steed.

In a letter expressing regret at his absence Sir Edward Carson wrote :—"To those who are inclined to make an indecisive or inglorious peace I would commend the example set by the Serbians, who, although their country is in the possession of the enemy, have continued to fight and have gained for themselves undying glory." Mr. Gallenga Stuart, an Italian deputy, wrote saying that he hoped Italy and Serbia would always move together against the common foe.

Lord Robert Cecil, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, proposed the health of Monsieur Pashitch, who was, he said, the Grand Old Man of Serbia and one of the heroic figures of the war. We must aim at a final settlement, which could only be based on the principle of natural justice. That settlement must recognise the national and racial aspirations of the countries concerned, and must draw together and not divide our present Allies. He was convinced there was no inconsistency between the claims of Italy and Serbia. Those two nations could look forward to a long and prosperous future side by side.

M. Pashitch replied to the toast in Serbian, his speech being translated by Capt. Yovanovitch. He said that Austria, the vanguard of the German penetration to the East, tried during the Balkan war to bring Serbia by means of a customs union into the service of the Austro-German policy. When this attempt failed there came a series of ultimatums on the Albanian question, from which Serbia was able to escape, but then came the deplorable event of Serajevo, which Austria, in connivance with Germany, used to provoke this terrible war. Germany now talked of an honourable peace. An honourable peace should provide for the punishment of those who had provoked the present conflict; it should provide guarantees that such a catastrophe could not occur again; it should provide for the setting free of all the peoples under the Austrian yoke, and for the union of the Serbs with their kindred peoples.

Messieurs Gennadius and Misu replied on behalf of Greece and Roumania to the toast of "Our Allies," proposed by Mr. Herbert Samuel.

Mr. Lloyd George, who arrived late, said he had come from an important conference, and would have to attend its resumption in a very short time. But he felt he could not let the opportunity pass without coming to say that his heart was with Serbia. He had also come to pay a personal tribute of deep respect to the venerable and distinguished figure of the Serbian Prime Minister, whom he had known for many years as one of the wisest, most sagacious, and most patriotic figures in the East. He thought that not only Serbia, but also Europe owed a great deal to Monsieur Pashitch. To two statesmen produced by two small nations—Serbia and Greece—we owed far more than it was possible to reveal. Venizelos, by his steadfastness, courage, and insight, had kept the soul of Greece alive under most trying conditions. He (Mr. Lloyd George) was a believer in the little nations; he had the honour to belong to one himself. One point about the Serbs that had always touched him as a Welshman was that they had been able to sing of their defeat. Submerged beneath a deluge of barbarism, but not destroyed, they had sung the songs of Kossovo for centuries until the day of triumph came. A nation that could survive centuries of Turkish tyranny would not die because of three years of defeat. What he had ventured to say about Belgium he would repeat about Serbia—that the first condition of peace was restoration, complete and without reservation. However long the war might last, British honour was involved in seeing that Serbian independence was completely restored. And it was not merely a matter of the security of civilisation. What was true of Belgium was true also of Serbia—that she was the guardian of the gate. She had faithfully stood to her trust. We extended once more the hand of fellowship to Serbia, and said that, come weal come woe, we were not merely Allies, but friends and partners, and would go through the world together.

EARLY PERSIAN POTTERY.

A very interesting collection of Persian ceramics is now on view at the galleries of the Fine Art Society in Bond Street. In the main the exhibits are specimens of early Persian pottery found on the sites of the ancient cities of Ecbatana, Rhages, and Arak.

Particular value attaches to the exhibition from the fact that the pottery is representative of the best period of Persian ceramics. How the school of craftsmen arose which gained for Persia from the eleventh to the sixteenth centuries the distinction of possessing some of the finest workmen at this art is still a matter for discussion. The fact remains, however, that the pottery of this period was unrivalled for shape and colouring. The potters were able to produce a white surface on their wares, and over this they painted floral designs in many colours Then an alkaline glaze was used over this surface, giving a most brilliant and picturesque effect.

Some exquisite examples of these wares are to be seen in the exhibition, which is probably as fine a collection of its type as has been seen in London. Space prevents more than a cursory reference to the exhibits, and we, therefore, content ourselves with mentioning a few of the outstanding pieces. No. 51, a shallow bowl, a delicate example of the craftsmanship of the period in brown and black on a white surface, with an elaborately worked interior, was found at Ecbatana, and is of the thirteenth century. Of another type, and a century older, is 18, a small bowl, from Rhages, a rich design in blue and black. It is described as having "flaring sides, covered with smooth ivory glaze with black and blue painting, displaying a medallion of filiated scroll in centre and branching rosettes, and fleurs de lys on sides, with a ring of white incised ivory on black ground encircling the rim."

Then there is a curious mosque lamp (59) of the thirteenth century from Ecbatana, with a short neck and four handles, and another interesting exhibit is a tabouret (3) of the ninth century found at Rakka in Mesopotamia. Other important exhibits are 120, a ceremonial basin of metallic lustre from Ecbatana, of the twelfth century, with an arabesque ornamentation of gold and brown, and 49, a magnificent vase from Ecbatana of the thirteenth century. The latter exhibit is of particular interest for its patches of sunset iridescence, which are of surpassing beauty.

THE FIELD FORCE FUND.

An appeal is made by Lord Islington, chairman of the executive committee, and Mrs. W. L. Sclater, hon. secretary of Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund, for supplies of warm clothing for the coming winter. Comforts for Salonika, Egypt, and France should be ready to go out early in October, and they must therefore be collected, packed, and despatched in September. About 25,000 parcels are packed and despatched per month. Contributors are invited to visit 24A, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, and see the vast amount of work done and the comfort ensured to our soldiers abroad. Gifts of warm clothing, especially socks, shirts, mufflers, and sweaters, and the small luxuries so much appreciated in the trenches, are asked for.

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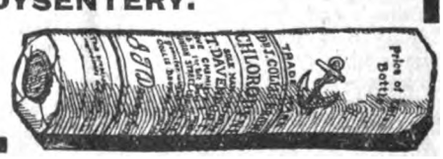

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The Merchants' Committee of the London Chamber of Commerce have made certain recommendations—which the Council of the Chamber have adopted in principle—with regard to the attitude of the Government to trade during the war. The recommendations are, in effect, a dignified protest against official intervention between producers and consumers. The committee suggest that the Government should cease to act as an intermediary, that the services of the business community should be utilised fully, the control of imports and exports should be organised, and that the control departments should be assisted by representative business men nominated by the trades concerned. In a word, Arcadia.

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There can be no doubt that some system is urgently needed. The various official control agencies have not succeeded in regulating supplies or in securing the confidence either of the distributors, producers, or consumers of the commodities controlled; and the result, generally speaking, has been great confusion. This statement is not to be regarded as a reflection on the goodwill and patriotism of the officials; the trouble has been that the wrong men have been selected to perform duties which would have taxed the ability of experts. I do not suggest for a moment that all the trouble and discontent among the people, and the loss and inconvenience suffered by traders, would not have occurred; but it would certainly have been minimised, and if business men had been employed, and failed, to organise a perfect system of control, the real difficulties of the situation would have been more readily appreciated than is the case at present.

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An interesting prize case has been decided this week by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. The Hamburg-Amerika Line appealed against the decision of the Egyptian Vice-Admiralty Court condemning their steamer the Sudmark as lawful prize. It will be recalled that this vessel was captured by a British man-of-war in the Red Sea a few days after the outbreak of the war, and towed, via Port Said, to Alexandria. The appeal from the condemnation was based on the technical point that the captors allowed the vessel to remain at Suez for more than twenty-four hours, in breach of the Suez Canal, the Hague Conventions, of the Egyptian Proclamation Act, and that the ship was only liable to detention. The contention failed, as it deserved to do. The fact remains that the Sudmark was "prize."

The war in the Middle East continues to be in a state of suspension. Reports reaching this country show that, as in Turkey proper, so in Asia Minor, the economic conditions are deplorable. "Constant revolts occur," the Athens correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* cabled recently, the principal causes for which "are the dearness of all the necessaries of life, including foodstuffs, and the great depreciation of the currency. Paper money, the issues of which are guaranteed by bonds on the German Treasury, is refused absolutely in most districts. In certain banks, and by the money changers, *it is sometimes, but not always, accepted at the rate of* £14 *in paper for* £1 *in gold.*" The italics are mine; and I emphasise the phrase to show how completely the people have awakened to the hollowness of the promise of assistance by German agents. They will not even accept the currency of their own country backed by the "security" of the German name. It is not surprising to learn further that the Turkish Government, to avoid revolts and risings, is forced to pay gold against its own decree, which prohibited payments in specie throughout the Empire.

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Germany herself, as a matter of fact, is little better off. Her gold reserve may remain in the neighbourhood of the normal —£120,100,000—but the great increase in the issue of paper money has reduced its proportion to currency obligations. The last return of the note issue showed an increase of £11,500,000, and the ratio of gold to notes is about 27 per cent. Before the war it was 71.7. The amazing depreciation of the mark needs no further explanation. All accounts go to show that the money situation in Germany is becoming desperate. Silver coins become rarer; all the larger coins gave place to paper early in the war, and now various German cities propose to replace 50 pfennig pieces by paper tokens. There would not appear to be much of a margin left for the assistance of a deceived and stricken ally, and the Turks have fully realised this for some time past.

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Shareholders in Russian gold mines have not been in happy circumstance in recent times; but a recent decision of the new Government has provided them with a grain of comfort, small though it may be. The Government, according to certain Continental papers, has authorised for a period of ten years the free import of the equipment and machinery so much needed by the industry. The decree may not mean a great deal in itself, perhaps, but it is a valuable indication that the old sloth is being shaken off. What a pity it is that more liberal treatment and greater consideration are not given to the oil industry, in which British interests are so closely bound up.

The plan by which the British Empire Producers' Association proposes to pay off our war debt has already been discussed in these columns. A Frenchman, described by the *Petit Parisian* as "one of the most progressive business men in France" (M. André Citroen) has elaborated in that paper a most comprehensive scheme which is to accomplish a like result for all the belligerent nations. The scheme is to set up a "bank of all nations, whose notes shall be forced currency throughout the world. This bank alone would have note-issuing authority, and there need be no gold reserve to back its paper, the war having shown it to be possible to issue a certain quantity of bank notes on the basis of the credit of the issuing nation." It will be apparent, of course, that enemy countries would benefit under the scheme—the author, indeed, realises this—but it is pointed out that "the amount of war indemnities would be deducted from the sum allotted to them." In this way, so we are told, the belligerents would be able to wipe out all their interest-bearing war loans and Treasury Bill issues, and after the war take up national life with a clean balance sheet! But what about the countries which are in the position of fraudulent bankruptcy? And who will trust them?

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According to the *Frankfurter Zeitung*—an authority not always to be believed, however—the present harvest in Serbia is the best for many years, and great quantities of food crops have already been despatched to Germany and Austria. If the first statement may be conceded, the latter claim may also be accepted, because neither Germany nor Austria would hesitate to steal all they could find, regardless of the fact that their victims would be left to starve. Another enemy paper, the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, declares that Germany has already planned to divide the harvest in Bessarabia between herself and her allies.

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On another page to-day will be found a report of the inaugural meeting of the British Merchants' Morocco Association. Space prevents the inclusion of an illuminating speech delivered by Mr. Macleod, of the Consular Service; but with this it is hoped to deal next week. The subject of Moroccan trade is of such profound interest to British merchants and manufacturers that I am sure the address delivered by Mr. Hunter will be read with attention. I wish the Association the greatest success in its mission, and in the hands of its influential Council and officers the wish is likely to be realised. Merchants who desire to come in close touch with the activities of the Association should communicate with the honorary secretary, Mr. P. B. Robinson, 17, Leadenhall Street, London, E.C.4.

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THE SUDAN.

No. 12. The Red Sea Province.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

Anterior to the year 1905 you might have searched vainly the map of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan for a province bearing the title of "The Red Sea." The greater part of the territory now known under that designation was called the Suakin Province (on the Red Sea littoral), and ranked as of second-class grade, in company with the provinces of Halfa, Gezira, and White Nile. The real importance of the Red Sea division commenced with the year 1906, which witnessed the opening of the Nile-Red Sea railway by the late Lord Cromer at Port Sudan, in the memorable month of January. From that time forward the province has made consistent economic progress, and it ranks to-day as one of the most prosperous—agriculturally—of the political divisions, and of primary importance as containing the two principal ports of the Sudan.

Although one of the smallest of the provinces so far as actual area is concerned—the superficial measurements show but 28,000 square miles of territory—the Red Sea comes next to that of Khartoum in respect to commercial development. It has, indeed, become the most successful of the cotton-producing districts of the Sudan, being favoured with almost ideal climatic conditions for this particular class of agriculture. Much, of course, depends on the frequency and degree of rains that fall, and in this respect the province ranks as one of the wettest. On the other hand, droughts are by no means rare; the northern portions in particular have suffered often and severely in this respect. The year of 1914 stands out prominently as *annus horribilis*, the scarcity of moisture resulting in the falling-off of the cotton crop by as much as 52,610 kantars, as compared with the yield of the previous year's season.

Best Days to Come.

The best days of the Red Sea Province have perhaps yet to dawn. When the projected railway between Suakin and Tokar is constructed—as constructed it will be shortly—the whole commerce of the district affected will receive an immense impetus. The long trains of camels, loaded with produce and goods from abroad and destined for Kassala, will gradually disappear, it is true, and the many wild-looking but picturesque Hadendowas who tend the caravans will likewise vanish into their mountain fastnesses. The iron-horse will once again supersede the ship of the desert, with the satisfactory result that freight charges will fall to a tithe of their present rates, while thousands of tons of merchandise—instead of hundreds, as at present—will pass backwards and forwards to the advantage of Suakin and its merchants, many of whom own both house-property and cotton-fields at Tokar, situated not far distant.

The three principal towns in the province are Tokar, Suakin and Port Sudan. The former, located so close to the scene of the late Baker Pasha's disastrous retreat in 1884, was relieved by Sir Gerald Graham, whose infantry troops, fighting in the middle of the Tropical rainy season, had to tramp from Suakin on the coast through a belt of liquid mud and sand, quite as bad as anything recently met with by our boys on the Somme or at Ypres. Although four-and-thirty years have passed since those unhappy days, the skulls and bones of some of the thousands of disorganised and shattered Egyptian troops still encumber the old battle-field. The present town of Tokar has been much improved within recent years. One notices almost at once the general orderliness of the place, and the cleanliness and the apparent contentedness of the people. Nothing that human enterprise or ingenuity could devise would ever serve to make Tokar into a desirable place of residence; but, at least, it has been rendered habitable for a certain period of the year, and to this distinction it would hardly have attained but for the many sanitary innovations introduced by the Administration.

A Fallacy.

It was generally supposed that when Port Sudan was established the whole economic future of Suakin was sealed, and that Ichabod could be written above its ancient gateways. But this has proved far from the case, although perhaps it may require something more than the bare assurance of the individual to bring home the fact to conviction. At first sight the town of Suakin looks like a settlement of ruins and an utter desolation. Fully one-half of the buildings are in various stages of decay, while many of the crowded inhabitants preferably dwell in miserable tent-like hovels in the last degree repellent to the sight, and offensive to the smell. The rise of its new rival, Port Sudan, has, it is true, meant for Suakin a decline in its maritime supremacy and a diminution in its commerce and trade, as well as in the number of its inhabitants, and the gradual withdrawal of foreign banking and financial interests. All of these signify a heavy decline on the once-great prosperity of the town and district; but that is a long way from admitting that the glory of the whole place has departed.

Evil of Mahdism.

It would be a lamentable thing were this indeed the case. To my mind, of all the towns in the Sudan Suakin is the most typically "Eastern," presenting a veritable feast of colour of decayed or decaying Oriental splendour and ruined magnificence, but possessed of an historical past without compare. The town suffered severely commercially during the fourteen dark years of Mahdism. Under those blighting conditions the important trading route between Suakin and Berber was completely closed to caravans. Even before the battle of Atbara, which finally released the province of Berber from the nightmare rule which had so long afflicted it, both imports and exports had shown signs of steady increase, for merchant steamers soon recommenced to plough their way to and from the busy little port. The town itself since those days has altered very little, except so far as its ruins are concerned. These have become still more ruinous. Several substantial Government buildings have been erected, but these are lost, except when seen from the water's front, among the mass of dilapidated constructions, many of which appear to be upon the point of falling from lack of repairs. Kitchener's Gate, a splendid piece of semi-Moorish architecture, and the lengthy, solid wall built of stone (or of coral rocks) which Kitchener constructed to keep out the Dervishes under Osman Digna, still remain. The wide breach in that wall which the wild followers of the Khalifa could not succeed in effecting, after months of tireless siege, a tidal wave achieved in the course of a single night.

The earliest of the charts of the Red Sea coast indicate the existence of a large, natural harbour known as Sheikh-el-Barghut, some twenty miles north of Suakin. A commission that examined the whole coast-line for the purpose of selecting the best spot for a harbour decided in favour of this situation, and it was forthwith named "Port Sudan." Opened to traffic in 1909 by the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi, the port has proved everything—or almost everything—that was hoped for. Disadvantages it has no doubt, but in any case they are inferior to those which would have had to be contended with at Suakin. Once the inside of the harbour is attained the safety of vessels is assured, and, unlike the entrance to Suakin, it can be negotiated at night. In fact, about 60 per cent. of the vessels entering arrive and berth at night. As regards its use as a naval base, nothing could be better. A whole fleet of men-of-war could be easily accommodated. Port Sudan likewise possesses great strategic advantages, for, were the Suez Canal blocked in times of war—as was the late idea and the hope of our friends "the clean-fighting Turks"—it would be a simple thing to send troops to India by way of Alexandria, the Nile, and Port Sudan.

War-time Adversity.

Naturally, the war has wrought untold harm to the fortunes of the port. This was, however, to have been expected. But its glory is in the shade only, and with the restoration of normal conditions in the shipping world there will ensue an increase in the prosperity of the harbour and of the province in which it is situated.

Port Sudan and harbour cost £E866,000 to build and equip. Since the port opened the external trade of the Sudan has doubled in value. The increase is mainly the result of the new railways, of which the port is the terminus; but it has been greatly assisted by the fact that the quick-despatch, up-to-date apparatus and safe entrance, both by day and by night, which the harbour offers make it attractive to the leading lines of cargo and passenger steamers which call there for traffic. In ordinary times the lines sending their vessels to Port Sudan at regular or intermittent intervals include the Khedivial Mail—their steamer, the Prince Abbas, with mails from London *vid* Brindisi, leaving England on October 31, 1907, was the first to cast her moorings in the new port on the evening of the following November 9—the Union-Castle, Bombay-American, and British India, the Clan, Bucknall, Harrison, City, Hall, Ellerman, Odessa and Società Nazionale dei Servizi Marittimi of Italy.

Shipping Handicaps.

At one time, also, the fine boats of the Austrian-Lloyd called there, and presumably at some future date they will call again. To-day, however, the greater part of the companies mentioned have withdrawn their vessels in entirety. Great difficulty has been found since the beginning of the war in obtaining either freight or passenger accommodation, while an increase of something approaching 50 per cent. upon the normal charges made has of a necessity been imposed. Indirectly, the town of Port Sudan has also suffered, and prices of land have fallen to practically nothing. Yet at one time great hopes were entertained of land values in this town and district, but as the longest leasehold granted by the Government (which owns all the building plots available) remains at ninety-nine years and stringent regulations regarding the character and the value of the buildings to be erected thereon exist, there is little opportunity afforded of anything like speculation in the prices proving successful. And this is precisely what the authorities have aimed at preventing.

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ADEN'S IVORY TRADE.

Steady Falling Off in Imports and Exports.

We are indebted to a report submitted by the United States Consul (Mr. Addison E. Southard) for the following particulars regarding the Aden ivory trade.

Aden seems to be losing the importance it once occupied as an ivory market. In 1912 it imported ivory to the amount of 54,042 lb., valued at £27,600, and exported 77,132 lb., valued at £40,000. The import value averaged about 10s. 6d. per lb., and the export value about 10s. 11d. The excess of exports over imports is explained by stocks accumulated from the previous year. There has been a steady falling off until in 1916 Aden imported only 18,660 lb. of ivory, valued at £7,600, or an average of 8s. 4d. per lb., and exported 19,237 lb., valued at £8,100, or an average of 8s. 9d. per lb.

The above figures on the average value per lb. are for all grades. For the best grade of ivory the present local price per lb. is around 16s. 8d. as against 12s. 6d. twelve or fifteen years ago. This increased price is due not only to decreased general supplies, but to a proportionately much greater decrease in the supply of the better grade.

Sources of Supply.

Abyssinia is the principal source of supply for the Aden ivory market. At times much Abyssinian ivory has been exported through the Egyptian Sudan and East Africa. The prohibitions some years ago of the export of female or immature ivory by the governments of the two districts named has caused the bulk of the Abyssinian ivory, a lot of which is female or immature, to come out of the country through Djibouti. Some goes direct to Europe from Djibouti, but much of it comes to Aden. Ivory hunting is a Government monopoly in Abyssinia, and permission must be obtained to kill elephants, although no permission has been necessary to buy ivory. All of the ivory obtained must, however, be shared with the Government, this share ranging from one-half to three-fourths.

Hunters and buyers, when possible, have the ivory smuggled out to the coast in order to avoid giving the Government its share. If this is not immediately possible the tusks are buried in the ground to await a favourable opportunity for smuggling them out. The earth, however, soon stains the buried ivory and decreases its value. It is stated that this practice of smuggling has been responsible in part for the order prohibiting the killing of elephants. Another reason was, doubtless, the fact that the Abyssinian elephant herds have been seriously reduced by hunters in recent years.

Notwithstanding the prohibition of ivory hunting in Abyssinia, considerable quantities still arrive in the Aden market, a good part of which is said to be from stocks buried in past years.

United States a Good Market.

The greater part of the ivory exported from Aden goes to Great Britain and the United States. The bulk of the extra large and good tusks are sent to America, where good prices are obtained. The next best assortment goes to London. The inferior pieces go to India, China, and Japan. Nearly half of the ivory exported from Aden in 1916 went to America, the quantity being 6,485 lb., valued at £3,510. In 1912 Aden exported to the United States 35,510 lb. of ivory, valued at £18,240. This was more than half of the total exports. The American market has for many years taken a large share of the ivory exported from Aden.

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of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Quiet Week of Irregular Production.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

We have experienced a quiet week, and the holiday season of the year is having some effect upon business. The "wakes" are being held in numerous Lancashire towns, and production is very irregular, especially in the weaving section.

The policy of the Control Board with regard to curtailment of production is still in abeyance, but arrangements had been made for the whole situation to be discussed by the Chairman of the Control Board and the President of the Board of Trade this Thursday, and it was hoped that some definite announcement would be available before the close of the week.

In the meantime spinners and manufacturers are very uncertain as to the extent of their production during the next few months.

Advices relating to the progress of the Egyptian cotton crop refer to probable damage by the pink worm, and the growth has still to pass through a critical period. Egyptian yarns remain very irregular in quotation. Rather more business has been done in the finer numbers, particularly in wefts. Coarse carded counts still drag.

There has not been very much activity in piece-goods for Egypt. Shippers are harassed by the limited freight space. According to letters and telegrams from Cairo, clearances remain on a healthy scale. Demand for India has not been very prominent, and many of the offers cannot be entertained.

Although buying for China has not been so active as a week or two ago, the undercurrent of demand keeps up fairly well. American yarns have been purchased sparingly, and spinners have experienced difficulty in maintaining their position. Stocks are now and again sold at very low figures as owners of mills do not wish to finance supplies on the high prices of to-day.

Further buying has been reported in single and two-fold yarns for India, and certain producers are in a much stronger position than a month ago.

TRADE NOTES.

Morocco.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Laraiche (Mr. G. H. Selous) writes to the Board of Trade, under date July 7, that as long as British firms continue to send catalogues and price lists in the English language, and with prices in English currency, to Laraiche or other parts of the Spanish Zone of Morocco, such firms handicap themselves at the outset in their efforts to secure a market in that country. Catalogues sent to the Spanish Zone of Morocco should be printed in Spanish, and prices should be stated in Spanish pesetas, approximately if necessary, and based on a rate of exchange which should be given, with the proviso that any difference in the rate of exchange will entail a corresponding difference in the price.

RUSSIAN SUGAR EXPORTS.

The export of sugar to Persia has been subjected to repeated checks in recent years. In September, 1915, the export of sugar *vid* Baku was suspended for a time. In November permission was given again for lots of 3,610 tons monthly, which shortly afterward it was found possible to increase to 5,415 tons. From December 28 only Marseille refined was admitted to export. From February, 1916, the export of granulated sugar was permitted. On April 18, 1916, according to a statement of the President of the Special Conference on Supplies, the export to Persia of all kinds of sugar was prohibited by the Ministry of Finance. Finally, on May 10, the Council of Ministers permitted the exportation of 5,414 tons into Persia for sale against ready native cash, but only a part of the indicated quantity was exported.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week July 27.		1917. Week July 26.
Cattle markets	404	..	223
General markets	369	..	338
Cattle markets closed	24	..	123
Receipts (£).....	773	..	561*
Total for year.....	32,044	..	37,235

* Bairam Holidays.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP.")
WILKINSON'S (ESTB. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet*
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
THE SAFEST AND MOST RELIABLE REMEDY FOR Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and
The Most WONDERFUL PURIFIER of the HUMAN BLOOD.
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
"We recommend your Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—Medical Review.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. Marvin.
The late Lord Clyde said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—Earl of Aldborough.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION for over THREE-QUARTERS of a CENTURY. (Established since 1829.)

RANKEN COMPANY
CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET, AND HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS.
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI.
Telegrams—"Mentally."
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Plough Attachments.

The ancient methods of clod-breaking represented in old Egyptian engravings, which illustrate ploughing and hoeing, are still in vogue in many parts of the Near East, where modern hoeing machines are either unknown or too expensive for the average farmer to buy; but with the existing scarcity of labour even the antiquated method is now expensive. It will be of much interest to the farmers and land proprietors, therefore, to know that a device has been invented which will advantageously replace "the man who goes behind the plough to break the clods." The invention is a plough attachment for breaking up clods and earth. It is fitted to the back edge of the mould board in an upright position by a bracket, which is formed to provide bearings for a spindle, on which are mounted two bosses, carrying a couple of rotating cutters or beaters.

As the plough is drawn forward the share ploughs up the ground, and the latter is directed upwards by the shape of the share and the mould-board in the usual way. The earth ploughed up has a natural tendency to press against the mould-board, so that as the earth leaves or is delivered from the rear end it presses against the beaters which project beyond the furrow side of the mould-board. The pressure of the earth and sods against the beaters, combined with the forward movement of the plough, causes the former to rotate about the spindle, and in the course of their rotation the beaters automatically slice and break the sods and earth ploughed up into a more or less pulverised condition. The device has been patented.

Reinforced Concrete.

Although reinforced concrete has only recently been introduced on a comparatively large scale in the Near East, its efficiency or suitability for exposed structures is already being questioned by local "experts," and especially by contractors of public works. They say that deterioration takes place even under ordinary humidity. In such cases they may be sure that the design and construction of the concrete is faulty. There will be no deterioration if the concrete is waterproof, and free from cracks that will admit water. More moisture or any stationary water left in the concrete after its preparation is of small consequence, as water soon becomes saturated with lime, and then forms an alkaline medium well adapted for the preservation of steel; but continued access of water, involving anything of a flow, will remove the preservative lime, and thus cause the customary rusting of steel exposed to water. Therefore, the concrete of the reinforced concrete must be practically impervious. It is desirable to make the concrete containing the steel or iron reinforcement very dense, since by doing so its protective properties will be maintained for the longest time. Correctly designed and prepared reinforced concrete can be absolutely relied on to be free from any deterioration owing to age.

Oil-Well Machinery.

British makers of oil-well machinery and refining plant, have been wisely advised that they must be ready if they wish to secure some of the very large orders which will surely come from Roumania and South Russia after the war. It must be remembered that great destruction of oil-well machinery has taken place in Roumania, both below and above ground, in order to avoid the invaders utilising the wells. The value of the destroyed works on the surface of the oil-wells is estimated at £8,000,000, and in addition to this, a great deal of underground machinery has also been rendered useless. The destruction on the works of one company alone is authoritatively estimated at £900,000. There is no doubt that American engineers will compete very sharply with British firms for the restoration business; but it is anticipated that there will be abundant room for both.

Serbian Trade.

It is reported that a Serbian commercial association, with branches in Greece, desiring to enter into commercial relations with American manufacturers and exporters of general merchandise, has issued a complete list of the goods desired, and, through American official channels, have brought it to the latter's notice. Were British manufacturers and exporters indifferent or forgotten?

Prominent Industries of India

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

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Secretary to the Admiralty has issued the following return for the week ended 3 p.m., August 5, of arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,673
Sailings	2,796

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons (gross) or over	19
Under 1,600 tons (gross)	2
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	10
British fishing vessels sunk	None

A Reuter message from Amsterdam says:—It is reported from a German source that Germany intends shortly to concentrate her submarine activity exclusively against Great Britain, with the object of more intensive destruction of ships trading with England.

Four large French ships and two Italian were lost during the week by submarine action.

PORT WORKS AT TREBIZOND.

Reference has been made in THE NEAR EAST from time to time to the development of the port of Trebizond, which was undertaken along modern lines about five years ago. Two small breakwaters were built under English direction, one on the Molos side and the other on Dermen Dereh, and warehouses were erected on the quays. A large French company has been building, repairing, and making a study of the roads to connect various parts of the city with the interior and to ensure regular communication and the transportation of goods. A Belgian water company undertook the canalisation of the waters of Galiena, a village not far from Trebizond, and a considerable sum of money was collected in Trebizond itself, by which the canalisation of the city was assured.

The recent change to Russian administration has temporarily halted these enterprises; but the new Government is encouraging various projects that will increase Trebizond's commercial importance. Among these is the founding of the Commercial Bank of Trebizond. Refrigerating plants for military and private goods are to be established, most of the capital coming from Russia. A great bakery with machinery for kneading the dough and ovens of the latest French pattern is one of the projects discussed. Electric works at Dermen Dereh are also planned to supply power for an electric tannery.

SUGAR IN EGYPT.

The Egyptian sugar industry (writes a contemporary) has developed very considerably since the war broke out. This is ascribed in some quarters to a largely increased use of chemical fertilisers. Before 1914, Egypt imported for its sugar cane plantations 20,000 tons of such chemical aids, whereas in 1915 the amount rose to 70,000 tons. The present expense for artificial manures in Egypt per acre of canes is put at 20s. to 40s.; and as the results are favourable the allowance tends to increase.

LIFE INSURANCE.

ALL persons who are about to effect a Life Insurance Policy in any Office should send particulars of the proposed Policy to MR. E. P. HENDERSON, late of the Indian Civil Service, for his impartial opinion, which is given FREE OF CHARGE, on his usual conditions (obtainable by any person on application).

INDIAN RESIDENTS, while at home on leave, can obtain exceptionally favourable terms, and should make a point of applying for particulars of Mr. Henderson's Special Scheme for Insurance to cover the risks of the voyage out.

Pamphlets, describing special schemes for

EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, IMPROVEMENT OF INCOME AFTER RETIREMENT, BACHELORS' POLICIES, AND INSURANCE AGAINST ENFORCED RETIREMENT DUE TO FAILURE OF HEALTH,

can be had on application by persons of known position, who agree to Mr. Henderson's conditions.

Interviews by Appointment.

42, LEINSTER GARDENS, LONDON, W.

TRADE IN MOROCCO.

Inauguration of the British Merchants' Association.

The inaugural meeting of the British Merchants' Morocco Association was held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Wednesday, August 1, 1917, Mr. Robert Samuel Hunter (Vice-President of the Association) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. P. B. Robinson) having read the notice calling the meeting,

The Chairman, in the course of a lengthy and highly interesting address, after referring to the regretted absence of the President and the Deputy-Chairman, and the recent death of Mr. de Moraville, said:

A Representative Council.

"You will all have received the council's report. You will not expect me to tell you of any important achievements by the Association. There has not been time for that. We have been busy organising the council and enrolling members. We hope the result will be considered very satisfactory.

"We have endeavoured to secure a thoroughly representative Council, and we believe we have succeeded. We believe we have done well in securing the services of Lord Onslow as President, and you will be asked to show your approval. You will also be asked to approve the election of the Vice-President and Treasurer. We have received very much help from Mr. Couper, who has very kindly given us, for the first year, at all events, an office free of rent and expenses. In regard to the enrolment of members, seventy-three have been elected, and applications keep coming in.

The Foreign Office.

"We who have interests in Morocco have at last an association through which we can make ourselves heard, and the Council intends to do everything in its power to make it impossible in the future for any Government to disregard British interests when Morocco is considered. The Foreign Office know of our existence. We have made a strong appeal for their confidence. We desire that our views shall be heard before steps affecting British interests in Morocco are taken.

"We have received very hearty good wishes from the British Consular Service in Morocco; and we welcome among us to-day our very able Consul at Fez, Mr. J. M. Macleod. The British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco—which is doing such good work and which deserves the support of all firms trading with Morocco—has told us how much they look to us to support them. And I know this is the feeling of all British subjects in Morocco. There is a tremendous future in Morocco for British trade. Whatever part politics may play in regard to Morocco, we must ensure that British trade will be safeguarded.

Bank of British West Africa.

"The Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., has opened branches at Tangier, Mazagan, and Casablanca, and, we hope, has other places in contemplation. This bank is rendering very great help to British trade. One of the present difficulties in regard to British interests in Morocco arises from the small number of British subjects in Morocco as compared with other nationals, and British subjects there look to us to support them to the utmost of our power. The French are rapidly developing Morocco, and deserve every credit for what they are doing under most difficult conditions. Roads and railways are being planned and built. Harbours are being improved and lighthouses erected, and British traders share the benefits. Provisional statistics give the seaborne trade of the ports in the French zone alone for 1916 as about ten millions, against seven millions for 1913.

British Share of Trade.

"Great Britain's share of the trade with Morocco could be much greater, but we must have better shipping facilities. We appeal to the steamship companies to give us a better service when the war comes to an end. Then there is the question of freight charges. If British manufacturers are to compete successfully with foreign manufacturers, freight must be made as low as possible. British steamship companies can only gain in the long run by regular and efficient services and low freights.

"There are other matters too which should claim the attention of the association—questions affecting the welfare of British subjects in Morocco. Our outlook should be a broad one, and the association does not propose to confine itself to merely commercial interests, important as they may be, but to study also conditions affecting British subjects resident in Morocco.

"In regard to the accounts of the Association, the preliminary expenses are comparatively heavy. This was unavoidable, but the expenses are all covered. We desired that the Association should be organised on the best possible basis, and, apart from the initial expenses, I do not think any comment is necessary.

"I now propose that we proceed to pass the necessary resolutions, and I give you all a very hearty invitation to make any recommendations you may desire as to the work of the Association, and I will do my best to answer any questions you may wish to put to me. I move that the Report of the Council and statements of Accounts be approved."

Other Speeches.

Mr. U. Arbib seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Joshua M. Levy asked the meeting to

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In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

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pass a resolution approving of the election of the officers of the Association, namely, the Right Hon. the Earl of Onslow (president), Mr. Robert Samuel Hunter (vice-president), and Mr. Leslie Couper (treasurer). Lord Onslow, said Mr. Levy, was attached for some time to the British Legation at Tangier and is therefore by no means a stranger to matters in Morocco. He is now occupied on duty and will be so during the war, but when that comes to an end we hope he will give us his very active assistance. Mr. Hunter knows the place and the people well. Mr. Leslie Couper is proposed as Treasurer. We are all very much indebted to the Bank of British West Africa and their energetic chief manager Mr. Couper, for the way in which he has thrown himself into the business of creating this Association.

Mr. E. W. Randle, who seconded the resolution, said they unquestionably owed a very great debt of gratitude to the Bank of British West Africa; it was, in the first place, the means of bringing them together, and, therefore, the origin of the association.

He continued: "As we shall be an organisation, I have no doubt that if we show energy in the development of our business we shall get all the help we can reasonably expect from the Foreign Office. I hope we shall not have difficulties with our French Allies, but that we may march hand in hand together for the development of Morocco. It is rather useful to remember at this time that but for the firmness of France we should not have had any business to consider. It seems to me, we have to give a good deal of consideration to whatever the French may do, while, of course, we shall look after ourselves and our own interests. Personally, one naturally hopes that the British merchant will be the one to become top dog in regard to trade. The Germans never seem to understand the foreigners with whom they try to do business, and, if we only realise it, there is a gap to fill in trade owing to the Germans being out of it. We ought to feel there is a great future. Morocco is a great country with great advantages, and I hope we shall not be backward in taking the share we ought to take in its development."

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. T. W. Stanton, seconded by Mr. F. P. C. Forster, the auditors, Messrs. Harwood Banner and Son, were elected.

Mr. Macleod made a speech which was listened to with the deepest interest; we hope to deal with it in our next issue.

ALGERIAN SHIPPING CONTROL.

The French *Journal Officiel* of July 18 publishes the text of a Presidential Decree, dated July 17, placing the French mercantile fleet more effectively under the control of the Under-Secretary of the Merchant Marine. This Decree provides that from August 1, 1917, every French ship exceeding 100 tons gross register must, before clearing from a French or Algerian port, have a licence from the State Department approving its destination and cargo, and that if the Government considers a proposed voyage is unnecessary, in addition to refusing the permit, the vessel may be immediately requisitioned.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

Business this week has been very much interfered with by the August Bank Holiday; but, during the few days that our market has been open, there has been a good deal of activity, and a gradually growing inquiry for many of the Egyptian shares. The scarcity of sellers is unfortunately becoming more pronounced at the higher levels of values now established, and this is making it more difficult to satisfy buyers. All accounts from Egypt continue to be of a very satisfactory nature, and at the moment all the indications are favourable to a further rise in prices.

In Government stocks there has been no change in prices, and very little business has been done, sellers being scarce. In Bank shares Nationals have jumped up a further 1 to 17½, and Agriculturals are 5-16 firmer at 6 1-16; Anglo-Egyptian Banks have also improved ¼ to 13 1-16, and Land Banks a like fraction to 6½. Some business has been done in Delta Lights at 6 and 6 1-16.

In Land shares, Aboukirs have been in strong demand on local account, and have risen 1s. 3d. to 17s. Behéras are unchanged round 12½, Delta Lands are slightly firmer at 12s., and Gharbieh Land have continued in demand at 30s.; but business has not been possible owing to the absence of sellers.

In New Egyptians there has again been a fairly large business doing, and the shares are again 9d. higher at 13s. 4½d. Union Foncières have been in demand for Egypt, and a fair amount of business has been done between 40s. and 40s. 6d. In United Egyptian Lands some small transactions have been carried through at 1s.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters were taken at 12 7-16, a rise of 3.16, and Salts and Sodas have jumped 9d. to 26s.

In Greek securities a further advance has to be recorded practically all along the line. The 1881, 1884, Monopoly, Funding, Rente, 1902 and 1904 loans are all one point higher. Currant Bonds are quoted about 90 ex. div.

Paris Bourse.

Wednesday.—Closing quotations included:—Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 724 (724); Suez Canal shares, 4,495 (4,475).

OIL OUTPUTS.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 22 tons, against 22 tons; Hurgada, 3,035 tons, against 1,129 tons.

The *Torgovo Promyshlennaya Gazeta* of May 10 publishes an article to the effect that from information received from forty-nine Russian cotton-spinning factories, representing 3,822,178 spindles, the stocks of raw cotton held at the works on April 14 amounted to 319,267 bales, as compared with 379,821 bales held at fifty works on the corresponding date of 1916. No replies were received from twenty-three factories, representing 1,906,889 spindles. The stocks of cotton held in Moscow warehouses and supplies in transit on April 14, amounted to 231,988 bales in 1917, as compared with 587,167 bales in 1916.

STOCK AND SHARE LIST.

NEAR EASTERN SECURITIES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Mean Price July 27, 1914.	Price Aug. 3.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84½	84½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	59	60
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	59	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	53	54
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889.....	45	43	44
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	53	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	60½	61½
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Ron. Iss.) ..	90	74	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92	88½xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913, Sc., £60p.....	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified.....	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5½	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	12⅛	13⅛
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6½	6½
National Bank of Egypt	15½	16½	17½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord..	17½	9½	9½
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	15/9	17/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2½	2½	2⅛
Béhéra Co.....	8½	12½	12½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	11/3	12/-
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	7/-	7/-
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1½	27/6	27/6
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	12/7½	13/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	16/9	17/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2	2
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅛	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer..	1⅛	25/3	26/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	37/-	36/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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"Another thing which increases the death rate is that so many of the doctors have been sent to the front with the army or have died at home. Among the soldiers, typhus, 'the freckled fever,' as the people call it, and cholera are rampant. The Mayor said fifty wagons were kept busy carting away the dead from the streets.

"Another horror has been added to an already overflowing cup of woe, that of tetanus, as many as ten dying daily from it, and sometimes more.

"But more alarming than all is the pall of melancholia which is settling over the entire country. Omnipresent fear, famine, sickness, execution and news from the war have wiped smiles from every face. Not one family but wears black, and it seems to have entered the brains and hearts of a people particularly full of sympathy when sorrow comes, so that those left are now half demented, or wholly so."

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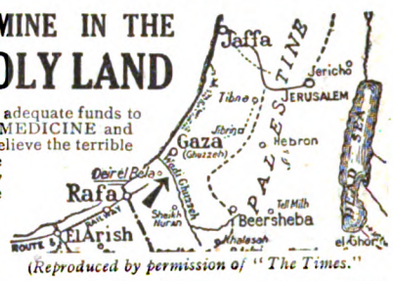

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of which £50,000 is needed at once.

A strong administrative committee is at work. CONSIGNMENTS OF FOOD, MEDICINE & CLOTHING ARE NOW ENTERING PALESTINE, and goods stored in Egypt will continue to be poured into the country as further access is obtained. Relief will be given to all—Christian, Jew and Arab alike—according to their need.

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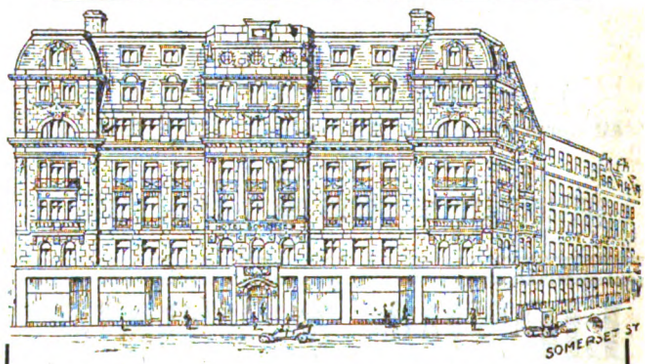

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 328.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The military situation on the Roumanian front remains obscure. On one sector the Roumanian troops advanced with heavy fighting, but elsewhere they have had to retreat. They are undoubtedly making a stubborn resistance, but the German thrust is heavy, and the work of the enemy is facilitated by the inactivity which continues to prevail along the Russian front. The Roumanian Government has made arrangements to leave Jassy should the occasion unhappily arise, but for the time being, at any rate, the decision to evacuate the temporary capital has been postponed.

However bravely the Roumanians may fight—and they are making a resistance little short of heroic—they can, in the nature of things, hardly hope to put up a successful defensive, far less to engage in another offensive, without the co-operation of the Russians. That assistance is still delayed, and though there are signs of improvement in the internal conditions of Russia itself, there is still too much tendency to discuss political reform from the basis of the millennial standpoint, rather than to oppose the Germans in the only way in which they can be opposed. While proposals have been launched for the creation of a series of federal republics to be associated together on the model of the United States, ugly news has come from Kieff of the mutiny of Ruthenian regiments. The position in the Ukraine is by no means bettered by these outbreaks, which scarcely appear to have been coped with successfully.

There have been two peace programmes during the week. The first is that put forward by the British Labour Party (which must be carefully distinguished from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald's so-called Independent Labour Party). So far as the Near East is concerned, it insists on the restoration of Serbia and Montenegro, and suggests that "the whole problem of the reorganisation of the administration of the peoples of the Balkan Peninsula might be dealt with by a special conference of their representatives, or by an authoritative International Commission, on the basis of the complete freedom of these people to settle their own destinies, irrespective of Austrian, Turkish or other dominion." The wording seems to exclude the Jugo-slavs and Czechs, but it is not clear that that is the intention.

The manifesto hopes that Palestine may be set free from Turkish rule—indeed, the Labour Party seem inclined to put an end to the Ottoman Empire altogether, although that is not stated in express terms. Palestine is to be "a free State under international guarantee, to which such of the Jewish people as desire may return." Armenia, Mesopotamia and Arabia are not to be handed back to the Turk, and if "it is impracticable to leave it to the peoples to settle their own destinies," as the Committee evidently fears, it is suggested that they should be placed under a "Commission acting under the Supernational Authority or League of Nations." The same course is recommended for tropical Africa, including apparently some of the territories that even before the war were British protectorates. The only German comments on these proposals which have reached this country are that they are impossible and outrageous. They are not likely to be endorsed as a whole by British opinion, not only because we have no desire to hand over some of our own colonies to an international board, but also because experience has shown that wherever international control has been tried, it has led to continual friction. Egypt is the stock case, but the New Hebrides might also be cited. An international board would simply be a focus of intrigue, and human ambitions will not be eradicated by placing half the world under a League of Nations which does not yet exist.

The second proposal comes from the Pope. It is suspect from the start, because it includes "the freedom of the seas," which is an ancient German device, and the cessation of "economic war after the war," which is a modern German device, endorsed by Dr. Michaelis, in order that Germany, while retaining her own tariff, may continue the policy of peaceful penetration among the Allies. But the proposal does include the restoration of Belgium and Northern France—Serbia, Montenegro and Roumania are not mentioned in the text which has reached London—although it does not seem to contemplate compensation for damage done by Germany and Austria. The proposals would therefore seem to have come from Berlin viâ Vienna, where the young Emperor is understood to be desirous of making peace in order to avert disaster. Any proposals which the Pope puts forward are, of course,

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assured of respectful consideration in every quarter, but it cannot be said that the published text of the appeal indicates any realisation at the Vatican of the objects of the Allies. German, and more particularly Austrian, influences are known to be strong at the Roman spiritual court, and it would be a misfortune if the Pope, whose good intentions are acknowledged, should, through excusable ignorance of worldly affairs, have been induced to see the position with Teutonic spectacles. No doubt the Allies, in the courteous answer which they will certainly return to the Pontiff's proposals, will acquaint him with their objects once again.

Two sensational revelations have been made during the week as to the Constantine régime in Greece. According to the Athens correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, on August 4, 1914, the very day that Britain declared war on Germany, the Kaiser sent King Constantine a minatory telegram, stating that "I signed to-day a treaty of alliance with Turkey. I hold the Balkans in my hands. Roumania, Turkey and Bulgaria have joined Germany in the war against Slavism. The German Fleet will unite with that of Turkey. Do not forget that, as you are a German field-marshal and the husband of my sister, your place is at my side. Do not forget also that I have given you Kavalla. I ask you to do what we have so often talked about."

King Constantine obediently played his part as the husband of the Kaiser's sister, who seems to have been an efficient ambassadress of Potsdam. Exactly what it was that "we have so often talked about" is not revealed, but no doubt the King, who accepted his rôle of tributary so easily, was docile in this respect, as in others. Nor was he without his reward. When Greece ran short of money, a loan was raised from Berlin, and the Kaiser promptly arranged the accommodation—on terms. Shortly afterwards, Greek territory was handed over to the Bulgars, but the loan was kept a profound secret. The correspondence relative to the loan was signed by MM. Skouloudis and Dragoumis, and as regards a second instalment by MM. Skouloudis and Rallis. A second loan was applied for by M. Lambros and others, but this transaction was not completed. It is expected that these complaisant Ministers will be tried by a special tribunal; there can be no doubt on the face of it that they and their master sold Greek territory for this consideration. Altogether King Constantine as the impecunious brother-in-law cuts a sorry figure.

It is notable, too, that in this correspondence Greece is informed on September 13, 1914, that Germany had that day concluded an alliance with Bulgaria, and this news was confidentially communicated to the Entente by M. Venizelos. It seems strange that nearly a year later, despite this knowledge and the further information—which was published in the Western Press—that Bulgaria had obtained a loan from Berlin in February, 1915, the Entente statesmen nevertheless still continued to hope that Bulgaria might be induced to join them. It is true that the wily King Ferdinand took his time, but the Allies certainly did not take his measure. It would appear that the Kaiser's boast that he held the Balkans in the hollow of his hands was effectively supported by his diplomatists. While we were offering Cyprus, our own territory, to Greece, and were repulsed, the Germans were offering Greek territory to Bulgaria—and were accepted.

The Jugoslav programme and Baron Sonnino's visit to London continue to be canvassed by the Italian Press, which has commented adversely on the fact that the Corfu agreement was signed by M. Antonio Trumbitch, who, although of Italian parentage, is famous as an anti-Italian. As a leader of the Croatian party which worked in accord with the late Archduke Franz Ferdinand for Trialism, he was naturally a source of irritation to Italy, and it is said that he even claims that Jugoslavia extends from the old Austrian frontier to Macedonia, and therefore includes Italian Irredenta—an impossible demand, and one which, if assented to by the rest of Europe, would only lead to continual friction and eventually to war with Italy. Presumably these demands have now been abated to their proper level, and the Italian view which sees in the Jugoslav propaganda a triumph of the subtle Austrian diplomacy can hardly be seriously maintained. The Corfu programme, if carried out in its entirety, necessarily means the partial dismemberment of the Austrian Empire and the reduction of Vienna from first to second rank in European affairs. Italy has more to gain from that than she stands to lose from a successful Jugoslav State as a neighbour, and to onlookers it appears by no means impossible that accommodation can be reached on outstanding points at issue.

In answer to this suggestion, of a Jugoslav programme influenced if not actually inspired by Austrian diplomacy, the *Corriere della Sera* replies in a commonsense article pointing out the similarities between the Jugoslav movement and the Italian *Risorgimento* in its early days—a movement which was also directed against Austria. Vienna, as this journal points out, has opposed at every stage the Serbo-Croat Coalition; the very ultimatum to Serbia which began the war was in itself a stroke of policy against the Serbo-Croats, parallel to the advance on Piedmont in 1859 to destroy the Italian movement. To deny a national character to the Southern Slav movement on the ground that there is a pro-Austrian party in Croatia is as inconclusive as to recall that there were pro-Austrians in Italy, and that Garibaldi had to fight Italians in Sicily and Naples in order to found a united Italy. "Once assured of our national strategic interests in the Adriatic," the journal concludes, "let us offer our hand to the Southern Slavs, encouraging them in their struggle against the Germans and Magyars as decisive for their future as for ours."

Another matter is authoritatively alluded to by the Italian Press as having come under discussion during Baron Sonnino's visit to Paris and London. It is stated that the future division of Asia Minor among the Entente Powers has been not only contemplated but the actual details arranged. The details of the proposed partition are not, of course, divulged, but as no criticism has been made by the Italian journal which reports the fact—and the journal in question is known to have excellent and, indeed, almost official sources of information—it may be assumed that Italy is not dissatisfied with her share of the bargain. Italian ambitions have, of course, long been directed to the Levant, and the country has large legitimate interests there which need not conflict with those of Britain and France. In these circumstances there is no reason whatever why the proper ambitions of Italy should not be satisfied.

An interesting summary of recent Montenegrin politics appearing in *The New Europe* throws a lurid light, if accurate in all its details, on the policy pursued by King Nicholas. The story of his underground activities in the early part of the war has yet to be cleared up, but the published memoranda suggest that both before and since his exile he has been ready to make terms with the enemy. As a way of achieving this object, which apparently presented itself to the monarch as the only means of retaining his throne and returning to Cettinje, he is represented as having browbeaten various Ministers, who have in consequence been compelled to advise him to abdicate in favour of a more vertebrate son; but he has treated any such suggestions with weak obstinacy, and has dismissed his Ministers. The result is naturally that the present Montenegrin Prime Minister has no weight whatever, and is disregarded by everybody but the King himself. The climax of degradation was reached at the recent conference on Balkan affairs in Paris, when the Montenegrins were not invited to attend, although the King issued a misleading notice to the Press on the subject, and his nominee waited about at the entrance apparently in the hope of an invitation which there was no possibility of his obtaining.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 22.

The Fast of Ramadan.

The fast of Ramadan came to an end on Wednesday last, and on the following day commenced the feast of Bairam, in honour of which the Government offices have been closed until this morning. This year the people have not been called upon to suffer during the thirty days' fast as great privations as fell to their lot last year, for the summer has so far been an exceedingly, in fact, one might almost say an unprecedently, mild one; indeed, so mild has it been that the cotton crop has been considerably delayed owing to the absence of the high temperature which usually characterises this period of the year. In pursuance of the custom introduced since the accession of the Sultan no reception was held on the first day of the feast, but a large number of officials and notables proceeded to Ras-el-Tin Palace to sign in the book.

The French National Fete.

The French National Fête was quietly celebrated in Alexandria and Cairo. Both cities were most profusely beflagged in honour of the event, the flags displayed including those of all the Allies. Receptions were held at the French Agency and Consulate in Cairo and at the Consulate-General in Alexandria; at each of these the Député de la Nation delivered a congratulatory address, and in the capital a most notable and characteristically eloquent speech was made by the French Agent, M. Defrance. In the morning a touching little ceremony took place at Alexandria, when wreaths were laid on the graves of French soldiers in the European cemetery. In the evening the aspect of the Esbekia Gardens reminded one of pre-war days, when on the occasion of the National Fête the French colony was wont to hold high revel there. Since the outbreak of the war these festivities have, of course, ceased, but this year the Maccabi Society took the opportunity of organising a fête in aid of the French Red Cross. The venture was very successful, and a substantial addition to the funds was obtained.

Government Officials and the Cost of Living.

It is understood that the Egyptian Government is considering the advisability of granting its smaller paid employees a special addition to their salaries to enable them to meet the extra cost of living. Various departments have sent in petitions on the subject to the Ministry of Finance, and the news that the latter is entertaining the idea is very welcome. There is absolutely no doubt that the smaller paid official has been very hard hit by the increased cost of living since the war. There is scarcely an article of daily consumption which has not gone up in price. According to the last monthly bulletin issued by the Ministries of Finance and Agriculture meat has risen by over 40 per cent. in Cairo and 60 per cent. in Alexandria, flour by 88 and 112 per cent., rice by 42 and 60 per cent., and petroleum by 77 per cent.; and the average increase in price of nine of the more important commodities at the end of May was 37 per cent. in Cairo and 61 per cent. in Alexandria. These percentages are based on the prices ruling in July, 1914. Compared with the situation in other countries, Egypt is admittedly very fortunate in that prices have not risen much higher, but even on the pre-war basis of the cost of living an official drawing between £5 and £12 per month never had much of a margin for unforeseen expenses in his domestic budget, and the increase which he has steadily been called upon to pay for his necessaries during the past two years is now quite beyond his means. It is true that a good many of these employees have received increases in salaries since the war, but such increases have all been based on pre-war conditions, and so do not go far enough to assist the smaller official to make both ends meet. In view of the fact that the banks and commercial houses have almost without exception granted their employees war bonuses, and that the junior officials in the home service have all received similar grants, there is no doubt that the case of the smaller Government official in this country merits some consideration. An announcement to the effect that the Ministry of Finance had decided to accord some form of increase to its lesser paid officials would, it is certain, give unbounded satisfaction, for such an increase would materially relieve the position of a very deserving class of the population.

The Pension Law.

The recent alteration in the Pension Law in favour of Ministers and their families has drawn attention to the anomalies which exist in that law in so far as concerns ordinary officials, especially in respect of the allowances made to their families. The question certainly would appear to merit the attention of the powers that be. There is no reason, for instance, why a widow without any children, or one left with grown-up sons or married daughters, should receive, relatively speaking, preferential treatment to the widow left with children to bring up. In the first two cases she receives one-third of the pension which her husband was drawing or would have been entitled to draw; in the third case one-half of that pension is allowed her and the children—one-quarter to the widow and one-quarter in equal parts to the children—but, as and when the sons attain the age of eighteen or the daughters marry, their portion lapses, but the widow continues to draw only one-quarter to the end of her days.

It is indeed difficult to understand why the fortuitous circumstance of a widow being left with grown-up boys or married daughters should place her in a better position financially as regards pension than one who has children to educate at the time of her husband's death, or why the widow with one child should be on the same footing as the widow with two or more dependent on her. Again, the condition which lays down that a boy forfeits his share of the pension as soon as he reaches the age of eighteen appears to be somewhat out of place in these days when education counts for so much in a man's after-life. Eighteen is just the age when a boy is about to decide on the career he will follow, and the stoppage at that stage in his education or the continuation for a further three years of the allowance, would in many cases mean all the difference between his continuing his studies and qualifying for a liberal profession, a technical calling, or the Civil Service, and his having to enter some walk in life to which he may not be so well adapted, but where he can forthwith find the wherewithal to keep himself and so compensate for the pension which he has lost.

Some alteration in the law would certainly appear to be called for so that, first, irrespective of whether she has any children dependent on her or not, a widow might receive an adequate pension; secondly, the allowance for children might be based on the number; and thirdly, some extension of the age limit might be made in the case of boys so as to avoid their having to stop their education at a critical stage and enable them to continue it to its logical conclusion. The foregoing considerations apply, of course, to European officials. It is quite possible that there is some very good explanation of these apparent anomalies from the point of view of the mass of Egyptian officials, for whom after all the code was mainly framed. Nevertheless, as regards British officials the regulations referred to appear for the reasons stated to require some more equitable amendment having regard to the peculiar conditions under which they and their families have to live and the change which the conditions of life have to-day undergone both here and in England. The alteration in the political status of the country is bringing in its train many amendments of the legislation in force hitherto in Egypt, and is entailing a more or less complete overhaul of the administrative regulations applicable to officials as well as to the general public. It is with a view to rendering this revision of the existing regulations as comprehensive as possible rather than with the object of captious criticism that the foregoing observations on the Pension Law are offered.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.*

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—IV.

The Mixed Tribunals.

The Judicial Adviser gives an interesting estimate of the position which the mixed courts hold to-day in the Egyptian judicial system, and adds that he is prompted to do this by the fact that these courts have in the past been the subject of much political controversy, and that to-day, when the judicial institutions of the country are about to be recast, "it is very desirable that the situation should not be obscured by misunderstandings which have lost any foundation they may once have had." The two principal grounds of criticism have been the difficulty of bringing their procedure and the law they administer up to date, and the fact that their judgments have not infrequently embodied the obstacles imposed by the Capitulations. He ventures to think "that both criticisms relate in a large measure to an epoch which has passed away." As regards legislative difficulties, he is inclined to think that the absence of any large body of public or even professional opinion has had much to do with the matter. As he very rightly remarks, the non-existence of a large body of enlightened opinion is one of the characteristics of Egypt of which account has constantly to be taken, and which has necessarily made for slow progress. At the present time, however, there is an increasing body of opinion in favour of reform on a considerable scale. The situation as regards the obstacles offered by the Capitulations to administrative reform, and even to routine administrative action, which he discussed in a note appended to the late Lord Cromer's report for 1904, has, he says, materially changed since that date, and the previous antagonism between the agents of the occupying Power "irritated by the obstacles to reform," and the courts "properly jealous for the traditional privileges of foreigners," is now a thing of the past. In the bringing about of this change in relations, the judicial officers of the Government, among whom must be included Sir William Brunyate, have played a conspicuous part.

Increased Judicial Receipts.

His own principal criticism of the mixed tribunals ten years ago would have been "that they were steadily diminishing in importance as compared with the more recently established native tribunals." He founded this view on the judicial receipts of the two jurisdictions. Those of the mixed tribunals, which had amounted to £E91,000 in 1884, only totalled £E87,000 in 1906, when the receipts of the native tribunals came to £E300,000. The receipts of the mixed tribunals, he points out, include not only "judicial" receipts, but also fees for the registration of documents of title to land and other registration fees having no direct connection with the judicial activities of the courts. During the land boom these fees reached a very large figure, and, "perhaps not unnaturally, the partisans of the mixed tribunals pointed to these fees as indicative of the important place filled by the tribunals." This latter opinion, as well as his own forecast, were, however, falsified by subsequent events. The crisis intervened, and registration fees fell off, but at the same time the liquidation of the speculative position brought about an immediate and remarkable increase in judicial receipts. The situation was cleared up shortly before the war, but judicial receipts have continued to increase—"a fact which, I think, can best be accounted for by a new wave of commercial activity intervening"—and in the year under review they have reached the record total of £E301,000, for the first time exceeding the total expenses. The native tribunals have been a source of revenue to the State, the Adviser says, since 1904—"a situation which suggests the desirability of reducing judicial fees whenever Government is again in a position to remit taxation"—but he frankly admits that he had never expected that the mixed tribunals, with their more expensive organisation, would follow suit. The statistics show that cases before these courts have increased both in value and in number, and "whatever the position may have been twenty years ago, it is abundantly clear that at the present time the mixed tribunals stand for a very important part of the total judicial activity."

Comparison With Native Tribunals.

Comparing the work of the mixed tribunals with that of the native courts, whilst the latter are largely occupied with the collection of petty debts, the former have to deal with business of a different character. That case values should tend to run higher than in the native tribunals is a natural consequence of the difference of *clientèle*, but the Adviser is inclined to think that the difference between the two judicial tariffs is a factor of almost equal importance. For claims of trifling amount native justice is extremely cheap, while for claims of moderate amount mixed summary justice is likewise cheap; the petty cases on which the native tribunals thrive are to a large extent ruled out by the heaviness of the minimum fees, combined with the expense of going to the town where the mixed court sits. The great majority of heavy cases are within the jurisdiction of the mixed tribunals, owing to the fact that in most of them foreign interests are involved. The summary cases brought before the native tribunals exceed those before the mixed, but the mixed cases over £E100 in value have of late somewhat exceeded those before the native tribunals.

Work of the Courts.

As regards the working of the mixed courts, the figures for new summary cases and those for commercial cases before the Cairo court have fallen to a normal level. This feature, together with the decrease in bankruptcies, points to renewed prosperity. The most striking figures of cases disposed of are those of the Court of Appeal, where 490 more cases have been disposed of than in the previous year, and where arrears at the end of the year were within fifteen of the figure in October, 1907, since when the work of the court has greatly increased. Whilst this may be due primarily to the fact that the court now sits in three chambers of five instead of two of eight judges, the Adviser observes that it is also evidence that the efficiency of the court has not suffered from the temporary difficulties incident to the outbreak of war. Appeals in civil cases are relatively somewhat more than twice as numerous as those in commercial cases, "due in large part to the fact that in commercial cases appeal does not stay the execution of a first instance judgment." The arrears in the lower courts are not unsatisfactory, with the exception of Cairo, where the civil arrears have aroused comment for some years past. The explanation of this situation in the capital is that, contrary to what is done in the other courts, cases have been transferred to a suspense list in large numbers, and have been left there because neither party takes the trouble to have them restored to the active list. Since the end of the judicial year this practice has been abandoned, and large numbers of cases of no substance have been dismissed. Even allowing for the fact that as mixed lawsuits can be initiated at no great cost many people start actions without any serious intention of prosecuting, because they hope thereby to bring pressure to bear on an adversary, the Adviser is of opinion that the average time involved in the trial of a mixed action, especially before the Cairo court, is excessive. As he says, it is not altogether the fault of the courts, for leisureliness in legal proceedings is, according to his experience, to some extent ingrained in the habits of the country. And he proceeds to give some examples in illustration. One of these was a case which he won whilst at the Ministry of Public Works, and which had been pending for upwards of twenty years; another was settled soon after he left the Ministry which had been pending for upwards of nine years without reaching trial in first instance. The history of this latter case, which he gives in detail "for the benefit of law reformers in this country," is most extraordinary, and reveals a mental outlook on the part of litigants which is almost incredible.

Referring to the renewal of the mandate of the mixed tribunals in February, 1916, when Italy withheld her assent until the middle of March, the Adviser points out that, whilst the somewhat anomalous position created thereby led to an interesting and unexpected decision of the mixed Court of Appeal to the effect that "in existing circumstances the jurisdiction of the mixed tribunals over the subjects of any given Power continues, upon a renewal of the existence of the tribunal, at least until such time as the Power concerned has given definite notice that it does not propose to concur in the renewal," the incident made two propositions perfectly clear. They were, firstly, that under existing conditions "any inconvenience resulting from the non-concurrence of any Power in the renewal of the mixed tribunals falls primarily on the subjects of that Power"; and, secondly, that the inconvenience actually caused was less than was expected in some quarters. The non-realisation of the latter expectation was due, he dryly remarks, to "failure to appreciate how short a time is six weeks in the life history of an Egyptian lawsuit." In concluding his review of the mixed tribunals, Sir William Brunyate points out that the system of annual renewals into which we have fallen is purely a question of form. Until the recasting of the Egyptian judicial system, expected after the war, can take place, the mixed tribunals "are as integral a part of our judicial system as the sister native tribunals."

Previous articles appeared in THE NEAR EAST of July 20 and 27 and August 3.

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Conditions in Jassy.

It was always a complaint of the people of Jassy that the old capital of Moldavia had been neglected in favour of the more fashionable Wallachian town of Bucharest, and the conditions of life created by the transference of the Government and the various public authorities to Jassy proved a painful justification of those complaints. In the first place, the town was absolutely incapable of providing even moderate accommodation for the public bodies and the surplus population by which it was invaded towards the end of last year. There was a scramble for lodgings, with the inevitable result that rents rose in a few weeks to a fantastic level. The authorities, fortunately, intervened without much delay, commandeered all the available houses, apartments, and rooms, and established an official bureau through which alone newcomers could secure accommodation at prices fixed by the authorities.

Once in possession of a precarious home, the unfortunate refugee was by no means at the end of his sufferings. There was all through the long and hard winter a serious deficiency in fuel, mainly due to the difficulties of transport. The lack of coal, in its turn, influenced the supply of gas and electricity, and the Government was forced to prohibit the use of more than one light in any living room. There was not even sufficient water in the town, and the pipes were kept dry except for a few hours each day.

But the greatest hardship of all was the lack of food, due as much to unsatisfactory organisation as to any actual deficiency in provisions. The local supplies were, of course, totally inadequate, and Roumania had to rely upon what assistance she could get from Russia. But Russia herself was unable to provide for her own population, and the difficulties of transport rendered any help from the Western Allies impossible. Sometimes there was no bread for days in succession; meat of any description was a rare luxury, reserved for the privileged few; sugar was unknown; and the visitor who took his meals in restaurants was confronted day after day with the stereotyped bill of fare, composed of sundry concoctions from the one produce which was more or less abundant—butter beans.

In addition, if this term may be employed without irony, there was a lack of all the necessaries of life—boots, clothes, etc.—and especially of sanitary material. When, therefore, the germ of exanthematic typhus was in some way or another introduced among the overcrowded population, the epidemic spread with appalling rapidity. The unselfish efforts of the foreign and Roumanian medical services were frustrated by the hopelessness of the general situation, and many patients who resisted the fever succumbed to insufficient nutriment.

Transylvanian Prisoners in Russia.

A committee consisting of 250 officers and 250 non-commissioned officers and men, representing 126,000 Transylvanians captured by the Russians since the beginning of the war, have petitioned the Russian Provisional Government for permission to fight with the Roumanian army for the realisation of Roumanian national aspirations. This demand was received with much satisfaction in Moldavia, supplying as it does a further proof of the unity of sentiment which animates the Roumanians on both sides of the Carpathians. The request has, naturally, been granted, and a certain number of these men are to be drafted forthwith in special regiments, commanded by their own officers.

German War Methods.

M. Antonescu, Secretary of State to the Department of Justice, has communicated to the Chamber the results of an investigation into German activities prior to Roumania's entry into the war. It appears that attempts were made against the lives of MM. Bratianu, Take Jonescu, and the late Nicholas Filipescu, but nothing has been disclosed so far regarding the methods employed. After the capture of Kronstadt by the Roumanians, infectious microbes were spread among the troops of the invading army. Tubes containing infectious microbes and poison were also discovered buried in the gardens of the German Legation at Bucharest, as well as a certain number of documents which supplied evidence of further similar German activities. A painful impression was created by M. Antonescu's intimation that the documents in question indicated that a prominent official of the Bucharest Secret Police had abetted these German doings. The investigation was carried out by a special commission, whose findings will be embodied later on in a special report for publication.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Summer Season.

Sir John and Lady Clauson are now at Government Cottage, and are holding their usual summer receptions. Mr. Stevenson, the Chief Secretary, with his family, are also in camp a short distance away, and there are as well a few visitors from Egypt. The whole camp is very quiet, as befits the times, and life is very different from what it was in pre-war days. Much hospitality is being shown by those in camp to families who are unable to spend the summer away from home.

Among the trials of the war must be reckoned the fact that not a few officials are deprived of leave, in some cases overdue, which they would otherwise be taking. What, it may be asked, about their families? As women and children cannot travel in these days, they must of necessity spend their summers in the island. It is now pretty generally recognised not only that the climate of Cyprus is excellent during the winter season, but that, thanks to its pine-clad heights, it is admirable all the year round for those who are able to spend the hot season in the hills. Going to the hills practically means going to Troödos; for although there are plenty of attractive spots in all the great mountain ranges of the island, there are no hotels, buildings, or bungalows elsewhere, and there would be difficulties as regards supplies. Families, therefore, continue to go to Troödos, and the place becomes a pleasant meeting ground for people from all parts of the island who are lucky enough to get there. The move to Troödos involves considerable expense both in travelling and living, especially for those who, while sending their families for a change of several months, must themselves remain in the plains.

A certain distinction must be made between the climate of the inland capital, Nicosia, which is comparatively dry (though less so than it was), and that of the coast towns, which is very damp. The climate of the latter bears a strong resemblance to that of the Egyptian coast towns of Alexandria, Ramleh, and Port Said. In fact, owing to the regularity of the north wind on the Egyptian coast, the climate of Ramleh or Port Said is perhaps preferable to that of Larnaca, Limasol, or Famagusta. Children can remain at Ramleh two consecutive summers, but should go home for the third, if not every alternate year. English families in Cyprus, as a rule, consider it desirable to take children home every few years, and this they cannot do at present.

The Question of Salaries.

An important consideration is that of salaries, and in this respect Cyprus officials are at a great disadvantage as compared with those in Egypt, as they are also in regard to pensions. There is a further hardship in the matter of travelling. English families in Cyprus must travel *vid* Egypt, as there is no direct service to England. They therefore have the additional expense of passages to Port Said or Alexandria, and often have to stay several days at expensive hotels while waiting for a liner. Moreover, the cost of living is now so high in Cyprus that the island offers no advantages over Egypt in this respect. It is clear, therefore, that British officials in the island are seriously affected by present conditions.

SALONIKA MAILS LOST AT SEA.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters, newspapers, etc., but not parcels, for the Salonika Force, which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between 2.30 a.m. on July 17 and 2.30 a.m. on the 21st, have been lost at sea through enemy action; also letters, newspapers, etc., for the civilian population of Salonika and district and many of the Greek islands, which reached the General Post Office, London, for despatch from July 16 to 19, inclusive.

An Amsterdam telegram states that fifty Bulgarian and Turkish officers have arrived at Ostend, and are to be employed as aviators.

The High Commissioner for Egypt has forwarded to the Lord Mayor the sum of £3,793 0s. 7d., being the amount subscribed by Egypt for the "France's Day" Fund.

The Central Committee for National Patriotic Organisations have received cables stating that on August 4 the resolution recording determination to win the war was passed at Cairo, Alexandria, Suez, Port Said, Gibraltar, and Malta. The resolution was in the following terms: "That on this, the third anniversary of the declaration of a righteous war, this meeting of the citizens of —— records its inflexible determination to continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies."

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NOTES FROM PALESTINE.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

A good many isolated facts of interest have come to hand recently, chiefly from Americans who have had to leave Turkish dominions on account of the United States having declared war on Germany. The Grand New Hotel in Jerusalem has been converted into a hospital of 250 beds and put in charge of the "American Colony" of Jerusalem—that is, the community presided over by Mrs. Spafford. This community have always been on friendly terms with the "Turks," and Jemal Pasha, who, up till recently, was all powerful in Jerusalem, has given them his protection. Part of the building occupied by Mr. Hughes as his boarding house is now used as a club for German officers. The Russian Hospital is being used for the British wounded captured by the Turks. Eleven patients have died there, and were buried in the British cemetery by the C.M.S. native clergyman with Church of England rites.

Very few people remain at Jaffa, the Christians, Jews, and Mohammedans having been made to leave by order of the Turkish Government. The exodus was a terrible time, and many of those who went away are financially ruined, having been compelled to sell all they had at a few hours' notice. A similar stampede from Jerusalem very nearly occurred when, last April, the British attacked Gaza. It was considered by the Turks that had the attack been pushed a few hours more the British would have been through, as the soldiers were discouraged and demoralised by want of food. Jemal Pasha, thinking that the coming of the British was only a question of at most a few days, ordered that the city of Jerusalem should be evacuated at once—the Europeans to leave first. The Consuls protested, and also the German authorities, especially General von Cress, who threatened to resign and return to Germany if the order was persisted in. Finally, through German pressure being applied at Constantinople, orders came that the holy cities of Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Helwan and Nazareth were not to be evacuated under any consideration. But great panic and disorder prevailed for the four or five days during which the question was in a state of suspense, and many Europeans landed themselves in difficulties through having parted with provisions and fuel, at great loss, in preparation for departure.

In order to facilitate the carriage of provisions for the Palestine army, a fleet of lighters and boats, with steam tugs, are now working on the Dead Sea transporting goods —especially corn—from Kevale to the north-western shores, from whence some 200 autocars carry them on to the fighting front.

There have been many tales of public hangings in Jerusalem since the war. A recent case reported in detail by an eye-witness can be vouched for. Last spring some fifty runaways from the army at Beersheba were caught by the authorities; they were not in the ordinary sense deserters, but had come to Jerusalem partly through hunger and partly to see their families. As there had been several such incidents before, Jemal Pasha decided to make an example this time and to decimate the group. He made them draw lots, and five unfortunate men—two Christians, two Jews, and one Mohammedan—drawing black balls, they were hanged publicly next morning at the Jaffa gate.

Those recently in Jerusalem have noticed many indications of the growing unpopularity of the Germans, to whom many Turkish officials ascribe all their present misfortunes.

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THE GREEK PARLIAMENT.

The Greek Chamber now in session is the one which was elected in 1915. Reports from Athens speak of a certain shuffling of parties from one cause or another, but the overwhelming proportion of Venizelists is shown by the following analysis, which represents the position in the Chamber as it was in 1915.

Parliament, as elected on June 13, 1915, represented thirty-three constituencies.

	Members.	Venizelists.	Opposition.
Aetolia-Acarnania	12	11	1
Argolis-Corinth	11	6	5
Arcadia	12	2	10
Arta	4	2	2
Attica-Boeotia	22	20	2
Achaia-Elis	16	12	4
Euboea	9	3	6
Zante	3	3	—
Heracleon (Crete)	7	7	—
Janina (Epirus)	12	11	1
Corfu	8	1	7
Cephalonia	7	5	2
Cozani	11	5	6
Cyclades (Islands)	13	13	—
Laconia	9	2	7
Larissa	14	14	—
Lassithi (Crete)	4	4	—
Mitylene	11	11	—
Messina	14	6	8
Prevesa	3	3	—
Rethiruno (Crete)	5	5	—
Samos	4	4	—
Serres (Macedonia)	9	4	5
Spetzae (Island)	2	2	—
Trikkala (Thessaly)	12	8	4
Hydra (Island)	3	3	—
Phthiotis-Phocis	11	6	5
Canea (Crete)	7	6	1
Chios (Island)	5	5	—
Psara (Island)	2	—	2
	262	184	78

Some uncertainty prevailed in regard to the political leanings of the thirteen members for Drama, the nine members for Florina, and the Salonika deputies. The majority, however, in each case, if not all the members, were anti-Venizelists, and if these constituencies are fully represented in the Chamebr to-day the strength of the Opposition, unless deputies have changed their views, would be increased by thirty or more votes, leaving the position, roughly, as follows:—Venizelists, 184; Opposition, 110.

There were also eight members from North Epirus, viz., three representing Argyrocastro, two Delvino, two Premeti, and one Tepeleni; but they were not allowed to take their seats in the Chamber.

JUGOSLAVS IN AUSTRIA.

The Serbian Press Bureau in London has received the following telegram from its special correspondent in Geneva:—

The Parliamentary Commission of the Jugoslav Club at Vienna, under the presidency of Dr. Korosetch, has just published the following resolution, dated August 7:—"The Jugoslav Club refuses to form part of a Parliamentary Government, stating that they can only support a Government which would accept their programme included in their declaration of May 30. To grant national autonomies in the existing provincial limits does not correspond to the Jugoslav programme. The absolute régime in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as also the oppression of the Jugoslavs in Austria by alien usurpation, constitutes an insurmountable obstacle even to a Parliamentary collaboration with a governmental majority."

At the same time, President Korosetch categorically denies the rumours of the pretended rupture between the Jugoslav Club and the Czech Union, rumours provoked by the exaggerated exploitation in a part of the Press, and by discussion on the question of tactics. At the time when the above-mentioned declaration of May 30, as also that of the Czechs of the same date were published, the German and Magyar Press made an attack upon them on the ground that they were inspired by the Entente, and the Prime Minister of that time, Count Clam Martinitch, declared that those declarations could not possibly be included in any discussion. As a consequence of these declarations no Parliamentary work in Vienna is possible.

A Bill has been introduced in the Greek Chamber to establish a Naval Commission to investigate the qualifications of officers up to the rank of captain. The case of officers of higher rank will be submitted to the Cabinet with a view to purging the Navy of undesirable elements.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Three years of war have made one so accustomed to the conditions of the German code of warfare that it is hardly possible to feel anything akin to surprise at the report that the Germans have almost completely sacked the town of Bucharest. Indeed, with their record in Belgium and elsewhere it would have been a greater cause for surprise if they had left Roumania's capital more or less untouched. If the report is correct, the Germans seem to have done their evil work with remarkable thoroughness. All portable artistic treasures are said to have been removed, and even the churches have suffered at the hands of the pillagers. In other words, the exceedingly happy precedent set by the Crown Prince in the West has been followed practically to the letter. All things considered, it is really a pity that that gentleman could not have been present to give the true Hohenzollern touch to the spectacle.

***

It seems absurd to look for truth in the enemy Press, but, all the same, that servile and well-disciplined instrument of the Central Powers continues every now and then to perpetrate a *faux pas* which helps to let the cat out of the bag. Thus at a time when Germany is emphasising the strong position of herself and her Allies, I find Dr. Ude, a professor of Graz University, drawing a very dismal picture of conditions in the Central Empires in an article in the *Arbeiter Zeitung*. He begins with the amusing warning that "all who suppress the truth or pervert it altogether are rendering a very bad service to their country. Therefore there is a terrible time in store for certain persons and certain parties when the people awaken." Reading a little further for the solution of this cryptic paragraph, I come across the statement that "it is imperative to furnish a reply to the question of how long our food supply is going to last and how our interior political situation will develop. . . . Both neutral and enemy countries know quite correctly how we stand. If we continue to pin our faith to Roumania we shall be mistaken in our speculations, because the Roumanian harvest will in the end be exhausted." I hope Dr. Ude will be allowed to continue his gloomy articles, though I very much doubt it, as I rather suspect the enemy censor was not quite up to the mark when he passed the above.

***

The Bulgarian Press comments on the new situation in Greece are so irresistibly comic that I cannot resist the temptation of giving one or two characteristic extracts on the subject. Evidently the official Bulgarian attitude towards Greece is one of pity, a most becoming emotion for the Bulgar, all things considered. Thus the *Narodni Prava* deplores "that the Greek nation will remain the victim of the Entente, and that yet another nation, forcibly drawn into the war, will have to pay dearly for the stupidity of such leaders as Venizelos"; and again: "Fresh sacrifices, fresh outrages, fresh outcries are now threatening Greece, who has fallen under the terrorising régime of the Entente." And so on and so on, until one feels that the Bulgar has been literally moved to tears on behalf of Greece—for, of course, his solicitude could not be governed by any thought of a possible change in the military situation detrimental to himself.

***

As a matter of fact, it may be mentioned in this connection that the Bulgarian Press, no doubt acting under the most rigid orders, affects to make light of possible future developments in Greece. Of course, there was no other attitude it could take, and its very insistence on it suggests considerable inward trepidation. Thus the *Mir* says: "Venizelos hopes to finish all his preparations in the interior of Greece in about three months. Let us be ready to receive him in about three weeks"; while the *Narodni Prava*, adopting a very lofty tone, says: "As far as we Bulgars are concerned, the entrance of Greece into the war will considerably simplify the Balkan problem." No doubt, but not quite—quite in the way suggested by the *Narodni Prava*.

***

For those who want a relief from Russian news I cannot do better than commend a study of the pages of *El-Qibla*, a Mecca contemporary. The fact that it is published in Arabic is certainly a drawback to its being widely read in this country. The anniversary of the Independence of Hejaz was celebrated a month or two ago, and was the occasion of special festivities at Mecca. There at any rate there would seem to be no question as to the unqualified success of the change. In the address delivered by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who was evidently selected for his gift of oratory as the Government's spokesman, I find such passages as these:—"I witness before God that this happy movement has brought forth the ripest fruits and most abundant benefits. . . God has bestowed upon us the blessings of security, ease and the means of life, so that only by the news which reaches on the wings of the lightning do we know that yonder Death is reaping his harvest of lives, uprooting households and exterminating nations. . . . O ye Sons of Heroes, of the Line of the Prophet Princes and Emirs, be not cast down nor puffed up. The Right is on your side, the hand of God is with you, and far be it from His Divine Might to abandon a people who seek to live, who demand lawful rule, who walk in righteousness. . . . We, O my countrymen, are more fortunate than most nations in the struggle for independence. For God has bestowed upon us—praise and thanks be to Him—a man whose like other nations would ardently desire, even if possessed of one the tenth part of his right judgment, lofty character and wearying zeal." Little wonder that, in this spirit, the Arabs are satisfied that the Hejaz movement is destined to go a long way.

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One of the results of the tortuous history of Constantinople, and especially its long tenure by the Turks, has been the partial loss to history and archæology of much evidence of the past which one might reasonably suppose might be revealed by a series of systematic excavations in the neighbourhood of the city. There are so many questions of ancient history the answers to which are only to be supplied there, as, for instance, whether the site of Byzantium had been previously occupied before Byzas brought his little colony of Megarians across the Ægean in one of the intermittent waves of Greek immigration. Then, again, excavation should make it possible to go beyond the unfortunate event of 196 A.D., and learn something more of Byzantium than we do to-day. But these things, it is to be feared, will be impossible while Constantinople is in its present ownership, for the Turks, whatever their merits or demerits, have never shown themselves other than the most indifferent patrons of research of any description.

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The day may come when Constantinople will be as popular with scholars as other centres of the Near East, but for that to happen either the Turk will have said his last long farewell to the city or he will so far have revised his way of life as to have become a patron of letters. And the possibility of the latter eventuality ever coming to pass I very much doubt. No one will deny that the average Turk can be a gentleman under certain conditions, one of which, and, perhaps, the all essential, is that he has a wholesome respect for his *vis-a-vis*, but that it should be the part of a gentleman to encourage and take an interest in learning and research is something quite outside his vista. It may be that he realises his imperfections and is unwilling to encourage competition in this sinful world by doing anything which might be calculated to aid his competitors. In a mental backwater himself, it may be painful to see others on the main stream. But it is even more painful to others that, in his stupidity, he should be blocking up the backwater.

THE ORIGIN OF THE WAR.

The Times has received the following telegram from M. Také Jonescu, the eminent Roumanian statesman and Vice-President of the Council of Ministers:—

The Editor of *The Times* will remember conversations with me upon the origin of the war during my visit to London in the second half of July, 1914. I then said that I had known for months that Austria desired war at all costs, and I wrote for *The Times* an article to this effect. While in London I saw the German Ambassador almost daily, and sometimes twice daily. I am in a position to know that the ultimatum to Serbia was known to and approved by Berlin, that Herr von Tschirschky took part in drafting it, that he believed that Serbia could not accept it, and that the Austro-Germans feared lest she should accept it in spite of all.

Prince Lichnowsky, who personally desired peace, asked me on the eve of the presentation of the ultimatum at Belgrade to telegraph to M. Pashitch advising him to accept the ultimatum and to promise him, on behalf of Prince Lichnowsky, that the hard conditions of the ultimatum would be modified in application. I affirm that Prince Lichnowsky, who had assured me in April, 1914, that he was certain that England would never permit Germany to attack France, declared to me on Monday, July 27, that he no longer believed that England would abandon her neutrality. When I replied, somewhat vivaciously, that he was totally mistaken, and that England would never allow France to be crushed, Lichnowsky answered textually:—"I am not as certain of that as you are."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. August.	1917. August		1335. Shawall	5677. Av
17	4	Friday	28	29
18	5	Saturday.....	29	30
			Dulkaada.	Elul.
19	6	Sunday	1	1
20	7	Monday	2	2
21	8	Tuesday	3	3
22	9	Wednesday	4	4
23	10	Thursday	5	5

Prince Constantin Brancovan has left London for Paris.

The Earl of Bessborough has left London for Birmingham.

Colonel Karatas, of the Roumanian Army, left London for Harrogate last week.

Captain Rjabin, of the Serbian Army, has left London for Russia on a special mission.

M. Nicolas Debbane, it is stated, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires for Brazil at Cairo.

Mirza Abdol Ghaffar Khan, Counsellor to the Persian Legation, has left London for Brighton, on leave.

The Serbian Minister, M. Yovan Yovanovitch, visited M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, on August 15.

M. Alexis Catargi, Secretary of the Roumanian Legation in Paris, has arrived in London on leave of absence.

Mr. Alex. Devine, Commissioner for the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund in London, has left for Paris and Rome.

Madame Misu, wife of the Roumanian Minister, and Mlle. Misu arrived in London on August 10 from the country.

Among the honours gained by past and present students of St. Thomas's Hospital are four Serbian decorations and an Egyptian decoration.

Mr. A. G. M. Dickson, a former Sub-Governor of the National Bank of Egypt, has been created a Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile.

Colonel Ractivan, who acted as Greek Military Adviser at the recent Allied Conference held in Paris, has left London for the Continent.

It is stated that the list of first appointments to the Order of the British Empire is now practically complete, and its issue for publication is expected within the next few days.

General Georgesco, Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission attached to the British Headquarters, arrived in London on August 13 from Paris. He was accompanied by Madame Georgesco.

Mr. Justice Cator, of the Mixed Court of Appeal, has been appointed, by the Egyptian Council of Ministers, to serve on the Capitulations Committee during the absence on leave of Mr. Piola Caselli.

According to a telegram received in Paris from Athens, the Greek Government has decided to bring M. Gounaris, former Prime Minister of Greece, who is at present in Italy, before a special tribunal.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, called at the Foreign Office on August 14, and had a long interview with Mr. Balfour. Other visitors to the Department included the Greek and Serbian Ministers.

Mr. Frank Sellwood, of Eastview, Cullompton, Devon, who died on April 1, leaving £89,138, gave £500 to the London Society for Promoting Christianity amongst the Jews, and £280 to the British Syrian Society.

M. Levidis, Councillor of the Greek Legation at Brussels; M. Metaxas, First Secretary of the Greek Legation in Paris; and M. Pappadopoulos, the Greek Consul-General at Alexandria, have been relieved of their posts.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister, and Madame Yovanovitch, entertained at luncheon at the Legation, 195, Queens Gate, on August 10, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, M. Koitch, his secretary, and the personnel of the Legation.

Both the sons of Count de Salis, the British Envoy to the Vatican, and formerly Acting Agent at Cairo, have been wounded at the front. The Pope, Cardinal Gasparri, and other high dignitaries of the Vatican, have expressed their deep sympathy with Count de Salis.

The Rear-Admiral in command of the Gibraltar Station paid an official visit to the Military Governor of Algeciras on August 10. A guard of honour was provided by a Spanish infantry regiment. The British Admiral received a warm welcome from a large crowd.

Included in the list of Army honours in a supplement to the *London Gazette* of August 8 is the award of the C.M.G. to El Lewa, El Sayed Pasha Ali, Egyptian Army, while Captain William Arthur Davenport, W. Yorks Regt., attached Egyptian Army, receives the Military Cross.

The committee for the organisation of Mesopotamia Day have handed over to the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund over £16,000. This very satisfactory result is largely due to the fact that the entire work of organisation was carried out gratuitously, with the exception of about £30 paid for clerical assistance.

M. Mitrovitch entertained at luncheon on August 11, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier; M .Yovan Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister; M. Voislav Antonievitch, the First Secretary of the Legation; M. Gavrilovitch, M. Pavlé Karovitch, Colonel Nicolaievitch, Colonel Yovanovitch, M. Koitch, and members of the Serbian colony.

Reuter's Paris correspondent telegraphs under date August 15:—The Roumanian Press Bureau denies the rumour that the King and Queen of Roumania and the Government have left the capital of Moldavia for a town in the south of Russia. The population of Jassy, it asserts, retains an unshaken confidence in the resistance of the troops.

With the consent of his Majesty, Major-General Count Gleichen and Countess Gleichen will in future be known as Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen and Lady Edward Gleichen, and his sisters, Countesses Feodora and Helena Gleichen, as Lady Feodora and Lady Helena Gleichen, ranking as a younger son and daughters of a marquess.

The retirement is announced of Mr. H. Evans, Superintendent of Trams and Ferries, Sudan Government. Mr. Evans went to the Sudan in 1897, and four years later was appointed Head Clerk to the Steamers Department. In 1906 he was transferred to the Moudirieh, and was placed in charge of the Khartoum Light Railways. In this capacity he was responsible for much excellent work.

The Rev. A. J. Sacré, Rector of East Hanningfield, who has been appointed an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral at Chelmsford in succession to Canon Dormer Pierce, volunteered as a chaplain on the outbreak of war, and served at Gallipoli. Eventually he had to relinquish that work owing to the failure of his health. Mr. Sacré is shortly retiring from the Rectory of East Hanningfield.

A deputation of the Brotherhood Movement waited on M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, at Claridge's Hotel on August 14, and presented to him £1,000 from the Brotherhood International Relief Fund, to assist in rehousing homeless Serbian families. M. Pashitch, in acknowledging the gift, said that the first need, after food, would be houses, and he rejoiced to hear that the Brotherhood Movement was engaged in such a work of humanity. To himself the gift was peculiarly sympathetic, because near to where he was born there were a bridge and houses built by kind English friends forty years ago, and they were still called the "English Bridge" and the "English Houses."

Captain Stanley Wilson, M.P., who was captured on a Greek vessel in the Mediterranean while on his way to England from Athens, some twenty months ago, and has since been interned in Austria, has been released, and arrived in London on August 12. At the time of his capture by an Austrian submarine Captain Wilson was travelling with Colonel Napier, former Military Attaché at Sofia, and Dr. Finlay, on board the Greek steamer "Spetzai," from Patros to Messina. When the steamer was about eighty miles from the island of Zante the submarine appeared and fired a shot. The vessel stopped, and the submarine approached and ordered the captain to come on board. An examination of the passenger list disclosed the presence of Captain Wilson and his companions to the submarine commander, who ordered them to be taken to his vessel. Captain Wilson and Colonel Napier were detained in the submarine, but Dr. Finlay, being a Red Cross officer, was permitted to return to the "Spetzai." Captain Wilson was first taken to Vienna, and was subsequently interned at Salserbad.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Bimbashi W. St. J. F. McCartney has been appointed Veterinary Inspector, Sudan Government.

Mr. R. A. Bence-Pembroke, Inspector of El Nahud district, has been transferred to Khartoum Province.

Temporary Kaimakam P. E. Wylie Bey, Camel Corps, and Bimbashi (temporary Miralai) W. A. Davenport, Equatorial Battalion, have been granted the substantive rank of Kaimakam.

Mr. J. W. Crowfoot, Director of Education, Sudan Government, has been appointed an additional member of the Governor-General's Council in place of El Lewa M. Kennedy Pasha, who has resigned.

Captain A. C. Frame, Highland Light Infantry, and Captain W. M. H. Pollen, Cameronians, have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officers with the rank of Bimbashi. Captain Frame has been posted to the Sudan Government, and Captain Pollen to a Sudanese Regiment.

The Acting Governor-General of the Sudan has approved of the appointment of El Bimbashi James Keith, District Judge, Sennar Province; El Bimbashi R. P. Mahaffy, District Judge, Blue Nile Province; and El Bimbashi J. J. Bramble, Inspector, Zeraf district, Upper Nile Province, to be magistrates of the first class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Sultan has conferred the Order of the Nile on a number of officers, among whom are the following :—

2nd Class Order of the Nile.—Colonel Sir Courtauld Thomson, C.B.; Colonel Sir John Rogers, K.C.M.G., A.M.S.; Major-General Sydenham Campbell Urquhart Smith, C.B.; Surgeon-General James Maher, C.B., A.M.S.; Brigadier-General Sir Robert Murray MacCheyne Anderson, K.C.M.G.; Lieutenant-Colonel Stephen Hungerford Pollen, C.M.G., R. of O.

3rd Class Order of the Nile.—Colonel Charles Needham.

4th Class Order of the Nile.—Charles Henry Lyddon, Esq.; Captain John Falconer; Captain Walter Francis Stirling, D.S.O., R. of O.; Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh D. E. O'Sullivan, R.M.L.I.; Major Trant B. Luard, R.M.L.I.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred at his Flintshire residence, on August 11, of Alderman M. A. Ralli, formerly Greek Consul for Liverpool.

Lieutenant H. D. Lee, who was killed in action on August 5, was Chief of the Merchandise Department of the London Office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. He joined the H.A.C. in February, 1915, and received his commission in the R.F.A. last January. He left for the front in May.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has had a further loss in the death in action on July 20 of Paul de Fürst, Officer Interpreter in the French Army. He had been in the bank's service since 1897, and since 1913 had been Secretary of the Paris Committee.

Major Owen Mostyn Conran, King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment, attached to the R.F.C., who was killed in action on July 28, was the youngest son of the late Major Conran, Essex Regiment, and of Mrs. Conran, of Brondyffryn, Denbigh. He was born in 1881, and educated at Shrewsbury. He served in the South African War, and joined the Royal Lancaster Regiment from the South Lancashire Militia in 1901. He was made captain in 1907, and in 1913 was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army, becoming major in September, 1915. He saw active service at the outbreak of war, and did a considerable amount of flying. In July, 1916, he was sent to England on sick leave, during which he obtained permission to become attached to the R.F.C. In November, 1916, he was made Flight Commander, and in April, 1917, he went to the front.

Lieutenant-Colonel A. G. Cartwright, whose death is announced, received his commission in the Yorkshire Regiment in 1879. He took part in the Nile Expedition, 1884-5, when he was on the lines of communication, and also served with the Sudan Frontier Field Force, 1885-6, receiving the medal and the bronze star. His last experience of active service prior to the present war was in the Tirah Expedition, for which he received the medal with two clasps. When the present war broke out he had reached the age of 56, and was no longer in the Reserve of Officers. He volunteered for service, and was at the front for five months in 1915 as second in command of a battalion of his regiment. Invalided home, he returned to service three months afterwards with another battalion at home, and in 1916 was appointed to a command, which he held until shortly before his death.

A Budapest telegram to the *Cologne Gazette* states that the Hungarian Government has prohibited the reopening of Roumanian schools, as numerous facts have occurred during the war which necessitate sharper State control of these schools. The Minister of Public Instruction declares that the partly unpatriotic attitude of the Roumanian intellectuals during the war is to be ascribed to the unpatriotic education of the young in Roumanian schools.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

NEVILLE.—On August 6, at Edinburgh, the wife of Captain W. S. Thacker-Neville, R.A.M.C. (Salonika Expeditionary Force)—a son.

KILLED IN ACTION.

WILSON.—Reported missing, presumed to have been killed in action on Chunuk Bair, Gallipoli, on August 10, 1915, Robert Meredith Wilson, Lieutenant, Loyal North Lancs Regt., younger and surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Wilson, 38, West Cliff, Preston, aged 23.

Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message date August 8 says:—It is stated on trustworthy authority that the following amounts were remitted to the German Legation here for propagandist purposes: In 1915, 5,500,000 marks (£275,000); in 1916, 6,532,000 marks (£326,600). The largest amounts were remitted in June, July and August, 1916, when the Reservist Leagues were organized after their alleged dissolution. It is believed that the Legation also received other amounts.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 1917.

PEACE PROPOSALS AND THE NEAR EAST.

As the sincerity of the Pope's fresh appeal for peace is above challenge, its main interest for the Allies lies in its obvious inspiration by the wishes and necessities of the Central Powers. His Holiness satisfies himself that he heeds "neither the suggestions nor the interests of either of the belligerent parties," but the fact remains that he issues a document which will be welcomed in Germany and Austria-Hungary and will be summarily but courteously rejected by the Grand Alliance. His proposals ignore two important features of the war—the beginning and the most recent development, the participation of the United States. But here we are concerned mainly with the significant silence on the subject of the Near East. Save for a perfunctory reference to the Balkans and Armenia, the struggle as viewed from the Vatican might have been originated from and been restricted to an attempt on the part of the Entente Powers to seize German territory. No doubt the formula "No annexations and no indemnities" is meant to be applied to Western Asia as well as to Europe. It means, as President Wilson stated in his Message to the Russian Provisional Government last June, the restoration of the *status quo ante*, and nowhere is Germany more anxious to see this effected than in the Near East and in the Ottoman Empire. It was the *status quo ante*, the Russians were reminded, "out of which this iniquitous war issued forth, the power of the Imperial German Government within the Empire and its widespread domination and influence outside of that Empire." The Pope, we must infer, has heard of the part played by the Turkish Government in this war and of what has happened in Turkey. But while the questions of Alsace-Lorraine, Trentino and Trieste are to be "examined in a conciliatory spirit, taking into account the measure of what is just and possible of the aspirations of the peoples," His Holiness would seem prepared to leave Syria and Arabia as the outbreak of the war found them, while recommending that Armenia as well as Serbia and Belgium should be the victims of yet more "scraps of paper." For peace on these terms, with her African colonies restored to her as well, Germany would readily relinquish her hold on Belgium and even Alsace-Lorraine, both of which she now realises she has no chance of keeping.

In view of the fact that the proposals are associated with the Pope's name, nothing in them is, perhaps, more striking than their failure to show the least appreciation of the principles at stake in this vast upheaval of the civilised world. The Pope, it would appear, sees nothing in the war but a series of military operations between two sets of belligerents, which have met with sufficiently varying success to justify a return to peace conditions on the basis of an exchange of conquered territories. Some concession is paid to questions of such outstanding prominence that they could not well be ignored; but of the existence of any moral issues behind the life-and-death struggle of the nations His Holiness affects complete ignorance. As the Allies have lost no opportunity of stating their case, the reason for the omission of any reference to this aspect of the struggle must be found partly in the real source of the proposals. To have the least chance of success an appeal for peace at this stage ought in any case to take some notice of one or other of the official statements of the Allies' war aims. President Wilson's Message to Russia was as explicit as any, and although it was an independent utterance, a neutral observer would have no difficulty in finding in it, somewhat more effectively expressed, the resolve actuating the whole of the Grand Alliance. "We are fighting," said the President of the United States, "for the liberty, the self-government and the undictated development of all peoples, and every feature of the settlement that concludes this war must be conceived and executed for that purpose. Wrongs must first be righted, and then adequate safeguards must be created to prevent their being committed again." Readjustments will have to be made; these must follow a principle, and that principle is plain. "No people must be forced under a sovereignty under which it does not wish to live. No territory must change hands except for the purpose of securing those who inhabit it a fair chance of life and liberty."

It is very evident that the proposals for which the Pope has made himself responsible would not fulfil the conditions laid down by President Wilson. By ignoring the latter's declarations and by adopting a virtual silence towards the Near Eastern question they endorse the German contention that the war is merely the outcome of the Entente's jealousy of Germany and of its designs upon her position in Europe. Even if the cry of Belgians, Serbians, Armenians and Arabs had not penetrated through the carefully guarded portals of the Vatican, it would be thought that the political conditions in the neighbouring Empire of Austria-Hungary would at least be well enough known to call for some reference to the Southern Slav question. If the Trentino and Trieste are to be allowed to decide their fate according to the aspirations of the people, even with the suspicious qualification added, there must be equally good cause why the inhabitants of Styria, Carniola, Dalmatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina should also be allowed to determine their own future status. But the Trentino and Trieste are excrescences on the conception of the Central European *bloc* which, with or without her former African colonies, is to repay Germany amply for the outlay she has incurred in this war. These minor Austrian possessions, therefore, can be surrendered lightly, so long as the essentials of Germany's future world-dominion remain intact. It is to be hoped that the Allied Governments will avail themselves of the opportunity of making an even more definite pronouncement of their war-aims than they have ventured hitherto. Loyalty to Russia has prompted homage to the formula "No annexations and no indemnities"; but the more closely the subject of a peace settlement has been studied, the more numerous have become the reservations that have had to be placed upon the phrase, until it has ceased to serve any practical purpose, while the tenacity with which the Central Powers cling to it suggests that they may originally have prompted its adoption by the Russian extremists. As repeated references to the principles of liberty and self-government and to the right of peoples to develop on their own national lines have conveyed no meaning to His Holiness the Pope, it is more than probable that they have not been understood in the enemy countries and by some of those to whom political freedom has been promised. The interests of the Allies, therefore, can only be advanced by a definite statement of their war aims, showing *inter alia* how the Jugoslav people must be separated from the Austrian State and how Armenians, Arabs and others must be freed from Turkish rule.

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SERBIA AND SOUTHERN SLAVS.

Amid the alarums and excursions of a great war quieter events of far-reaching and permanent effect are apt to be overlooked. For example, the British Empire has taken a few strides forward in its internal organisation during the war which the average Briton has scarcely noted. So in these last few weeks a pronouncement was made to the world from the little island of Corfu which may be decisive of world destiny. It may seem a small matter that a group of communities in that "museum of races," the Austrian Empire, should have declared in favour of their own unity and independence. Many people in England may still be unable to define in detail the secular aspirations of the Jugo- or Southern Slavs to freedom and union, but I am certain that everybody in England and Europe is nearly and definitely interested in the realisation of those ideals.

Let me quote the opening paragraph of the joint declaration of the Serbian Government (whose headquarters in exile are established in Corfu) and the Southern Slav Committee:—

> The State of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who are also known as Southern Slavs, or Jugoslavs, will be a free and independent kingdom, with indivisible territory and unity of allegiance. It will be a constitutional, democratic, and parliamentary Monarchy, under the Karageorgevitch Dynasty, which has always shared the feelings of the nation and has placed the national will above all else.

The concluding words of the declaration are also noteworthy:—

> The nation thus unified would form a State of some twelve million inhabitants, which would be a powerful bulwark against German aggression, and an inseparable ally of all civilised States and peoples.

This last sentence indicates briefly why the whole civilised world is concerned in this project of nation-building in the Near Orient. These Jugoslavs, dwelling in the southern provinces of Austria and Hungary, as well as in Serbia proper, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Montenegro, hold the passes through which the predatory Central Powers will have marched to the conquest of the world, or in which the path will in future be effectually barred. Where the Jugoslavs live is just where the friends of freedom and civilisation desire to erect a barrier strong enough to bear back the ambitions of an aggressive and oppressive pan-Germanism.

Everybody who has read a simple text-book of modern European history knows something about the internal race-conditions within the Dual Monarchy and its relations to the peoples across its borders. For a thousand years Germans and Magyars have held Slav and subject peoples under an enforced and often brutal sway. But going back no further than to 1815, when Metternich and Company thought they were fixing European boundaries for all time, the Austrian frontier was driven right through the two nations of Roumanians and Southern Slavs. In everything that constitutes nationality, in race, language and tradition, Serbs, Slovenes and Croats are a single nation. In any case, that was not an arrangement likely to continue, and it was greatly complicated by the fact that these Slavonic people lie right athwart the road along which the Germans have hoped to extend their dominion—across the Morava and Vardar valleys, which run down to Salonika and across the south-eastern "corridor" to Constantinople, Asia Minor and the Persian Gulf beyond.

Thus the sentiment of the Austro-Hungarian Government towards the Slavs of the south, especially as the *Drang nach Osten* has grown in strength and success, has been one of fear and irritation. "Since 1867," writes Mr. J. A. R. Marriott, "it has been the fixed policy of the leading statesmen of both Vienna and Budapest to keep the Slav majority in strict subordination to the German-Magyar minority." This reference to the populations of the "ramshackle empire" may still surprise some people. Yet it is true that out of the fifty-one million subjects of Mr. Charles Hapsburg, as we may some day call the Austrian Emperor, ten million are Magyars, eleven million German and twenty-six million Slavs. Many Governments have found it a difficult task to control a small alien minority. The Hapsburgs have set themselves the task of enforcing the rule of a minority of the people upon an unwilling and freedom-loving majority. They have attempted to build a "Dual" Monarchy upon a population which is conspicuously "Trial" in race and tradition. And they have not simplified the problem by annexing, in defiance of all right and law, two other States with two million more Slavs, Bosnia and Herzegovina, though, as has been truly said, that act was intended as a prelude to the eventual "strangulation" of Serbia. And no one with an elementary historic knowledge can doubt that the main motive of the Central Powers in plunging Christendom into the Gehenna of this war was to destroy Serbia and to remove for ever the obstacle to the pan-German dream of Oriental and world-wide dominion.

If the Central Powers had been called to a beneficent and civilising mission of government and administration in these backward regions of the Near and Middle East, if the results of their sway were likely to be for the benefit of those regions and the human race in general, there might have been a more widespread sympathy with their Eastern ambitions. But no one can believe any such thing. Germany has allied herself with the bloodiest tyranny in the world, that of the Turks. The Emperor William has grasped the hands of the Sultan when they were freshly reeking with the blood of his Christian subjects. Germany has steadily refused to check or even rebuke the sanguinary methods of repression employed by her Ally. The whole Germanic object in pressing southwards and eastwards is to increase her power and extend her dominion, to attack and undermine a great empire which, as its own subject peoples will admit, is founded on the ideas of justice, mercy and freedom, to found a new empire in Asia and Africa which shall incarnate the German principles of brute force and ascendancy, those pestilential doctrines which have been injected into German veins by such writers as Treitschke, Nietzsche and Bernhardi. As Professor Ramsay Muir has truly said, "Germany aimed at using the Turkish Empire to increase her already formidable military power, and this prospect was all the more alarming because of the central strategical position which Turkey occupies. Her supreme aim was dominion, not emancipation; monopoly, not the open door. Aiming herself solely at dominion for its own sake, she became the advocate and support of the oppressor, not of the oppressed. It has become very plain that a German control over the Turkish Empire would make not for increased justice and the greater security of the world's peace, but for the very opposite."

Just where the Jugoslavs dwell, we have to build a barrier, a "Gatun dam," deep and wide enough to set an enduring limit to these devastating and insane ambitions. Courageous little Serbia is not strong enough for this purpose. To her strength must be added that of the neighbouring Slavonic communities in a well-knit and progressive State of twelve million souls.

J. Saxon Mills.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Position of Greece. August 13.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could make a statement about the position of Greece, and especially whether Greece was at war with Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey.

Mr. BALFOUR said Greece was at war with the Powers mentioned in the question.

Exchange of Prisoners.

Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS asked whether the Government would now endeavour to arrange a conference with Turkey similar to that recently held at the Hague with Germany at which an agreement could be concluded for the better treatment and the exchange of prisoners of war.

Mr. J. F. HOPE said that the question of arranging a conference with Turkey similar to that recently held at The Hague with Germany in order to secure better treatment and the exchange of prisoners, was engaging the anxious attention of His Majesty's Government. There were, unfortunately, greater difficulties involved than existed in the case of Germany.

Mr. ARNOLD WARD asked whether any steps were being taken, or could be taken, to effect an agreement with Austria-Hungary on the subject of prisoners of war.

Mr. HOPE said that if the Austro-Hungarian Government made proposals on the subject of the exchange of prisoners, he had no doubt His Majesty's Government would take them into consideration. The number of Austro-Hungarian prisoners was many times greater than that of British prisoners in Austria-Hungary.

The Mesopotamia Report. August 14.

Mr. KING asked the Under-Secretary for War whether he would be in a position to make any statement before the adjournment as to the intentions of the Army Council with respect to the trial by court-martial of the officers blamed in the Report of the Commission on Mesopotamia.

Mr. MACPHERSON: The hon. member must not assume that proceedings in these cases will be by court-martial. As I informed the House, in reply to a question put by him on August 1, the officers concerned have been called upon to submit their written explanations, and the Council will have to consider these before deciding what further action is to be taken in each case. In view of the complicated nature of the matters in respect of which the statements were made in the Commission's Report, I can hold out no hope that decisions will be reached before the adjournment.

Mesopotamian Administration. August 15.

Mr. MONTAGU, replying to a question by Sir J. JARDINE about Mesopotamia, said:—The Revenue administration of the occupied territory has been carried on as far as possible in general conformity with the principles laid down in The Hague Convention, viz., on the basis of the system that existed prior to the British occupation. I understand that Arab tax-collectors have been appointed for some districts, while in others the custom of collecting through village headmen has been revived. The Revenue administration is controlled by a Revenue Board, consisting of three British officers, who are assisted by two assistant Revenue officers.

Sir J. JARDINE: Is the administration still being carried on under the orders of the General Commanding the troops?

Mr. MONTAGU: My hon. friend is aware that there is a political officer as well as that in the present condition of affairs in Mesopotamia supreme command must be in the hands of the officer who is in command of His Majesty's forces.

Mr. MONTAGU, in answer to another question, said: Under the authority vested in him the General Officer Commanding the Army of Occupation has promulgated rules providing for the administration of civil and criminal justice in the territories which are effectively occupied by the Army. Under the rules the G.O.C. exercises powers resembling those of a High Court, a senior judicial officer those of a district and sessions Judge, a junior judicial officer those of an assistant Judge and district magistrate, and an assistant junior officer those of a subordinate Judge of the first class and a magistrate of the first class. There are other subordinate officers invested with civil and criminal powers in varying degrees.

The Aden Field Force.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether the special field allowances had now been granted to the Aden Field Force similar to those granted to other Expeditionary Forces.

Mr. S. BALDWIN stated that, with effect from January 1, special field allowances had been sanctioned for the Aden Field Force on the same scale as those granted to Indian Forces in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and East Africa. He took the opportunity of informing the House that the control of military operations and the command of the troops in the Aden sphere had been transferred to the War Office.

ROUMANIA'S CONFIDENCE IN VICTORY.

Prince Constantin Brancovan, a member of the Roumanian Parliament, who recently arrived in London from Jassy on a short visit, has given an interesting interview to a representative of Reuter's Agency on Roumania's participation in the war:—

Even before 1914, he said, the Roumanians had been hostile to Austria on account of her injustice to Roumania in the Balkan war. As soon as Great Britain drew the sword and her armies, with those of France, had shown the futility of the German plan at the battle of the Marne, Roumania decided to do her share in the cause of liberty and justice, and for the fulfilment of her national aspirations. She therefore entered into negotiations almost at once with the Allies, offering her assistance when required. It would be difficult for an Englishman to realize the enormous influence Great Britain has had among the smaller nations whom she has championed. After Italy's entry into the war negotiations became still more definite, and Roumania declared war at the moment considered by all parties concerned to be the most suitable.

That our country was so quickly overrun is due to three things—first, that owing to the unsettled internal conditions in Russia—a prelude to the Revolution—that Ally was unable to assist us as much as had been hoped; secondly, Germany had been preparing an army for some weeks, probably for use either in Galicia or against the Salonika front, and this force was thrown against us; thirdly, we are only a small nation, with a difficult front of over 750 miles to hold against the immense might of Germany. In the circumstances, it was to the interest of the Germans to make large sacrifices in order to prevent the Roumanians from cutting off their communication with the East and in order to gain the rich Roumanian crops and oilfields, so that, had further outside help enabled Roumania to offer a greater resistance, it is more than probable that Germany, who even now is still powerful, would have made still greater sacrifices to attain her ends

However, though Roumania has suffered, she has no regrets for her action. Her army is strong again and perfectly trained, and it will have all that it needs when it has received the assistance that Great Britain has so generously promised. Roumania's oilfields have almost all been rendered useless to the Germans and will be so for a long time, and full confidence is felt by Roumania that the end of the war will see the liberation of her peoples from the Austrian yoke and the expansion of the commerce, already considerable, between her and the Allied Powers, to the fulfilment of her ambitions to see France and Great Britain take the place of Germany in her trade. The war has had a very useful democratic influence in our country, as is evidenced by the passing of the Universal Suffrage and Small Holdings Bills in Parliament. The Jewish question will also be solved as soon as possible.

Even should a further retreat of the Russian Army expose our flank in Moldavia and compel us to retire still further, we should still be proud to have done our "bit" by the side of Britain, France, Russia, Italy, America, and their Allies, and we are resolved to continue the war on the side of our Allies to a victorious end. Finally, I would express my deep appreciation of the sympathetic interest Great Britain has always shown in Roumania. Our gratitude to your country is very profound—you have given us enormous credits, you have sent us a military mission to supervise and suggest in matters of engineering, etc., and you made great sacrifices to supply us with necessaries at the time of our retreat. Your Red Cross Service is wonderful, and we owe much to it.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Great Britain and Serbia.

We give below some representative Press comments on the speeches made at the luncheon in honour of M. Pashitch last week, and, in particular, on the speech of Mr. Lloyd George:—

The Morning Post:—

As Mr. Lloyd George declared, the British nation is determined that for Serbia there must be complete restoration and restitution. British honour is pledged to the fulfilment of that assurance, if British sympathy for all that the Serbian people have endured, and if British admiration for the way in which the Serbian Armies have fought, were not a sufficient guarantee in themselves. Assuredly we will stand by our Serbian Allies to the end, as they have stood by us in spite of all blandishments from the enemy. Nor in the strict fulfilment of this debt of honour need there be any incompatibility with our recognition of the legitimate claims and aspirations of other Allies. . . . One thing is certain—that no interest at stake is so important, either to Italy or to Serbia, as their interest in coming to a friendly understanding. It is for them to settle with each other the differences that have in the past hindered a perfect concord—differences which only embarrass and weaken both nations in facing a common enemy, and forfeit for them the great advantages that must accrue from mutual confidence and co-operation. To dispel the Austrian menace is not less vital to Italy than to Serbia; and with that interest in common, firm friendship should be a logical corollary. But it is for themselves, and for themselves alone, to find the way to a satisfactory accommodation; and the true friends of both nations can serve them best by strictly leaving the task to them.

The Times:—

It was fitting that the presence of M. Pashitch in London should be made the occasion for some public manifestation of our loyalty to the cause of Serbia and of our determination to stand with her to the end, not merely as Allies, "but as friends and partners"; and it was right that Mr. Lloyd George, despite exceptionally pressing engagements, should have made an effort to pay to the Serbian people a tribute of affection and respect. He brought out the full meaning of the fact that the Southern Slav race has, for five hundred years, sung the story of its greatest national disaster—in memory of which the Montenegrins still wear the black band round their caps—in the sure belief that redemption from alien rule and union in freedom would one day again be achieved. A race that survived centuries of Turkish barbarism cannot be extinguished by three years of struggle and heroic defeat, even were its powerful Allies not beholden to it, as the Prime Minister and Lord Robert Cecil said, for accepting, at fearful risk, the challenge thrown to civilisation "by the barbarism of Prussia." Lord Robert Cecil availed himself of the opportunity to place in their true light his own and Mr. Balfour's recent speeches, which have been so seriously misunderstood and criticised in Italy. We are bound, he declared, not only by our engagements, but by our history and our sympathies, to our Italian as much as to our Serbian Allies. We recognise the national wishes and demands of Italy, and shall support and maintain all her legitimate aspirations to the same full extent as we shall give support to those of our other Allies. He rightly insisted that there is nothing inconsistent between the true claims of Italy and those of Serbia, who, in agreement, may look forward to a long and prosperous future side by side.

The Daily Chronicle:—

In 1914 there was no alliance between us and Serbia; and Russia, with whom we became formally allied in September of that year by the Pact of London, was herself in the position of having responded to Serbia's call, not of having called on and been responded to by her. The tragic events of 1915 somewhat altered the relation. Austria-Hungary made Serbia a number of offers, which she very properly rejected, in reliance on the Great Powers who had taken up her cause; and when those Powers subsequently proved unable to prevent the complete conquest of her territory, they no less properly and necessarily made public acknowledgment of their obligation to see her restored. The acknowledgment was made in this country by Mr. Asquith, and there is no doubt that public opinion was and is entirely behind it. If anything could strengthen our resolve, it would be the magnificent heroism shown last year by the rehabilitated Serbian Army in the Allied offensive which recovered Monastir.

"A Coming Turkish Offensive."

Under the above title Mr. Lovat Fraser discusses in the *Sunday Pictorial* the possible plans of the Turks, and expresses the view that an attempt will probably be made to recapture Baghdad. This is the situation in Asia Minor and Armenia as he sees it:—

The Russians in Armenia are believed to be held fast. The little Russian force which came through Persia and joined hands with our troops in Mesopotamia has been driven back. Parts of two Turkish corps, the 18th and the 13th, still hover on our front in Mesopotamia; but the Turks have been waiting for the autumn. They are collecting large forces at Aleppo. It is quite true that the total number of Turkish effectives is greatly reduced, but now that the Russians have forsaken the battlefield to dream Utopian dreams the Turks can muster very respectable armies against ourselves. They are said to be bringing back four divisions from Galicia and the Dobrudja, and to be drawing upon their reserves in Thrace. Marshal von Falkenhayn has gone to Syria, and he is not to be despised. He may have failed to take Verdun, but he will be a troublesome customer, if he appears before Baghdad. What will be the main direction of the new Turco-German offensive? My own view is that Marshal von Falkenhayn will act on the defensive in Palestine, and deliver his principal blow in Mesopotamia. The disappearance of the Russians gives him two lines of advance—by the Tigris and by the Euphrates. It was always foreseen that the Turks would attempt to retake Baghdad, but at first it was thought that they would make their principal advance by the Euphrates, because the Russians might have struck at their communications on the Upper Tigris. Now they can move by both routes. We are strong to-day in Mesopotamia, but not strong enough to remove anxiety. We have a fine commander in General Maude, but our forces are scattered over a wide area, and our outposts are probably 650 miles from the sea by the water route. Railhead on the Baghdad Railway is probably at Nisibin, south-east of Diarbekr, which means that on the Tigris route the Turks have only about 150 miles to cover by desert road, and less than 100 miles by river, before they reach the present British front.

The Palestine Front.

In the *Manchester Guardian* the Rev. H. S. Frank Williams, C.F., writing of the campaign in Palestine, gives a most picturesque account of life in the zone of war. Here is his description of the country:—

The country reminds one of home, the Sussex Downs especially—great bare, rolling green plains, with patches of cultivation, chiefly barley, clover, vetches, with here and there a small fig orchard, but very rarely a tree of any size, or indeed any conspicuous landmark. The surface makes fairly good going for the troops, but after a little use the green disappears and the surface reverts to desert sand once more. Yet we are continually marvelling at the fertility of this light, sandy soil. Everything seems to grow here—fruit, vegetables, grain, and flowers; the wild flowers are a perpetual joy, scarlet poppies, blue and red pimpernel, wild marigold, variegated anemones, campanulas, etc.

He confirms previous stories of the interest taken by the troops in that historic region.

Tommy takes a keen and intelligent interest in his surroundings, and his thirst for information is insatiable: "What sort of a place is Gaza?" "Why does the Bedouin wear a rope round his head?" "Where did all this sand come from?"—until one is tempted to sympathise with the distracted Hun parent's rebuke, "Be silent, my child, and eat your Hindenburg rock!" He is informed that he is treading on historic ground, and at once he sits up and takes notice; his knowledge of history is usually of the most nebulous. He fancies Moses had something to do with the disappearance of the gates of Gaza, and wonders what has become of all the "milk and honey," but he is intensely interested in hearing all he can about the various armies and expeditions which have preceded him along this age-old highway of the nations.

In Turkish Territory.

In "Beyond Baghdad" in *Land and Water*, Mr. L. Harrison gives an interesting pen picture of the country through which our soldiers have passed in pursuit of the Turks. Here is his description of the ancient cities of Istabulat and Samarra:—

Istabulat Station is itself a heap of ruins, having been blown up by the Turks before their retirement. The ancient city of Istabulat is not much more than a heap of mounds, and stands upon the bank of the river some six miles nearer Samarra. It is the first of a series of ruins, mostly dating from the days of the Caliphate, which stretch away from Samarra in all directions. How one regrets to have forgotten all one's ancient history! In this country there really should be an official archæologist attached to each unit, to explain places and events as we move along. But for many of the relics the explanation would appear to have been lost, and there is a curious fascination about those ancient remains that have left no impress whatever on history. It is appalling to think of the number of civilisations that have waxed and waned beneath the indifferent eyes of the inscrutable Arab, who has been in them, but not of them. The Arab makes one feel very small. We are fighting in what the Turk is pleased to call Turkish territory, and we have won what we shall hope to call a British province. But at the back of the Arab's eyes there is a look of calm, contemptuous assurance. Turk and Briton are passing phases. There have been many before, there will be others anon. They come, and strut awhile, and go. The Arab cringes to them, or harries them, according to expediency and opportunity, and without discrimination. But he has been the continuous possessor of his own country, and he is sure that he will always so remain. Meantime, we get our first glimpse of Samarra, by far the most striking of all the towns of the Tigris. It stands back a little on the high bank, a hundred feet above the river. It is small and completely walled, and is absolutely dominated by its noble mosque, which is for the moment all we see. A well-proportioned dome, gleaming gold in the sun, flanked by two slender and graceful minarets, with a second tiled dome a little away from the main group, the whole standing in bold outline, poised on rolling gravel hills, it is a picture different from anything we have seen before in this country. Behind the town stands up an enormous tower, a real tower of Babel, with a wide spiral path winding to its summit. Here is where our amateur archæology seizes its opportunities. My companion informs me that this is the tomb of the Emperor

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Hadrian, and comments on the wide sphere of activity of an emperor who builds a wall in Britain, and is buried in Mesopotamia. Seeing that my map shows the tomb of the Emperor Julian, a large mound a few miles further off, I suspect some confusion of ideas. Later inquiries establish the fact that (a) this is a monument to Caliph Haroun al Raschid!; (b) it is simply a fort and watch-tower of the days of the Caliphate; (c) it is but three hundred years old, and has nothing whatever to do with the Caliphs. How much nicer this is than hearing one cut-and-dried explanation! One feels, too, that if none of these alternatives suit the mood of the moment, one is at perfect liberty to go on guessing until something really attractive suggests itself.

In the Cyclades.

The following passage is from an account of a visit to the Cyclades in the *Sphere*:—

We were warned that we must know Greek, and that Athens would interest us very much, but the Cyclades *not at all!* I was not, however, to be put off; we started one evening from Piræus—two ladies alone—and after two nights and a day anchored in the pretty little harbour of Santorin; and there, 900 ft. above us, perched on the top of the cliff, lies the modern town of Thera, or Phera. A collection of boys with their donkeys were waiting to take up the passengers and their luggage, as there are no carriages, and a twenty minutes' ride along a zigzag path brought us to the summit. The less said about the hotels the better, but with the assistance of some kind friends a charming ride was arranged for the following day. We went to the top of Mount Elias, the highest point of the island, and down below at our feet was Messavouna, the ancient town of Thera, full of interesting old remains. In Greek legend the island of Thera was connected with the story of the Argonauts, and was represented as sprung from a clod of earth which was presented to those heroes by Triton. After the fourth Crusade it received the name of Santorin, *i.e.*, St. Irene, the patron saint of the place. From earliest times it has been a centre of volcanic agency; we were reminded of this on the Kaumene islands, where the heat of the water, the smell of the sulphur, and the smoke that oozed out under our feet made it very evident that we were standing on the crater, and I was thankful when we got safely off to the harbour, where we had to wait for our boat, which was to take us to Naxos. There we sat on a terrace listening to the soothing sound of the water against the fishing boats and watching the approaching night coming on, faintly lit up by a beautiful new moon. About nine o'clock our Greek steamer appeared through the darkness, brilliantly lit up, and slowly glided into the harbour; it was like a scene in fairyland.

Articles to Note.

"The Chief Points of Difference Between the Ahmadizya Community and the Orthodox Muslims, Part III.," by Mirza Bashir Ahmed, in the *Review of Religions* (Vol. XVI.).

Mesopotamia: (1) "The Recent Military Policy of the Government of India," by Major-General F. C. Beatson, C.B., and (2) "The Tragedy of an Impossible System," by Everard Cotes, in the *Nineteenth Century* (August).

"The Diodochi and the Rise of King-Worship," by the Rev. Cuthbert Lattey, S.J., in the *English Historical Review* (July).

"The New Spirit in Austria," by H. N. Brailsford, and "Albania, Austria, Italy, Essad," by O. de L., in the *Contemporary Review* (August).

"The Building of Greater Roumania," by Alexander Severus, in the *New Europe*.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Readers of the "On 'Change Notes" in THE NEAR EAST will have observed the steady appreciation that has taken place in the Egyptian group of shares on the London Stock Exchange in the last few weeks. The increased values are not artificial, but are a true index of the rapidly expanding trade of the country and people. (Native-grown products of all kinds have been a wonderfully prosperous market in the last year, cotton in particular being the proverbial gold mine. Very high prices have been realised all round, and the presence of large numbers of troops in the country and on the Syrian frontier has added wealth and prosperity.

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These factors have affected the various land companies to a considerable extent. There has been a livelier inquiry for land, debts have been liquidated, arrears of purchase instalments and interest paid off, and capital in all directions has been more liquid than it has been for years. It has been an Egyptian revival in the best sense of the word, and investors who have paid heed to the frequent favourable references in THE NEAR EAST to the country and its rapidly expanding prosperity will now be on the right side.

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The outstanding feature of interest in London at the moment is the soaring to a great height of the price of silver. On Wednesday the rate—the highest since December 15, 1891—was 44d. an ounce, a rise of 1½d. on the day. It must not be thought that this leap is to be attributed to the amount of business transacted; that, as a matter of fact, was small. It was entirely a question of short supply of the metal. The demand on Wednesday would probably have been satisfied with £20,000 worth of the metal, which, however, was not forthcoming. I do not think the price will be maintained for long. Conditions are very uncertain, and a change may come at any moment, especially if China comes out as a seller. India will feel the pinch; if the price were to settle down in the neighbourhood of, say, 42d. the Government would be embarrassed seriously, and its minting operations would be conducted at a loss.

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Reference was made in these notes last week to the excellent speech made at the inaugural meeting of the British Merchants' Morocco Association by Mr. McLeod, of the British Consular Service at Fez. Mr. McLeod called attention to the economic revolution which had been at work in Morocco, and said that, great as have been the developments at the coast, they are hardly comparable (as economic changes) with those which have occurred in the north-east interior of the French zone. By their position on the Atlantic and the comparatively peaceful character of the tribes there, the western districts were always, in normal times, more or less open to foreign trade and communications, on the old Moorish footing, which were there comparatively safe and easy. The north-eastern area, on the contrary, was lawless, and the further east one went the more this was the case, and "I suppose" (Mr. McLeod continued) "towards mitigating these conditions and encouraging trade, the custom arose of charging lower Customs duties at the land points of entry than at the seaports. Rightly or wrongly, this usage was left untouched by the Act of Algeciras. Goods came in, and still come in, at the land ports at 6 per cent. duty, whereas the Act of Algeciras fixed the import duty at the ports at 10 per cent. plus 2½ per cent., with some few and quite unimportant exceptions."

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The Anglo-French Agreements of 1904 and 1916 provided for equality of treatment as between British and French goods as regards duties, railway rates, and the like at the frontier. In the meantime the north-eastern area has become as peaceful and accessible as any other. Railways (the narrow gauge was originally intended to be used) have been made from Algeria to Taza, and are now open to transport of passengers and goods, and the remaining section connecting Taza with the existing Fez, Mequinez, and the West Coast section is under construction. It will probably be finished within the next twelve or eighteen months. It was also pointed out that Oran and Nemours are already the best—practically the only—points of entry for foreign goods for all the areas east and south-east of Taza, and including the Tafilelt Oasis. Freights from the ports of Southern France, Eastern Spain, and from Italy, by reason of their nearness to Oran and Nemours, are normally much cheaper than from England to the western ports. So far, however, no British firm has yet opened branches to take up trade by this route. What the British Government can do it has done, and this led Mr. McLeod to urge that now the merchants should do their part; and, indeed, it rests with them to do so.

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A marked feature on the London Stock Exchange this week has been a depreciation of several points in P. and O. deferred shares. Various explanations have been put forward for this decline in what, hitherto, has been an unavailable security. In some quarters it is suggested that the fall is due to selling by shareholders of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand—a concern recently fused with the great English company—others look for a cause in the policy of the Government directed against a continuance of large shipping profits, and, of course, there is also the submarine campaign to be taken into account. The shipping share department on 'Change has not been so bright in the last few days, but in no case has stock fallen so much as that of the P. and O. Company. Nevertheless, investors will do well to remember that no concern can boast such up-to-date and sound management, and its stock should still be regarded as among the best of its kind.

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According to recent advices from Abyssinia the war has placed a temporary check on the progress of the potash industry in that country. Difficulties have arisen in the matter of tonnage, and at the end of May there were considerable stocks in the ports awaiting shipment. Another handicap is the temporary suspension of the construction of the railway from the coast to the mine. This light line is to be on the sixty-centimetre gauge, the materials have been purchased, and as soon as certain difficulties connected with the management of the mine have been surmounted the remaining work—the laying of the track—will be pushed forward. In the meantime the work on the railway and at the mine itself has been "held up."

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The deposit of potash salts was first discovered by an Italian resident of the Colonia Eritrea in 1911, and he promptly secured a thirty-five year concession from the Abyssinian Government. The mine is in a desperately isolated area forty-six miles inland from the Red Sea settlement of Fatimari, at the back of the island of Baka; it is about seventy-six miles south of Massowah and rather less than 400 miles from Aden. The deposit is large and is said to resemble those at Strassfurt, Germany. The operating company estimates there are available at least 850,000 tons of the salt deposit, averaging not less than 55 per cent. potash. There are hot springs that add steadily to the deposit. Shortly after the outbreak of the war the Italian company, Compagnia Mineraria Coloniale, was formed and paid the concessionaire about £100,000 for his rights. This company started active work in opening up the deposit, and soon had approximately 8,000 men employed in mining the potash, making a road to the coast, and building a port at Fatimari.

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There will be general regret in Persia and along the Eastern Mediterranean at the news of the murder in Antwerp by the German invaders of M. Frank, the well-known dealer in Oriental carpets. M. Frank was much respected by the thousands who have had business relations with him, and enjoyed the confidence alike of buyers and sellers.

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THE BOLL WORM.

Report on the Official Campaign in Egypt.

(From Our Cairo Correspondent.)

An interesting report on the last boll worm campaign has just been submitted by Mr. A. T. McKillop, Inspector-General of Agriculture, who was in charge of the work. The policy of the campaign was based on past experience and on results of the research work so far carried out by the scientific experts of the Government.

This research work shows, in the first place, that the greatest danger of propagation is to be expected from those worms which are present in October in the bolls, where the majority hibernate in the larval or pupal state until the following cotton crop is available for the moths they produce to deposit their eggs, and, secondly, that those worms which have reached their maturity in September chiefly undergo their changes rapidly, and emerge as moths when there is no food for their succeeding brood to live upon. Consequently it was clear that the combative measures to be successful must provide for the removal and destruction of the bolls remaining in the fields immediately after the last picking.

Some of the Difficulties.

The campaign was carried out under a law, passed in the summer of 1916, which laid down that the bolls remaining after the harvest were to be removed and destroyed before certain dates fixed for each district by the Government; that all bolls that fell to the ground were to be collected and destroyed, and that the transport, detention and purchase or sale of bolls which should have been destroyed, and of cotton sticks which should have been shorn of bolls, should be prohibited.

The Government, whose work consisted in seeing that the law was strictly carried out, had to encounter many difficulties, chief amongst which were the fact that its European controlling staff had been reduced to below minimum by the exigencies of the war, that it was exceedingly difficult to recruit in sufficiently large numbers a satisfactory Egyptian junior staff, and that the cultivators either would not or could not understand the utility of the law which they were called upon to carry out. It is, indeed, a fact that notwithstanding the explanations afforded them, not only did the general mass of cultivators withhold all cordial co-operation with the State, but their attitude was frequently one of open and avowed hostility to it. Nearly 40,000 contraventions were reported by the Government staff and about 100,000 tons of cotton stalks were burnt as a result of contraventions.

While all things considered the campaign last year was as successful as could in the circumstances be reasonably expected, it had one satisfactory result in that it afforded further valuable experience and proved that the work was proceeding on the proper lines.

A New Decree.

As a result of this fresh experience a decree, to which reference was recently made here, has been issued ordering the installation in every ginning factory of machines for the fumigation of cotton seed as it emerges from the ginneries, and prohibiting the storage of unginned cotton and cotton seed unless it is done in buildings which are so adapted that the boll worm moths cannot escape. The object of this is to prevent the propagation of the worm, which has in the past taken place not only through the channel of the immature bolls left in the fields and on the cotton sticks kept by the fellahin for fuel purposes, but also through the sowing seed, in which it hibernates, and through the promiscuous storage of unginned cotton and seed in premises whence the moth has been able to escape, and, perpetuating its life cycle, has jumped from one cotton crop to another.

The complete enforcement of this decree is necessarily delayed by the difficulty in procuring the machines from Europe; for the current year its application will be limited to Upper Egypt. It will, however, be applied with the utmost vigour as soon as all the machines necessary to the country are obtainable, and meanwhile the work of destruction of the bolls left in the fields after the final picking will continue to be carried out with equal energy.

Wanted—Co-operation.

While the Government may exert every effort to execute the measures which it is convinced are the only means of preventing the spread, if not of bringing about the extermination, of the pink boll worm, the result can, however, only be partially successful so long as the mass of the cultivators do not lend the Government their hearty co-operation. Until the people can be brought to see in the law a sincere effort to assist them and protect their crops from the onslaught of the pink boll worm, nothing the Government can do will bring about any appreciable reduction in the ravages done by that pest.

The same indifference and obstruction were displayed by the cultivators to the enforcement of the Cotton Worm Law some ten years ago, and the fact that the same cultivators are to-day most active in carrying out the provisions of that measure leads one to hope that in course of time a similar change will manifest itself in their attitude towards the execution of the boll worm decree.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market during the past week has presented a quiet appearance there being no initiative on the part of buyers. Considerable interest has been taken in the scheme of the Control Board for curtailing production. Briefly it may be said that spinners and manufacturers from the beginning of September will be compelled to work only 60 per cent. of their machinery. On certain conditions, however, firms will be allowed to extend production beyond this limit on the payment of levies. The fund raised in this way will be used to compensate operatives who are thrown out of employment.

Much difference of opinion has prevailed as to the effects of these regulations but numerous spinners and manufactuers have put up their prices rather stiffly, owing to the probability of the increased cost of production and the smaller supply in the near future of manufactured articles. In view of the arrangement made the Trade Union Officials have withdrawn their demand for an increase in wages.

Rather mixed advices have been received relating to the progress of the Egyptian crop. The pink worm is said to be doing serious damage in some districts. Egyptian yarns have been very irregular in quotation and apart from a few special sales the offtake has been limited. No general activity can be recorded in piece goods for Egypt. Some merchants are restricting their purchases in view of the uncertainty as to the tonnage available during the next few months.

A very indifferent demand has been reported in cloth for India. Comparatively few wires have been received from Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Only occasional transactions have been mentioned for China, but some useful orders continue to be booked for Singapore and the Straits Settlements. There is cause for satisfaction with our foreign trade in cloth at the present time, our shipments during July being 469,087,600 yards against 470,996,200 yards in the same month last year. American yarns have been put up in price but users have not followed at the higher rates and business to a large extent has been blocked. A fair inquiry has come through in bundles for India and isolated transactions have occurred for France. Our shipments of yarn last month were 14,073,400 lbs. as compared with 14,680, 500 lbs. in July, 1916.

SERBIAN INDUSTRIES.

M. Pachitch, the Prime Minister of Serbia, who is deeply interested in the industrial development of his country, has received during his stay in London a delegation which desired to bring to his notice what was being done and was in prospect with a view to the advancement of the trade of Serbia after the war, having regard especially to the elimination of all enemy influences in the commercial relations of the country.

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PERSIAN TRADE IN WAR TIME.

Decrease of Nearly One Quarter Last Year.

News from Persia recently has been scanty, and an account of the foreign trade of the country in the year ended March 20, 1916, although belated, will be of interest.

The statistics for the year afford an opportunity to note, by comparison with those for 1913-14, the effect of the war. The foreign commerce was estimated in 1889 to amount in value to no less than £8,000,000 sterling. Customs statistics for 1903 give figures which are but little in excess of the 1889 total. Since 1903, trade has gradually increased, until the total value of the foreign trade (excluding bullion and specie) amounted to nearly £20,000,000 in 1913-14. The war caused a decrease of nearly one-fourth of the country's trade in 1915-16, when the total value amounted to a little more than £15,000,000. Imports were reduced in value from £11,700,000 to £8,300,000, or by nearly 30 per cent.; and exports from £8,100,000 to £6,900,000, or by nearly 15 per cent.

Inflated War Prices.

Owing to inflated war prices, writes Mr. H W. Maclean, Honorary Attaché at the British Legation in a recent report, this loss of trade is much greater if measured by the quantity of merchandise handled. Half of the imports into Persia consists of sugar and cotton textiles; the quantity of sugar imported was 50 per cent. less, although the value remained the same as in 1913-14; imports of cotton tissues decreased by 30 per cent. in value, but over 40 per cent in quantity; and woollen goods, by 80 per cent. in quantity. In short, it is probable that less than half the usual quantities of manufactured goods were imported into Persia in 1915-16.

The Customs valuation of exports in 1915-16, however, does not appear to have risen much; and although there was a great reduction in the exports of live stock, hides and skins, gums, raw silk and carpets, there was an increase in exports of dried fruits, rice, wool, fish and opium. Again, important quantities of live stock, grain, and other food stuffs were supplied to the foreign services operating in Persia, so that the total sales to foreigners were little, if at all, below the average. On the whole, therefore it seems that Persia has had during the war a steady market for her products, and also that, owing to restricted imports of sugar, textiles and other less necessary foreign commodities, the country's foreign indebtedness has been less than usual.

Rise in Exchange.

The combined effect of this reversal of the usual trade position, together with the securing of foreign loans by the Persian Government, and a great reduction in the paper currency of the country, has been a marked rise in exchange; and since the beginning of 1916 the exchange value of the kran has been far above its intrinsic value.

The customary channels of foreign trade have been greatly changed by war conditions. The former considerable trade with Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Holland, and Belgium has almost ceased; and trade with Turkey, the only German ally in direct contact with Persia, has been reduced to one-third. Transport difficulties have almost put an end to the exportation of carpets, wool, opium, raw silk, and gums, to Western Europe and the United States, via Russia; the export of carpets to the United States, however, has been diverted to the Persian Gulf routes. In fact, the value of trade with all countries other than the British Empire and Russia declined from £3,780,000 in 1913-14 to £912,000 in 1915-16, or by about 75 per cent., the decrease in the value of exports exceeding that in the case of imports.

Trade with Russia.

The total value of trade with Russia decreased from £11,800,000 in 1913-14 to £9,800,000 in 1915-16, or by about 16 per cent., the value of imports being reduced from £6,500,000 to £4,900,000, and that of exports from £5,300,000 to £4,900,000. The war has stopped imports of Indian tea into northern Persia, via Batoum; of cotton textiles only two-thirds, and of sugar only one half of the usual quantities were imported from Russia.

Trade with the British Empire has increased in value during the war by 5 per cent. The value of imports from the British Empire was reduced from £3,170,000 in 1913-14 to £3,000,000 in 1915-16, or by 5 per cent., but exports to the British Empire increased in value from £1,000,000 to £1,375,000, or by 37½ per cent. Imports of textiles decreased by one half, but there were exceptionally large imports of tea and of metal work (for an oil company).

Imports from India.

In 1915-16 the value of imports into Persia from India was £2,080,000, as compared with £1,470,000 in 1913-14. Exports to India in 1915-16 were valued at £650,000, as compared with £380,000 in 1913-14.

The difficulties attending transport through Russia have diverted much of the trade in heavily taxed commodities, such as tea and opium, from the northern routes to the Persian Gulf routes. The gross Customs revenue of Southern Persia increased from £177,000 in 1913-14 to £240,000 in 1915-16, whilst the northern revenue fell from £700,000 in 1913-14 to £305,000 in 1915-16.

The parcel post service had been increasingly used by traders up to 1913-14, when the total value of parcel post imports (exclusive of bullion) was over £640,000, one half of such imports being from Germany and Austria. In 1915-16 the total value of parcel post imports fell to £330,000.

For years past facilities for inland transport in Persia have been unable to keep pace with the growing commerce of the country. During 1915 and 1916 transport charges were exceedingly high, owing to disturbances in the south and to absorption in military operations of much of the available facilities in the north. The cost of transport per ton from Mohammerah to Isfahan has varied from twice to four times the rate ruling in 1913 (£22), and the rate from Isfahan to Tehran (which was £13 in 1913) has increased by one half. On account of reduced imports from Russia, rates from Enzeli to Tehran, and from Tehran to Isfahan, have not risen by more than from 25 to 50 per cent.

A receiving order in bankruptcy has been made against Lord Rotherham (Sir William Holland), chairman of the Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association and a director of the Eagle Oil Transport Co. He is an ex-president of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.

ADEN COFFEE TRADE.

American Report on Market Conditions.

Since the beginning of the present year coffee prices in the Aden market have been going steadily downward. Superior grades of Mocha coffee that rarely sell for less than 20s. or 25s. a maund of 28 lbs. have recently been offered for 12s. 10d., about a shilling of this amount representing the cost of cleaning, wrote the U.S. Consul at Aden in a recent report.

The Yemen coffees known as Mattari and Hemi, from the districts in which they are grown, are the two finest of the superior grades of Mocha. Practically none of the Mattari and only small quantities of Hemi have been able to reach Aden on account of military operations in the districts through which they must pass; accordingly, large stocks of these two fancy grades are accumulating in the interior. These accumulated stocks will, of course, reach Hodeida and Aden when the blockade of the former is lifted and caravan traffic with the latter is resumed, and may be expected to have an important effect upon the market. Other and less choice grades of Mocha coffee are arriving in good quantities, but are selling at proportionately low prices, reported the United States Consul recently.

Important causes for current low prices are unusually heavy coffee crops during the past two years in the Yemen, a light demand, limited shipping space for export, and high freight and insurance rates. The favourable effect of recent prospects of increased shipping space has been somewhat counteracted by the prohibition of the import of coffee into the United Kingdom.

Outlets for Mocha Coffee.

Mocha coffee has for many years been exported largely from Hodeida, but the port has been closed for nearly two years by blockade on account of the war. An interesting result of this has been the recent marketing of considerable quantities of the Yemen coffee crop through the old town of Mocha, which many years ago, as the principal market and port of shipment, gave its name to all Yemen coffee, but which of late has had a very minor part in the trade.

Its renewed importance as a coffee port can only be temporary, however, as its harbour has filled and become shallow practically beyond restoration. In fact, the disadvantages of Mocha as a shipping port are so great that it is already losing its recently regained importance as an outlet for Yemen coffee. A little port to the north, known as Medi, the name of which is found on very few maps, is being made a point of shipment for coffee because of having fewer disadvantages than Mocha.

Export Facilities.

When Hodeida is available as a point of shipment a great deal of the Mocha coffee is exported directly from there to European and American ports. Facilities for this direct export are not available from Mocha and Medi, which accommodate only small coasting steamers and sailing dhows, and as a result the coffee which has come out through those ports during the past year has been brought to Aden for foreign export. The falling off of Aden's receipts by land has been more than made up by arrivals from the Arabian Red Sea ports. As a result the Aden market has handled much more of the Mocha coffee than it normally does.

LIFE INSURANCE.

ALL persons who are about to effect a Life Insurance Policy in any Office should send particulars of the proposed Policy to MR. E. P. HENDERSON, late of the Indian Civil Service, for his impartial opinion, which is given FREE OF CHARGE, on his usual conditions (obtainable by any person on application).

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Public Works in Morocco.

The British Consul-General at Tangier (Sir H. E. White, K.C.M.G.) reports that tenders will be received by "M. le Président de la Commission Générale des Adjudications et des Marchés," Dar-en-Niaba, Tangier, up to 11 a.m. on October 6, for the construction of the Ain Kerma section of the French part of the Tangier-Fez railway. This contract comprises the construction of a length of line of about twenty-one kilometres (thirteen miles). The estimated value of the contract is placed at 4,300,000 francs (about £172,000 at par rate of exchange), and a provisional deposit of 35,000 francs (about £1,400) is required to qualify any tender. The contractor must elect legal domicile in Morocco, and at least forty days before the time for the receipt of tenders must forward certificates of competency to the Direction Générale des Travaux Publics, Rabat. The *cahier des charges* may be consulted at the office of the "Commission Générale" above-mentioned, or at the office of the Tangier-Fez Railway Company, 41, Avenue de l'Opera, Paris. In publishing this note the Board of Trade *Journal* draws attention to certain restrictions on exports to Morocco.

Suction Gas Vehicles.

Further experiments are being carried out in France with suction gas vehicles of a type that was introduced before the war, and of which mention was made at the time in these Notes. The early tests were declared to have been quite satisfactory, but the construction of these vehicles was not proceeded with owing to the prejudice against the use of suction gas for motor vehicles. According to reports, the experiments are now being resumed because, it is argued, the producer can be fed with charcoal obtainable in unlimited quantities near the front. It appears that the wholesale felling of trees has left huge quantities of small wood which can be turned into charcoal, and thus an abundant supply of fuel is available wherever the vehicles may be in service. The question is important to proprietors and users of automobile vehicles in the Near East, where the use of suction gas as a motive power for industrial and agricultural purposes is steadily increasing, owing chiefly to the existing local facilities for obtaining cheap supplies of charcoal and other kinds of fuel.

Miralite.

A newly-invented alloy of great strength, said to be as light as aluminium and considerably stronger, is being now manufactured in London. It is known as miralite, and is capable of being spun into various forms on the lathe, which renders it very applicable to the demands made for such a metal in the motor trade, but for marine use it remains to be proved if it is able to withstand the action of sea water and salt air.

Embargo on Locomotives.

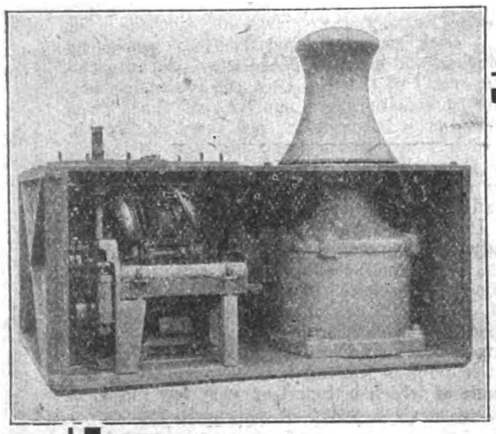
An embargo has been placed during July on the export of locomotive and fixed multitubular boilers, whether firmly attached to steam-engines or not, of which the normal capacity exceeds 20 h.p. or the heating surface 12 square metres, and on safety appliances, accessories, and spare parts of such boilers. Tractors, steam-rollers, and steam ploughs are excluded from the Order.

Trade Restrictions.

Comment has been elicited by the Government announcement that under the Defence of the Realm Acts no one is allowed to sell, purchase, hire, or loan, or send on approval, any new or second-hand machine-tools and plant of that description without the written permission of the Ministry of Munitions. This is interpreted as extending the "control" to innumerable small machines which are not of such value as to have brought them within the scope of previous orders; it is feared that the new order will hamper trade and buyers and sellers. Applications from intending purchasers should be addressed to the Central Clearing House, Charing Cross Buildings, London, W.C. 2.

Railways in Morocco.

In connection with the Bill now before the French Parliament for the construction of the railway between Tangiers and Fez, it is of some interest to note that there already exist 773 kilometres of railway in Morocco. These are lines actually working and exclusive of railways under construction. All the lines now working are narrow gauge (60 centimetres, or 2 ft. gauge) military railways, which, owing to diplomatic conventions with Germany, could not be used for civilian or ordinary traffic up to the outbreak of war in 1914. France, however, considers herself free from all diplomatic conventions made with Germany, and all lines are now open to ordinary traffic. The following places are now linked up by narrow-gauge lines:—Rabat to Casablanca, 90 kilometres; Salé to Fez, 246 kilometres; Taza to Oudjda, 235 kilometres; Casablanca to Caid-Tounsi (towards the south), 153 kilometres; Ber-Rechid to Ben-Ahmed (in the direction of Oued-Zem), 49 kilometres; total, 773 kilometres. The traffic receipts per kilometre for the whole of 1916 varied between £740 and £935. The proposed Tangiers-Fez line is to be of normal gauge. The French Government proposes to give a concession for the whole of the normal gauge lines (altogether 1,080 kilometres) to a private consortium.



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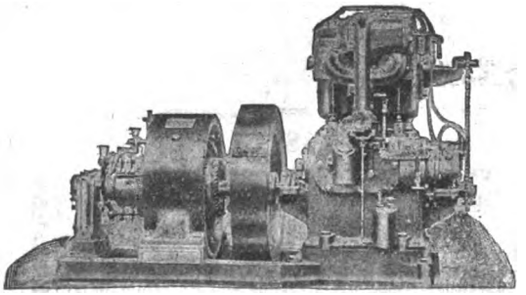

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COMPANY MEETING.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Evidences of Returning Prosperity

The annual general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on August 9, at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir William E. Garstin, G.C.M.G. (Chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—I sincerely wish that I were able to tell you that the results of the past year's working indicated a near return to the favourable prospects that existed previous to the outbreak of war. This, I regret to say, is impossible. The unfavourable conditions that have handicapped our undertaking for nearly three years still exist, and no one can as yet say when they will disappear. When last I addressed this meeting I felt obliged to warn you that it was possible that the results of the year now under review might be even more discouraging than those which I was then discussing. I am glad to tell you that my worst forebodings have not been fulfilled. It is true that, under ordinary conditions, last year's results are not such as we could regard to be deserving of favourable reception, but under the abnormal circumstances existing throughout the world they do, I assert, indicate that the strength of the position of our undertaking has been well maintained, and that, moreover, it holds out good promise for the time when peace shall return to the world. I trust that the explanations which I am about to offer to you may lead you to the same conclusions. You will remember that last year I expressed the fear that we might be compelled to encroach upon our reserves. I am happy to tell you that this has not been found necessary, and that we are able to show net earnings of £52,106. This amount is not a large one, it is true, but it shows that, even in a year of very exceptional stress, we have been able not only to carry on, but to add something to the amount carried forward. I think you will agree with me that this result is encouraging and warrants confidence in our future when the bad times shall have passed away. I should, perhaps, again explain, as I did last year, that the above figure is independent of the credit arising from the transfer to the suspense account of those working expenses that are in excess of 64 per cent. of our earnings. The sum of £52,106, therefore, represents our actual working profit for the year under review. It is, I suppose, unnecessary for me to explain that the balance of £106,806 shown in our net revenue account as carried forward is similarly affected by our suspense account. If, then, the sum of £57,558 indicated in the accounts as at the debit of suspense account be deducted, it leaves an available balance to be carried forward of £49,248.

The conditions that have affected profits are:—(1) A reduction in our earnings due to war conditions. (2) The increased cost of fuel. As regards No. 1, although we can show an increase of £40,125 in comparison with that of the year preceding, we are still a long way below the average figure for the years previous to the war—this in spite of the surtax that we were authorised to impose upon our charges for the carriage of passengers and goods. (3) The cost of fuel. This item, as was the case last year, is the real cause of the heavy increase in our working expenses, and must, as long as the war lasts, be the chief cause of anxiety for the future. It is unnecessary for me to tell you how abnormally freight and insurances have risen. Their tendency is still to rise, and I fear it would be unwise to anticipate any fall in the near future. When I tell you that our expenditure in coal alone for last year has been £33,000 more than was the case in the year preceding, you will understand what a large addition has been made to our working expenses and how serious has been the situation that we have had to face. We have used every endeavour within our power to obtain a decrease in our working expenses. Our train mileage has been reduced by nearly one third of what it was previous to the war. No expenditure that was not absolutely indispensable for the safe working of our lines has been incurred, and economy in every direction has been rigidly enforced. We have passed through an anxious period during the past year, and it gives us much satisfaction to be able to report to you that the results are less unfavourable than at one time seemed probable. We are not, however, by any means out of danger yet, and you will readily understand that our policy of economy must be vigorously maintained as long as the war lasts. I dwelt at some length last year upon the seriousness of our position, due to the abnormal rates to which coal had then risen in Egypt. I need not recapitulate what I then said. I will only tell you that since then the price of coal has risen very considerably, and that consequently the grave situation still exists and must inevitably continue until freights shall again fall to normal levels, and until transport shall again be available. Neither of these conditions can ensue until the war is over.

The stock of coal in our possession stands in our books at a price which, though very excessive, is considerably less than that which now prevails in the local markets. I may mention here that, in spite of our having had to pay enormously increased rates, both here and in Egypt, for the sundry stores required for our operations, the total increase in our expenditure is less by some thousands of pounds than the increase directly attributable to the extra cost of coal and to a special item of expenditure to which I shall refer later.

I am, of course, better able on this occasion than I was last year to make comparison between the results of last year's working and those of the year preceding. Both periods have been affected by war conditions. The improved prosperity of Egypt has, to a certain extent, affected our railway system, as the improvement in our coaching earnings proves. The increase for last year was nearly £20,000, or about 17 per cent. The number of passengers carried was nearly 5,000,000, or about 1,000,000 more than the figure for the year before. This increase is the more encouraging when it is considered that our passenger train kilometrage has been reduced by over a quarter of a million. The increase was distributed fairly and evenly over our entire system. The improvement in our goods earnings is not in proportion to that derived from our coaching traffic, being only £8,500, or about 12 per cent. The cotton crop of last year was not a good one, although the exceptionally high prices recouped the producer and put money into his pocket, thus enabling him to travel by rail.

Both our coaching and goods earnings have, of course, benefited to a certain extent by the surtax that we were permitted to impose. In discussing our increased expenditure I mentioned that there was a special item to which I would refer later. I will now do so. You will doubtless have noticed the considerable increase in our "Sundry receipts." This increase, as far as the accounts under review are concerned, is more apparent than real. I will explain to you why. In this item of sundry earnings is included a sum of £12,500 for hire of rolling stock and material for the military authorities. This is, of course, a perfectly legitimate item of credit to our earnings. But on the other hand we have sold to the military authorities certain of our rolling stock. These sales resulted in the loss of rather over £11,000 on the book values of this stock. It was, of course, valued in our books at the sum which it had originally cost us. This loss we have now charged off to expenditure, and thus the net credit for the year on the combined account is only about £1,400. At the same time, by this transaction we have written off the entire depreciation of this stock. All of it was old, and although fully up to the uses to which it is now being put, it would all of it have had to be replaced by us in a reasonably near future. You will then understand that by having now charged off the depreciation the transaction has been a profitable one for us. We are in a position to replace the old stock, so far as necessary, and when times are favourable, by stocks more suited economically to our present requirements. At the same time we have a net credit to show.

Our net earnings for the year amounted to £52,106, but, in accordance with the provisions of our modified contract, the excess expenditure beyond 64 per cent. of our earnings is carried to suspense account, which increases the balance shown to £83,853. I explained to you the nature of these adjustments last year and informed you then that the credits thus resulting are not available for distribution unless, at some future time, their recovery shall have been effected. I should here state that the immediate cause of the heavy transfers to the debit of this suspense account has been the reduction in our earnings owing to the war. This reduction, ipso facto, has, of course, increased the percentage of our expenses to our earnings. We may, however, confidently anticipate an improvement in our earnings after the war, and also that we shall be able to clear off these temporary debits to suspense account within the period at our disposal for the purpose. The explanation which I have given above applies equally to the balances carried forward. In consequence the sum of £106,807 shown in our net revenue account for the year must be reduced to £49,249, as compared with a balance of £39,418 so carried forward at the close of the previous year. The net revenue account will have shown you that we earned some £5,500 in interest on investments. This, however, was absorbed by the increased charges for income-tax. With regard to the investments which have yielded the interest just referred to, I hope you will have shared our satisfaction at having been able to invest so large a sum as £85,000 in the latest War Loan.

I wish that I could say to you that I see any likelihood of material improvement in our prospects for the present year. Unfortunately I cannot do so. The termination of the war is not yet in sight, and even the cessation of hostilities is not likely immediately to remove or even greatly to modify the difficulties which we are now encountering. We cannot, I am afraid, look for any immediate drop in freights when peace has been declared, and I fear that, for a considerable time after this event the price of fuel and of all materials will remain very high. It is with the greatest regret that the Board has found itself unable to recommend the payment of a dividend, but I feel certain, gentlemen, that you will recognise that under present conditions it would have been impossible for the Board to have taken any other course. The future is still very uncertain, and the period of strain through which we have been passing during the last three years still continues. But serious as the present position is, and disappointing as the results obtained must be to you, I see no cause whatever for pessimism or for alarm as regards the future of your railways. The fact that your undertaking has successfully held its own through this exceptionally trying period shows, to my mind, how sound its position is. I feel personally more confident than ever that when peace shall be re-established and when normal conditions shall be realised we shall speedily return to the conditions existing before the war, when

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our prospects looked so bright. Each succeeding year of the war has, in fact, increased my confidence in the future of our railways.

As regards the undertaking in which we are immediately concerned, I am glad to be able to tell you that our traffic returns for the first quarter show an improvement of £6,453 over the corresponding period of the year under review. This is an encouraging sign, and I have good hope that this rate of improvement will be maintained. Meanwhile, it is needless to say, we must continue the conservative policy that we have followed throughout the war. In every direction the strictest economy, consistent with efficiency, must be maintained. You need have no fears upon this score. Everything that can be done to reduce expenditure will be done. The real danger lies in the cost of our coal. If, as I trust, the measures that we have taken enable us to surmount this, then I feel reasonably confident—even should the war continue—that we shall be able next year to tell you not only that we have held our own, but that our situation as regards the future is fairly secure. I repeat, gentlemen, that there is no reason whatever for despondency. We, like everyone else, are going through bad times, and times that must cause us anxiety. But if we continue our present policy I feel sure that prosperity will return to us in the future. May that future be a near one. I shall be glad to answer any questions which you may wish to ask.

He then moved :—"That the report of the directors, dated July 23, 1917, together with the statement of accounts and balance-sheet for the year ended March 31, 1917, be and they are hereby confirmed and adopted."

The Hon. W. B. L. Barrington seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Montagu Sharpe and Major W. I. le Breton (Managing Director) paid a fine tribute to the services rendered by Mr. W. Garstin, who was re-elected a director.

A Government monopoly for the sale of solid mineral fuel has been established in Russia.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Thursday.

We have had a very active market in Egyptian shares this week, and a large business has been put through. The Government stocks have continued very firm, but with hardly any business passing. In the Bank shares the feature was the rise at one time in Agriculturals to 6½, but there was afterwards a smart reaction to 6 3-16, and the shares are closing ⅜ up at 6 7-16.

Nationals, after their big rise, have reacted ¼ to 16¼, and Land Banks are also a similar traction easier at 6¼. Delta Light Railways Pref. have been in demand, 3-16 firmer at 6¼.

In Land shares there has been great activity. Aboukirs have been in persistent demand and are 1s. 6d. up at 18s. 6d. Allotments have been bought up to £3, a rise of 1-16. Behéras have been steadily absorbed and are a further ¼ higher at 12¾; Delta Lands have been quite a feature, jumping 1s. 9d. to 13s. 9d.; and Egyptians and Foreign Trusts close 6d. higher at 7s. 6d., after dealings as high as 8s.

Gharbieh Lands have been wanted at 31s.—a further rise of 1s.—but there have been no sellers. In New Egyptians a very large business has been done, and the shares close 4½d. up at 13s. 9d., after some transactions as high as 14s. Sidi Salems are 6d. up at 17s. 6d., after dealings up to 18s. Union Foncières have continued to be bought up to 2⅛, a rise of ⅛. In United Egyptian Lands a fair amount of transactions have taken place between 10d. and 1s. 3d.

In Miscellaneous shares, Egyptian Markets have been done round the slightly higher price of 26s. 6d. ex div., and a large business has been doing in Salts and Sodas, which, after dealings as high as 27s. 6d., close 1s. up at 27s. Khedivial Mails continue a dull spot and are a further shilling lower at 35s.

In Greek securities some business has been done in 1881 and 1884 in the neighbourhood of 60, and a few thousand Monopoly were done at 55, at which price there are further sellers. In 4 per cent. 1910 Loan a fairly important transaction took place at 59.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Aug. 10.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84½	84½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	54	54½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	59	—
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	88½xd	88½xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6⅛	6⅞
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	13⅛	13⅛
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6½	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17⅛	16⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅛	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17½	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	17/-	18/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2¾	2⅛	3
Béhéra Co.....	8½	12½	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	12/-	13/9
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	7/-	7/6
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	31/6	31/6
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/4½	13/9
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	17/-	17/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅞	12⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅞	27/6	26/6xd
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅛	26/-	27/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	36/-	35/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3⅝	3⅝

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NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

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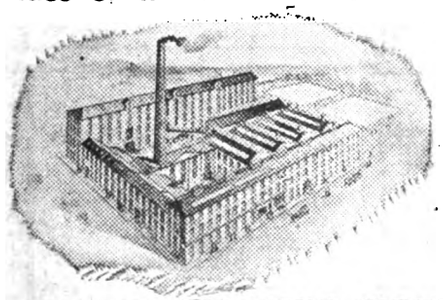

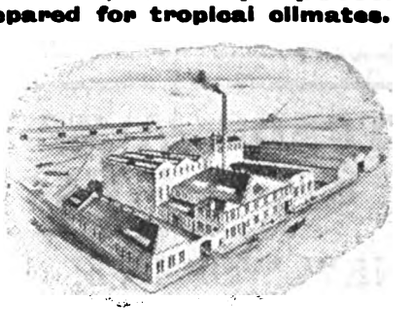

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 329.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The position in Roumania remains substantially unaltered. The Germans have made little progress, and the great thrust under Mackensen has not yet fulfilled the expectations of the Central Powers. The Roumanian Court remains at Jassy, which is in itself an indication that the situation has not become worse, since all arrangements were made a month ago for its departure into the interior of Russia. Nevertheless, it would be unwise to indulge yet in any great optimism. There are still several weeks during which military operations are possible before the winter comes on, and it is hinted that Mackensen may only have halted until more supplies have reached him. For the present, Southern Moldavia is considered out of danger, but it becomes more and more clear that Roumania can hardly hope to win back her lost territories until Russia has reorganised herself sufficiently to take part in a joint offensive.

There have been two unfortunate incidents during the week. A Roumanian diplomatist was insulted in a Petrograd tramcar, but since a prompt apology was forthcoming the affair may be forgotten. But, in addition, a protest has been made against the interference of Russian agents in the Roumanian armies—a disturbing fact which shows that the opponents of discipline who have been let loose all over Russia are doing their best to corrupt their allies. The experience of Russia has itself shown Roumania that the only way to deal with these sowers of discord is to get rid of them with all possible speed.

It is announced by the Czech newspaper *Venkow*—but on what authority is not stated—that the total Roumanian crop for 1917 is estimated at 1,200,000 tons, and that half of this will be apportioned to Austria, whose deficiencies are very great. The remainder is presumably destined for the Roumanians in the conquered territories themselves, German science not having yet discovered a means of feeding their captives on air, and German propaganda refusing to feed them on hope. From these figures, therefore, it seems that there is not sufficient surplus of grain to provide Germany itself with any addition to its own harvest—a fact which must somewhat tend to discount the recent successes of the German arms on the Eastern Front with the hungry people at home. It is known, of course, that the Germans have done their utmost to ensure a large harvest in Roumania, in the expectation of relieving their own necessities. The Roumanians, without distinction of age or sex, have been compelled to labour in the fields twelve, fourteen, or sixteen hours a day; and not only this, but they have been employed in constructing fresh roads to facilitate the military operations of Mackensen.

If it is true that Germany can obtain no wheat from Roumania this year, the fact must have been known to the Food Controller in Berlin for some time, which may explain the urgency the Germans have shown in pressing forward towards Bessarabia and Southern Russia. It is their object, no doubt, to secure the harvests of those rich countries. They have succeeded in so far as Eastern Galicia is concerned, but that happens to be more a pastoral than an arable country, and although the cattle they have obtained will certainly be useful to them, they will scarcely be so welcome as corn. Every day that their advance is held up makes the prospect of this booty more improbable, and if its capture can be prevented altogether, it will have some effect in increasing the physical and diminishing the territorial appetites of the enemy. It must always be remembered, however, that the districts of Poland which are in their possession produce a considerable amount of food, most of which will no doubt find its way to the German cities.

Meantime, open expression has been given in Germany to the desire to capture the Ukraine. A writer in *Der Tag* propounds the view that the Ruthenians are more sympathetic to the Germans than to Russia, and from this thesis argues that Germany should draw closer to the people of the Ukraine—in the same way that the wolf drew closer to the lamb. He points out that not only would Germany gain an important advantage in commerce, but the independence of the Ukraine would improve the prospects of a satisfactory settlement of the Balkans. If the settlement were to be entirely under German and Austrian control, no doubt the proposition is true; but we imagine that the Constitution-makers of Kieff will look a little askance at the angel of peace when its wings are tipped with a trimming of Berlin wool.

Mr. Gerard, the late American Ambassador at Berlin, has published the peace terms to which Germany was ready to assent last December. While Belgium was to be reduced to the status of a German military and com-

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mercial colony, and the frontier of Northern France was to be "rectified," there was to be "a very substantial rectification" of the eastern frontier of Germany. The late Chancellor added that "We shall leave Bulgaria to deal with Roumania; a very small Serbia may be allowed to exist, but that question is for Austria. Austria must be left to do what she wishes to Italy, and we must have indemnities from all the countries and all our ships and colonies back." There is no reason to believe that these terms have been substantially modified, either for Stockholm or Rome, and the "give-and-take peace" of Dr. Michaelis presumably means that the Entente gives and Germany takes. But if, as we suppose, the "moderate" Bethmann-Hollweg was speaking sincerely, the terms throw a certain light on the policy of Berlin.

Apparently Germany was to annex—for "rectification" is merely Teutonese for annex—Russian Poland, Lithuania, and the Baltic Provinces, as has been advocated by certain German expansionists during and since Bismarck's time; Austria was to extend southwards and eastwards; Bulgaria was to obtain a good part of Roumania, and probably part of Serbia. Even the existence of Serbia was doubtful. Clearly, then, so late as December, 1916, Germany was still convinced that she could dominate Europe, although our pacifists were assuring us, out of their inner consciousness, that their friends in Berlin had changed their hearts, and would now make very moderate terms if we met them halfway. Since Bethmann-Hollweg has now confuted them, they will probably pin their faith to Dr. Michaelis; but as he is regarded in Germany as less lukewarm than his predecessor, we need not expect much from his moderation. It is perhaps noteworthy that the Pope's peace proposals do not expressly contradict these terms, although it is true that they are prefaced by a pious desire for disarmament.

An Austrian comment on the Papal Peace Note has furnished a striking confirmation of Viennese ambitions in the Eastern Mediterranean. The *Reichspost* suggests that in order to conform with the Vatican theory of peace by negotiation, Britain should give up, not only Gibraltar, but Malta as well, and her control of the Suez Canal. If this is seriously meant—and as a joke it is so ponderous that it is less worthy of Vienna than Berlin—it would mean that Britain gave up the road to India and her influence in the Eastern Mediterranean altogether, while the overland road through the Balkans and Asia Minor to India would remain a secure asset of the Central Powers. The *Reichspost* appears to have reduced the Papal Note to an absurdity.

The publication of the Greek official documents relating to the war is a sufficient exposure of King Constantine's policy. When he was adjured, as the husband of the Kaiser's sister, to remember the place to which it had pleased Berlin to call him, he answered that he was indeed grateful for the benefits he had received, but that, nevertheless, he thought he could help Germany better by remaining neutral than by entering the war against the Allies. It is simple justice to admit that he carried out his word in this respect by dismissing his Minister, hampering the Allies at every turn, selling his own territory, and deserting an ally. Open enmity would have been at least respectable, but his tortuous policy probably helped Germany as well in the long run. Whether it advantaged Constantine as much is a matter on which he has now leisure to reflect. The publication of these documents at least puts any question of his return to Athens out of court, but he appears to have been a willing dupe. It is instructive, by the way, to notice the different tone which the German Emperor adopted towards the King and towards President Wilson in the first week of the war. In the former case he brandished a stick, in the latter the olive branch, which now looks more like a fig-leaf to cover the nakedness of his diplomacy.

The publication of these documents can only increase the demand in Greece for the punishment of those servile politicians who showed themselves willing tools of the King. There does not appear to have been any protest against the handing over of Greek soil or the surrender of Greek troops, while the desertion of Serbia in flat defiance of the treaty did not determine certain politicians against the King's methods of government. No doubt they calculated on his holding out and obtaining their reward from an eventual German victory. The minor fact that they were bartering the honour of their country and its future interests does not appear to have occurred to them.

One of the most interesting of the documents in the Greek White Book is that in which, on August 9, 1914, von Jagow stated that King Constantine's policy of maintaining Greek neutrality "for the present" was understood by the Kaiser, but that Greece should as speedily as possible come to an understanding with Sofia and Constantinople, as Serbia to-day constituted the skin of the bear. Naturally; but the point is that the telegram admits that this advice nad also been given previously by von Jagow. Since the telegram is dated a week after the war broke out, it seems certain that "the advice von Jagow had formerly given" was conveyed before the outbreak of the war. In that case the last pretext for urging that Germany was taken by surprise by Austria's attack on Serbia vanishes. And this is corroborated by the phrase in the Kaiser's telegram to King Constantine on the outbreak of war as to the policy "we have often spoken of," which presumably refers to the same fact.

A report has been circulated by Bulgarian deserters that the insurrectionary movement in Serbia has spread through the Morava, and also in part of Macedonia and even in Old Bulgaria as well. No doubt this outbreak is the natural result of the policy of outrage and murder which Bulgaria has pursued in the conquered country: frightfulness overreaches itself when it makes death so common.

The latest news from Stockholm is that two leaders of the Persian Constitutional Society have laid their demands before the Conference. The short point of those demands is that Persia is to be absolutely independent of all foreign control, both politically and economically. Incidentally, also, she is to have the right to contract a loan with any country she desires (or which desires to lend to Persia, one presumes). The difficulty is that these two aims cannot be easily reconciled, since loans are not often granted without conditions. But the fact that the demands also include a statement that the Anglo-Russian Agreement is to be cancelled so far as Persia is concerned assures the Persian standpoint sympathetic consideration from the German and Austrian delegates. It is improbable that the Russian delegates will refuse their beneficent support to this doctrine; and the fact that other nations are increasingly less likely to be represented at the Conference will not, in these circumstances, be regrettable to the Persian politicians.

The *Saturday Review*, which seems to have changed its tone a good deal lately and to be as mildly contemptuous of Serbian and Jugoslav aspirations as it used to be towards the Nonconformist conscience, has been asking by what means the Jugoslav propaganda is financed. A convincing answer is given by a prominent member of the Jugoslav Committee in the last issue. He states that the expenses, which are heavy and increasing, have been provided by subscriptions from Southern Slavs in America, who have come forward in large numbers to aid in this way of popularising the aims of their country. The answer is complete and adequate; perhaps the *Saturday Review* will now turn its attention to the more fruitful topic of the financing of the pacifist groups in this country, which should promise better results.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 28.

The Question of Foodstuffs.

After having been permitted to enjoy a free market ever since the summer of 1915—leaving out of account, as one should, a short interlude last autumn, when they were tentatively retariffed for a week or so—cereals, with the exception of barley, which was treated in a similar manner at the beginning of the month, and of wheat, which has been left free, have been again put on the tariff this week. This step, which was taken on the recommendation of the Egyptian Government Supplies Commission, which has been entrusted since the outbreak of war with the task of watching over the supply of foodstuffs and articles of first necessity in the country, has been forced on the Government by the abnormally high prices which such foodstuffs as maize, millet, lentils, beans, barley, and rice have been fetching of late—prices which, in the opinion of the Commission, are in the present circumstances wholly unjustified. It was, of course, to be expected that with the high price which cotton was commanding, with the increased cost of cultivation, and with the enhanced prices which cereals are fetching on the world's markets, cereals in Egypt would likewise go up in price, but seeing that there is an ample stock of foodstuffs, taken all together, in the country to meet its requirements, there was no reason why all the prices should be allowed to follow the abnormal upward tendency, which they have recently displayed, and thus get beyond the reach of certain important elements of the population.

A perusal of the Customs statistics for the past few years reveals the interesting fact that Egypt has always been self-supporting in all cereals except wheat, of which in the form of flour she has annually imported on an average 160,000 tons. To-day the scarcity of freights and other difficulties have caused flour imports to stop, at all events for all practical purposes, and there is little doubt that there is a shortage of wheat and wheat flour in the country. Obviously, therefore, there would be no good tariffing wheat and wheat flour, since that action could not make the quantity available go any further; at the same time, since tariffing would connote the fixing of a low price relative to that ruling abroad, it would tend to discourage imports of flour, which, after all, it is highly desirable should be attracted.

Of the other commodities, which can quite usefully replace wheat and wheat flour in the popular daily consumption, there is an ample supply in the country. In the circumstances, therefore, wheat and wheat flour become articles de luxe, and as such should not be tariffed; those still persisting on eating such flour must be prepared to pay whatever price it commands. On the other hand, however, the sufficiency of the stock of cereal substitutes calls, in the interest of the non-cultivating element of the population, which predominates in the towns, and which has already been hard hit by the rise in prices, for some control of those substitutes by the Government, and the latter has very wisely placed them once again on the tariff.

These cereals are being at first re-tariffed at the current market rate, but the official prices will each week gradually be reduced, until they reach what the Government considers to be a reasonable figure, having due regard to all the circumstances. At the same time very strict instructions have been issued to the police in the towns and the provinces to exercise rigorous control over the prices charged by the merchants, and to prevent holding up of stocks. Both these measures will hit the speculators, who to a great extent have been at the back of the recent persistent and unjustified rise in prices, and who, in the absence of an official tariff, could not be compelled to unload at any but their own fancy prices. The Government's action has given the greatest satisfaction to those elements of the population, which, albeit a minority compared with the purely agricultural community, that from its peculiar favoured situation never wants for foodstuffs, constitutes an important section of the population, and which were being made to suffer unnecessarily in the matter of foodstuff prices. Provided the instructions issued by the Ministry of the Interior in regard to the enforcement of the tariff are scrupulously carried out by the responsible authorities, the discontent which was making itself apparent among the elements of the population referred to should subside, and should not manifest itself again.

The Red Cross Action.

The recent case which came before the Supreme Consular Court in Cairo, and in which Sir John Rogers was condemned to £180 damages and costs for slander uttered against Captain Yeates, is still occupying public attention. The question which is arousing comment is as to who is paying the costs of the defence. In the course of the hearing Sir John, in a reply to a question on the point addressed to him by Mr. Foster, plaintiff's counsel, said that he did not know who would pay the costs of the action, if he lost, and this has been interpreted to mean that it is possible that the Red Cross will foot the bill. To such a course the local subscribers would strongly object, on the ground, first, that the funds subscribed were not intended to defray the cost of unnecessary litigation, and secondly, the case in question was entirely due to the personal action of Sir John Rogers, and did not arise out of the ordinary routine work of the Society in Cairo. Correspondence, which is beginning to appear in the local Press, shows that there is a strong feeling in the matter, and I have had sufficient conversations with influential subscribers to know that, if any attempt were to be made by the Red Cross to defray from its own funds all or part of the costs of this action, such a step would have its repercussion on the local subscription lists. The full facts of the case ought to be brought to the attention of those who are responsible for the direction of the affairs of the Society from London. If they were in possession of those facts, it is argued here, they would hardly countenance the payment of the costs of this action out of the funds which they are administering. They would certainly be well advised to issue a statement to the effect that those costs are not being either directly or indirectly met from Red Cross funds, for there is no doubt that in the absence of such a statement the local subscription lists will suffer considerably.

The Philippides Case.

In view of the state of health of Mrs. Philippides, who was recently condemned to one year's imprisonment, and of the fact that she has several children dependent upon her, the Sultan, on the occasion of the Bairam feast, issued an order pardoning her, and she has now been released from prison. The Sovereign's clemency has been acclaimed by the Syrian community, of which Mrs. Philippides is a member.

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JUSTICE IN EGYPT.*

THE JUDICIAL ADVISER'S REPORT.—V.

Legal Education.

Owing to the absence of most of the European staff with the Colours, the work of the Law School was carried on under considerable difficulties. The examinations were satisfactory except as regards the external students. The examiners and the Principal again complain of the candidates' deficient knowledge of European languages, and it has been found necessary to establish lectures in the English language at the school itself. This, the Adviser points out, is "the inevitable result of the change in policy adopted some ten years ago, in pursuance of which the Arabic language is now almost exclusively used as the medium of instruction in the primary and secondary schools," and he records that, "for the purpose of the Ministry of Justice it is a serious disadvantage that our future magistrates should be to a measurable extent in less direct touch with European thought." The transfer of the control of the school to the Ministry of Justice tends, he thinks, somewhat "to obscure the fact that legal studies as a form of education and professional training of would-be practitioners are by no means indistinguishable." They have been treated as identical hitherto for the purposes of the Native Tribunals, because until quite recently the output of legal students barely met the country's professional needs. To-day the number of would-be legal students considerably exceeds the accommodation in the school and the requirements of the legal profession, and the time has come for insisting on the distinction. "Such insistence will be materially facilitated if, as is proposed, the higher Educational Colleges are to be grouped in an institution of university rank." Under that scheme legal studies would become a form of education, but on the one hand "the educationists would be responsible for providing instruction in legal studies as part of a carefully considered scheme for meeting the demand for higher educational facilities, and on the other hand we should be freed from any responsibility, express or implied, towards those students who had elected to specialise in law."

With regard to the question of the conditions additional to the possession of a legal diploma to be required for admission to the Bar, the Adviser points out that purely theoretical studies are an inadequate qualification to admission to practise, especially in Egypt, where the members of the Bar have to perform the duties of a barrister, a solicitor, and in large part that of a notary. The question, he says, is in substance one of making a reality of the "stage," but the whole matter is one for examination in concert with the representatives of the Bar itself. There are 1,029 members of the native Bar, of whom only 716 are in actual practice. Of these no less than 352 have their offices in Cairo, which leads the Adviser to remark that, if the profession is not to become overcrowded, its members should be prepared to go to the provinces and take up there the duties which an English solicitor performs towards his clients rather than strive, as they appear to do, to earn a living by pleading. A similar and even more acute problem exists as regards the Mixed Bar, where the numbers have increased out of all proportion to the work available. Here there are 745 members, of whom 239 are stagiares; of the total, 351 are Ottomans and Egyptians. There would appear on the face of it to have been an invasion of the Mixed Bar by Native Court advocates, and the natural remedy for this would be a fusion of the two Bars. The problem is complicated by the fact that under the existing rules of admission to the Mixed Bar a lower standard of education is secured than ought to be required of candidates for admission to a learned profession. The complete solution appears to the Adviser "to be connected with wider questions of educational policy, many aspects of which are outside the province of the Ministry to which I am attached."

Judicial Organisation.

Sir William Brunyate has some interesting remarks to make regarding the Commission of which he has been appointed rapporteur, and which has been set up to study the administrative and judicial reforms which the disappearance of the Capitulations will call for. At the dinner given in his honour at Alexandria by the Mixed Bar he made some reference to the work which lies before this Commission, and he proceeds to repeat and amplify one or two of the more important points. In his opinion no solution of the problem can be reasonably satisfactory which has not been substantially acquiesced in by all the interests concerned, and he believes that no such fundamental differences divide them as to render an agreed solution of the problem impossible. It is obvious that "in any remodelling of our institutions both the privileged position heretofore enjoyed by foreigners and the non-British origin of the system of law heretofore administered will call for special consideration." It is, in his opinion, clear that "if the efficient despatch of legal business is to be assured some fusion of the systems of Courts must take place, but it in no way follows . . . . that such reasonable safeguards as may be compatible with the efficient working of unified Courts should be withdrawn from foreigners." Although both the Mixed and Native Bars feel some apprehension as to the possible results of fusion, he is convinced that such apprehension is without serious foundation, and that both have something to gain from more intimate relations with one another. If, however, the Mixed elements in the Bar are afraid of being swamped by mere numbers, it appears to him reasonable that special and adequate representation should be assured to them in any professional governing body, but only as a transitional measure, for if "we are to have a living Bar, its leaders will in the long run hold their position by personal merit and not by special privilege." As regards the type of law to be applied by unified Courts one consideration is, he thinks, decisive. No system of law can be a success unless it is understood by the professional men, whether judges or advocates, responsible for its administration, and "for that reason I should assume that the future law of Egypt must take as its starting point the law at present administered by the Mixed and Native Tribunals." He is convinced that in taking stock of the existing law many gaps and defects will be found, and in view of the new political status of the country he conceives that "we shall be bound to consider very carefully what help we can get from the many precedents offered us by the legislation of the British Empire." Sir William concludes by saying that he has in general avoided advocating any specific reforms, because he regards his professional brethren, as a body, as much more competent than himself to make recommendations as to the law by which we shall agree to be governed, and he adds "that it is in this spirit that the newly-appointed Commission has made the widest appeal to all branches of the profession for assistance in its task, and that answers already received lead me to believe that the ideas expressed in the present chapter are very widely shared."

Personnel.

In his closing pages the Adviser refers to the losses by death sustained by the Ministry of Justice. These losses include Mr. Lionel Sandars, president of the Mixed Court of Appeal; Mr. G. H. Fox, judge of the Native Tribunals; and Dr. T. B. Hamilton, medico-legal expert to the Native Parquet. Of Mr. Sandars he says that no one could have been more helpful in assisting to fix the attitude of the Mixed Courts towards the administration of martial law during the early days of the war, and he places on record "the debt of gratitude which I believe the country to owe him for his share in assuring harmonious relations between the military and judicial authorities." Mr. Fox, who was killed at Katia, did specially good work in the Native Courts, and had already made his mark as a sound lawyer and as a man of high character. With Sir William's remark that "there was about him a certain loveableness which makes his death a personal loss to all who worked with him" everyone who knew Mr. Fox will cordially agree. Dr. Hamilton, who became medico-legal expert in 1909, devoted all his spare time to voluntary work in the military hospitals, and it was to the strain of this work, combined with absence of leave, that his untimely death last November was due. As the Adviser says, "the best tribute to his work is the increasing reliance of the Courts on the Department of which he was head." To Mr. (now Sir Walter) Bond, who retired last year from the post of Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, which he had held since 1899, Sir William Brunyate refers in the following terms:—"As Vice-President he rendered excellent service, being mainly responsible for the successful introduction of the Assize system in 1905. A man of high ideals, he had a striking power of impressing his personality on his colleagues." The Adviser finally alludes to the spirit of loyal and friendly co-operation which he has met since his appointment amongst magistrates and other legal officials, and he finds in it "evidence of a general willingness to see in the changes which are inevitable a natural step in the evolution of our judicial institutions, full of promise for future development."

* *Previous articles appeared in* THE NEAR EAST *July 20 and 27 and August 3 and 17.*

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NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Internal Politics.

The last two months will count as one of the outstanding periods in the making of New Roumania, marking, as they do, a forward leap towards the internal unity of the Roumanian people and remaining behind in historical importance only to that period in which the external unity of the Roumanian nation will be achieved. In a few weeks Roumania has travelled centuries of constitutional evolution, emerging from mediævalism and taking her place in the society of modern democratic communities. The phases of that change are as interesting as its effects are important, and I will attempt to give your readers a graphic description of the development of things.

It was obvious that the Russian Revolution was bound to react upon Roumania's internal affairs, not only because of the proximity of the two countries, but more especially because of the similarity of many aspects of Roumanian and Russian internal organisation. That process, however, was quickened, to a dangerous degree indeed, by the accidental presence of large bodies of Russian troops on Roumanian soil. As elsewhere, the Russian troops in Moldavia inaugurated the new era by a total disregard of their own and of the Roumanian authorities. They set up at once committees of officers and soldiers at the front, behind the lines, and in the various towns in which they were quartered, organised meetings and street demonstrations, calling upon the Roumanian people to follow the example of the Russian democracy, and passing occasionally from words to acts, such as the liberation of the Socialist Rakovsky and other political prisoners.

The situation was a difficult and delicate one. The Commander of the Russian forces in Roumania issued an appeal urging his men not to interfere with the affairs of a foreign and friendly State, but for a time the authority of the Commander was merely a nominal one. On the other hand, it was impossible for the Roumanian authorities to take any action against a body of troops over which they had no jurisdiction, and the assistance of which was paramount for the maintenance of the military situation; the more so as any coercive measures would have met, in all probability, with the active disapproval of the organisations which were then ruling Russia. The only possible course was to establish contact with the various committees of soldiers, and induce them to renounce such actions as would constitute an abuse of the hospitality they were enjoying.

But here another difficulty barred the way. The Russians had no confidence whatever in, and refused to have anything to do with, the "bourgeois" Government of Roumania; on the other hand, there existed no Roumanian Socialist organisation which should serve as a link between the Russian committees and the Roumanian Government. It was then that, in order to obviate the dangers of the situation, a small group of politicians belonging to the Left of the Liberal Party seceded, and hastily constituted themselves into a Labour Party; and it is interesting to note that the first document issued in their name was not the declaration of faith usual with any new political organisation, but an appeal to the Russian soldiers to abstain from creating new embarrassments to the much-tried Roumanian Government. The appeal was signed by several deputies, Dr. Lupu and M. G. Diamandy acting as the leaders of the new group.

The second immediate effect of the Russian Revolution was of far greater consequence. The example of Russia and the agitation carried on by the Russian troops were apt to foster some popular movement in Roumania, not indeed of such an extreme character as the Russian Revolution, but sufficiently active seriously to hamper the military reorganisation in which the Government were engaged. In order to anticipate such an eventuality, and at the same time to come also more into line with the policy of the new Russian régime, the King and the Government suddenly decided to embark upon a programme of sweeping constitutional reforms. By an order of the day the King announced to his army that it was intended to proceed to an extensive distribution of land to the peasants as soon as normal conditions will have been restored, and that in place of the antiquated three-class franchise of Prussian extraction, universal franchise was to be introduced. Later, as a result of representations from home and from certain Roumanian representatives abroad—as well as of the experience gained by M. Bratianu during his visit to Petrograd—Jewish emancipation was added as a third reform, completing the transformation, unique for its rapidity and intensity, of the constitutional organisation of Roumania.

I will reserve myself to give in my next correspondence a description of how the announcement was received by Roumanian public opinion, and of the Parliamentary progress of the proposed reforms.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Carob Season.

The time for gathering locust beans is approaching, and prospects are good; but there is still a short period during which hot winds might largely affect the crop. Last year the yield was reduced by about 20 per cent. at the last by excessive heat. The disposal of the present year's harvest will be a matter for anxiety, as war again interferes with the normal course of commercial operations, including shipments.

In many parts of the island the carob tree is one of the principal features of the landscape, the monotony of which is broken by its bright evergreen foliage and by the paler tints of the olive. Carobs flourish in countless numbers, and afford a grateful shade to man and beast under the burning summer sun. In cultivated lands it becomes a thickly covered tree, often with a diameter, for its branches, of about 40 ft., thus covering an area of over 1,500 square feet. Mr. Gennadius, who has written at length on the tree, mentions, in order to refute it, the idea that it provided the food of the famous Lotus-eaters. According to another opinion, it is referred to in the parable of the Prodigal Son, who would fain have eaten the husks on which swine fed. In France and Germany a distorted tradition regarded the fruit, or "bean," as the locust which the Baptist ate, and hence the tree was called St. John's bread-tree. Greeks often called it the bean of Pythagoras. In the time of the Christian era the tree grew extensively in Judæa and Syria. It is now found in most countries bordering on the Mediterranean, and many of its islands. The Arabs called it *El-Kharouba*, whence our name. The Greeks called the bean *Keration*, from its supposed resemblance to a goat's horn. It is put to many uses. It contains about 82 per cent. of digestible matter, of which 50 per cent. is sugar. It is used largely as food for cattle, horses, pigs, and other animals. In South Russia and the Sudan it is eaten by the people and greatly appreciated. In Egypt and other parts of the Levant "sherbets," or refreshing drinks, are made from it. In Spain it is sometimes blended, like chicory, with coffee. Mixed with chocolate in moderate proportions it is palatable, and at the time of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in London, in 1886, it found favour in that form. In Cyprus a brittle candy, called *pastéli*, is made of it and used as a laxative sweetmeat, being sold by itinerant vendors throughout the island. When distilled it yields 18 per cent. of good spirit, which pays, if the price is exceptionally low.

Seeing how valuable is the crop it yields, and how widely its cultivation might be extended, wonder is often expressed why the tree is not more extensively grown from seed. The reason is that the hopeless depredations of goats are the main obstacle to this, as to all unprotected trees. Cultivation from seed is, however, being encouraged by Government, and large numbers of seedlings are sold annually at the Government nursery gardens. In the forests there are great numbers of wild trees, which are grafted by degrees. Transplantation is difficult but practicable. The carob suffers from extremes of cold, as well as from intense summer heat.

Cyprus Beccaficos.

August brings the beccafico, which has for ages been a much-esteemed dainty in the island and for exportation. The beccafico of Cyprus is the black cap warbler, which is called locally the *Ambelopouli*, or vine-bird. The black caps come in huge flights, like those of quails, in August and September and even later. They fly high, and at night, and as cranes pass over annually at the same time in large bodies, the Cypriots have a legend that they give the beccaficos a lift, carrying them on their backs. They soon become very fat, feeding on small berries, and are very good either cooked fresh or pickled.

The Cypriots snare them by placing sticks covered with birdlime in places which they frequent thickly. They are preserved in great quantities in *Commanderia* wine or in vinegar. The traveller Ludwig Ross, writing about 1850, says (Colham's translation) that in the days of the chronographer Lusignan (about 1570) they cost nine Venetian ducats the thousand, and that hundreds of thousands were exported to Venice and other parts of Italy, and especially as presents to Smyrna, Alexandria, Constantinople, Marseilles, Genoa, Trieste, etc.; and no doubt many reached London, as did Cyprus wines.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

PALESTINE AS THE INHERITANCE OF THE JEWS.*

"The Zionism which has been an integral part of Judaism for the past eighteen centuries has until very recent times been a purely religious hope." This book represents very clearly the Zionism of the twentieth century, which is practical, persistent, and independent of any special religious views; it embraces all who by birth are heirs of Jewish thought and culture.

The book before us prepares the reader for the modern view by a recital of all that the Jews have suffered through the ages in relation to Palestine. Though written with moderation and fairness, it is a dismal tale reflecting little credit upon Christendom. To the Crusaders "all non-Christians were the enemies of God and to be utterly rooted out." "The Jews (in Palestine) for their part were driven into their synagogues, where they were burnt." "In Jewish history the second crusade opened a long period of murder, rapine and plunder which lasted for centuries after the last of Eugenius' warriors had passed to their rest." Under enlightened Moslem rulers, such as the successors of Saladin, the Jews were treated with humanity, and Moslem Palestine became "a haven of refuge for the persecuted Jews of Europe." During the earlier half of the fourteenth century, "so comfortable were the Jews of Palestine compared with those of other lands that the rumours spread in Europe that the Jews had bought Mount Zion and the Holy Sepulchre, and had demolished the buildings upon them." This was made an excuse for fresh persecution. Under the earlier Turkish Sultans the Jews also flourished. "Suleiman the Magnificent accorded his Jewish subjects full liberty," and even his degenerate successors, though lagging behind the more enlightened Christian Governments, cannot be said to have shown a fraction of the intolerance and persecution of mediæval Christendom. "Turkish rule is by no means unfavourable to the Jewish development in Palestine." Many Zionists before the war were ardent supporters of the "Young Turk" party in its first and more broad-minded views.

The chapters of this book upon the earlier and the present-day attempts at colonization in Palestine are excellent, and are made all the more so by well-selected illustrations taken from photographs. The map at the end is a much-needed key to the understanding of the text, as these new names—in Hebrew—have not yet found their way into ordinary atlases. The general impression of this narrative is one of steady and uphill progress carried out amid extraordinary difficulties. Many of these last will, we hope, be done away with, and this half-desolated land will be gradually restored by means of Jewish capital and Jewish workers to its once condition of prosperity. The hindrance to all progress in Palestine, whether by indigenous inhabitants or by European settlers, has been the want of a decent Government. The Turkish Government at once fleeced the people and did nothing for their benefit.

The writer, if he has visited Palestine at all, must have seen it through rose-coloured spectacles. In describing its agricultural possibilities he uses the language of poetry rather than that of sober prose. For example, the statement that "the so-called Desert of Judæa is capable of supporting innumerable flocks of sheep and goats" will not be seconded by those who know this dreary waste. It is an exaggeration to refer to "innumerable waterfalls" which are capable of furnishing "an inexhaustible supply" of motor power. It is difficult to understand what the writer means by the statement that "the constitution of the mountains of Lebanon and Antelebanon is admirably suited to supply the country to the south with all necessary water." It is more than fanciful to suggest that a further extension of railways in the land will make "Palestine the railway centre of the world." As regards many suggested possible products of Palestine, time alone will show whether such a glowing description as here given is justified. It is exaggerated claims of this sort which have made so much of the propaganda of Zionism repellant to outsiders. These are, however, but small faults in a most interesting and attractive book which can be unreservedly commended to many who have not studied the question. Palestine after the war will be in bad need of capital, and, as it develops, there will be considerable room for an increased population. Except for the indigenous inhabitants no people but the Jews have any special claim to, or interest in, Palestine, and if their settlement in the land is to be a "peaceful penetration" desiring "no favour as compared with the other inhabitants of the land, and willing for all the advantages of a free and liberal government to be enjoyed by all equally," then English people should view the colonization movement with every sympathy. Many difficulties, too, might be avoided, if the status of the land after the war could be an autonomous State, controlled by England or the Allies, in which all creeds should enjoy equal liberty. While, as at present, the great majority of the people are Moslem, there should be a Moslem Governor, but later, as the Jews acquire an overwhelming influence in local government they would obtain quite certainly a predominant position in the country at large, whereas any attempt to obtain it at once would create a sense of injustice on the part of the indigenous inhabitants and raise up powerful opposition. The writer of this book fully recognises that Zionism does not mean the return of all Jews to Palestine. "In the most favourable circumstances, after perhaps a century of preparation, Palestine cannot hold more than one-sixth of the Jewish population of the world"—it would be safer, in our opinion, to say one-twentieth, unless the descendants of the indigenous inhabitants are to disappear altogether. E. W. G. M.

* "Palestine: The Re-birth of an Ancient People." By A. M. Hyamson (London: Sidgwick and Jackson, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net).

BOOK NOTES.

Professor Henry Browne, of University College, Dublin, has written a series of essays on the reform and revival of classical studies, entitled "Our Renaissance," to which Sir Frederic Kenyon has contributed a preface. The work will include a paper on "Greece, the Cradle of Democracy."

Messrs. Kegan Paul will shortly publish an account of the causes and beginnings of the war between Roumania and Austria, by Mr. Leonard A. Magnus.

"The Revolt in Arabia," by Dr. Snouck Hurgrouje, has been published by Messrs. Putnam, priced at 4s. net. A foreword is contributed by Mr. Richard J. H. Gottheil.

Among Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton's announcements for the autumn is a book by the Rev. William Ewing, D.D., the Presbyterian chaplain who won the Military Cross and was wounded before Baghdad, giving an account of his campaigning experiences extending over the last two years.

"The Business Guide and Handbook to Malta and Gibraltar" has just been issued by the Bureau of Commerce and Industries.

M. Marcel Dunan, a correspondent of the *Temps*, gives an account in his book, "L'Eté Bulgare: Juillet-Octobre, 1915," which is published by Librairie Chapelot, of the Bulgarian treachery at the commencement of the Greek war.

"La Syrie et la France," by Dr. C. and M. Paul Roederer, which has just been published by M. Berger-Levrault, priced at 4 frs., puts forward the special claims of France in Syria. M. Paul Roederer, who has fallen in the war, formed the Société d'Initiative Economique en Syrie five years ago, and an appendix to the volume shows how vast a field will be open to commerce after the war.

Professor Stephen Langdon is the author of "Sumerian Grammatical Texts," which forms Vol. XII., No. 1, of the publications of the Babylonian Section, and is published by the University Museum at Philadelphia. This volume includes the greater portion of the grammatical texts in the Nippur collection of the Philadelphia Museum which were omitted from Vol. V.

La Société Internationale de Philologie, Sciences et Beaux-Arts has published a reprint of a paper read by M. Henri M. Léon on "The Chelonia, or 'Shield Reptiles' of Palestine," which he read before the Society at its Annual Conference held in June, 1916. The book contains a glossary of technical terms, and is sold at a shilling.

The Serbian Minister, M. Y. Yovanovitch, has contributed a preface to a history of "Serbia," written by L. F. Waring, to be published by Messrs. Williams and Norgate during the autumn in the "Home University Library."

Messrs. Heath, Cranston and Ousley are the publishers of a book entitled "There is a Destiny," by Reginald J. Burge, the price of which is five shillings net. The author has taken as his theme destiny in the spirit of Greek tragedy.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Bryce, O.M., has written a preface to Mr. A. P. Hacobian's book on "Armenia and the War," published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton. The Armenian's point of view is put forward, with an appeal to Britain and the coming Peace Conference for the formation of an autonomous Armenia.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

King Ferdinand of Roumania reaches his fifty-second birthday to-day, and while his subjects and his allies would have preferred that he should be celebrating the occasion in Bucharest, or rather at Sinaia, there is some cause for thankfulness that he is still, as far as one knows, at Jassy. It was an ominous report that told of the preparations for the departure of the Roumanian Court to Russia. The move may yet have to take place, but there has been a magnificent rally on the part of the Roumanian Army, and the Germans are not going to have a walk through. Everything depends, of course, on the Russians. The Roumanians, I believe, are quite able to look after themselves; but if their allies cannot or will not hold their ground, what might have been a successful offensive becomes a further retreat.

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The events of the next few days will be watched very anxiously in Jassy, we may be sure. Russia, it has to be remembered, is not the most comfortable of places for a Royal Family to withdraw to at this moment. There has been a slight indication of what a poor asylum it might prove in the action of the local committee of the Soviet at Kherson in refusing to turn out of the Governor's house in order to make room, if necessary, for the Roumanian Court. No doubt the difficulty will be overcome, but the incident will not make things happier for King Ferdinand and Queen Marie.

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I doubt whether it is generally realized in this country what a terrible ordeal the Roumanians have had to go through. The acme of suffering had already been reached by the Serbians and Belgians, but the Roumanians have also harrowing tales to tell. Apart from the experiences of the civilian population, there was the tragedy of an army altogether unequipped for a war of this nature having to be thrown in front of the advancing enemy in order to cover the retreat at the cost of sacrificing itself. It is to their credit that the Roumanians have not made much of their sufferings, and on the whole I expect they were content that the few Britons who reached their country were armoured-car men, and not journalists. Not the least bitter disappointment will be the shattering of their hopes for this year. If Russia had played her part, Roumanian soil might have been free of the enemy by the end of the autumn. It does not do to think of these things, but it is hard to avoid the temptation, particularly at the moment when British, French, and Italians are administering particularly hard blows on their respective fronts.

***

The average Englishman does not take kindly to decorating his walls with mottoes or commands. We leave that to railway and omnibus companies, although I believe the tendency is creeping in upon us, mainly through the numerous Government offices. But some mural legends do justify their existence—for instance, the Canadian "Come to the point, but do not sit upon it." If the war-strain continues much longer it may be advisable to adopt a less humorous but equally necessary injunction, "Avoid recriminations," or, as our American Allies would perhaps say, "Sling slanging." I fancy most of us are inclined to slang Russia these days; Canada is having almost as vigorous a slanging match as Australia had a little while ago over precisely the same question; Italians and Jugoslavs are only just beginning to discover that there are better ways of getting what you want, and to judge from a letter I saw in the Press the other day I infer that one Roumanian at least thinks that the situation will be improved by apportioning blame everywhere but in Roumania. There is probably abundant justification for all the remarks made; each one of us knows that everybody else is growing more and more "cussed" as the war goes on, and that we ourselves are the only ones who are really keeping our heads and an equable temperament. But it is really better to keep the knowledge to ourselves, and not let other people know about it.

***

It grieves me to find that two alleged leaders of Persia's Constitutional Party have arrived at Stockholm claiming to speak on behalf of their country. Not that one does not wish Persia practically all they would claim for her; but it would be with this difference—that a real friend of the country would want her, after so many years of starvation diet, to receive her cake in portions which she can readily swallow instead of trying to gulp it down whole and choking herself in the attempt. One of their demands, for instance, is that Persia is to possess the full right to organize herself, her finances, and her army. The delegates might just as well have added—and the solar system. What is the use of talking about finances and organization, when the arrival of a German with his pockets full of gold is sufficient to disorganize the country from one end to the other? Of course, every right-minded person wants to see Persia on her feet again, enjoying "complete independence and unhampered peaceful development"; but the sending of delegates to a conference designed to perpetuate German militarism is not the way to set about it.

***

I sometimes wonder to myself how much our pacifists and pro-Germans know of the people Mr. Ramsay Macdonald calls "our German friends." Of course, one ought not to generalize, but it is ridiculous to contend that there are not certain national characteristics applicable to a people as a whole. Without doubt brutality, or at best an absence of spontaneous sympathy, is a feature of the German character. It is the trait which renders possible the outrages and horrors the Germans have perpetrated during the struggle. The war was not necessary to make one realize it. Anyone who has lived for some time in Germany is conscious of it. They have practically raised the trait to a virtue under the term "*Schneidigkeit.*" But the other day I had a striking confirmation of my contention. I was talking to the matron of a hospital for German prisoners of war, and, without any lead from me, she said that one of the things that struck her most was the callousness of the men—in one point in particular. The wards were vast; there was some way to go for meals, and one or two men could only walk very slowly and with great difficulty, if they were not supported. Now, in the whole of her experience of that hospital not a single man in the wards would ever lend a helping hand to either of the two bad cases, and if an orderly were not available, those men would be left to reach the dining-hall long after the others had begun their meal, for want of the support of a friendly arm. A small point, perhaps, but typical. None of the prisoners seemed bad fellows (one was before the war an assistant in ——'s hairdressing department, and was confident that the moment peace was declared a train and a 'bus would find him installed at his former chair), but it does not occur to them to help a crippled comrade any more than it would occur to a beetle in similar circumstances.

***

The existence of an "International College of Chromatics," I confess, was news to me; but a distinctly interesting article in *The Occult Review*, entitled "Symbolism in Colour, Ancient and Modern," by Miss Grace Ethel Cowell, drew my attention to it. Miss Cowell is a vice-president and registrar of the college. In the article she has embodied a mass of colour lore which seems to prove that, according as you are Buddhist, Christian, Mohammedan, Italian, Chinese, Ancient Greek, or American Indian, you will attach different conceptions to the different colours. But that is just the point at which the ignorant layman trips up. "Colour, like everything else in the manifested universe, is a matter of vibration, and at the back of all these local and arbitrary interpretations of the meaning of colour lies, after all, the universal Law of Correspondences, as a manifestation of which the occultist sees in the colours of the spectrum definite relationships with the seven planes of the cosmos and the seven principles of man." Now you know; or, if you don't, there is the International College of Chromatics, and I am certainly going to be an assiduous reader of its official organ.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917.	1917.		1335.	5677.
August.	August		Dulkaada.	Ellul.
24	11	Friday	6	6
25	12	Saturday.....	7	7
26	13	Sunday	8	8
27	14	Monday	9	9
28	15	Tuesday	10	10
29	16	Wednesday	11	11
30	17	Thursday	12	12

To-day is the birthday of King Ferdinand of Roumania, who was born at Sigmaringen on August 24, 1865. In contradiction of previous reports, it is announced that the King and Queen of Roumania are still at the Palace Cuza, Jassy.

The Serbian Minister and the Roumanian Minister visited the Foreign Office on August 22.

Mme. Misu, wife of the Roumanian Minister, and Mlle. Elizabeth Misu are staying at Eastbourne.

Mr. Leopold Jullien, Manager of the Union Foncière d'Egypte, has just been nominated Brigadier in the French Army.

El Bimbashi A. C. Hewitt, 12th Sudanese, has been transferred to the Equatorial Battalion.

Mohamed Ali Khan Ehtesham Homayoun, Secretary to the Persian Legation in London, has recovered from his illness, and resumed his diplomatic duties.

General Georgesco, Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission attached to the British Headquarters, has returned to London from France.

The present population of Alexandria is estimated at 411,000 and that of Cairo at 749,000. The total urban population of Egypt is returned officially at 1,754,000.

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister in Paris, presented his credentials to President Poincaré on August 22, and handed to him an autograph letter from King Alexander.

M. Gabriel Remeraud, late of the French Diplomatic Agency, Cairo, who is now sub-lieutenant in the French Army, has received the Croix de Guerre for distinguished conduct on the field of battle.

Captain J. H. R. Yardley, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and Lieutenant G. G. Macdonald, R.E., have been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as special service officers with the rank of Bimbashi.

Brevet Lieut.-Colonel H. Barstow, Indian Infantry, whilst Deputy Adjutant-General, and Brevet Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Norman, M.V.O., Indian Cavalry, whilst Director of Staff Duties, have been appointed Brigadier-Generals.

M. René Labuyère, of the Land Bank of Egypt, has gained the French Academy's Bordin Prize for his work "Two Years of Naval Warfare." The Bordin Prize is awarded for a work of literary merit calculated to be of service to the State.

The marriage took place at Barbon, Westmorland, on August 22, of Lieutenant Charles Symonds Leaf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Leaf, and the Hon. Catherine Blanche Kay-Shuttleworth, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Shuttleworth.

It is reported from Athens that M. Zaimis, the Governor of the Greek National Bank, has decided to resign as the result of the recent revelations in the Chamber, and it is probable that the Government will appeal to British financiers to reorganize the bank.

The appointment is announced of M. Debilly as French Minister at Athens. This appointment, together with that of Lord Granville as British Minister, marks the close of the tenure of office as High Commissioner of the two Powers of M. Jonnart, who was so largely instrumental in bringing about the improved situation in Greece.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, left London on August 18 for Paris. At the station were M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Serbian Minister, and the staff of the Legation, and a representative of the Foreign Office. After a short stay in Paris M. Pashitch proceeds to Rome to pay a visit to Baron Sonnino, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The marriage arranged between J. Angus Gillan, of the Sudan Civil Service, and Margaret Douglas, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ord-Mackenzie, of Headley Mount, Headley, Hampshire, formerly of Walton Heath, Surrey, will take place on August 28 at 2.30 p.m., at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton. No invitations will be issued, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

Captain R. C. Cooke, M.C., Norfolk Regiment, Captain G. N. I. Morrison, the Black Watch, Lieutenant J. H. Hardy, M.C., the Royal Lancaster Regiment, and Lieutenant L. Rowell, Army Service Corps, have been attached to the Egyptian Army as Special Service officers, and have been posted for duty to the 12th, 13th, and 9th Sudanese and the Department of Supplies respectively.

General Sarrail, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Forces at Salonika, has conferred the Order of the Légion d'Honneur upon Prince George of Serbia, Chief of the 18th Serbian Infantry Regiment, in recognition of his courage and ability. Prince George, who is the elder brother of the Prince Regent, celebrates his thirtieth birthday on September 9. He has been twice wounded during the present war.

The King has been pleased to appoint Earl Granville to be his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Hellenes in succession to Sir Francis Elliot. Lord Granville, it will be remembered, was accredited to the Provisional Government at Salonika, where his tactfulness and sympathetic handling of a delicate situation won the confidence of M. Venizelos and his colleagues. Lord Granville's first post in the Diplomatic Service was in Berlin; he has served subsequently in Cairo, Vienna, The Hague, Brussels, and Paris, in the latter capital as Counsellor of Legation.

The President of the Southern Slav colony in London has sent the following telegram to the Serbian Prince Regent Alexander:—

The agreement concluded in Corfu among the representatives of our oppressed people has deeply and agreeably moved all the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes in London. I am happy to be able to submit to your Royal Highness, in the name of the Jugoslav Colony in London, the assurance of our most devoted loyalty and our deep appreciation of this act of true statesmanship, which will be the foundation-stone in the building of the free State of the United Slovenes, Croats, and Serbs.

Among the passengers on the torpedoed P. and O. *Mooltan* was M. Demetrius Frangoudis, of the Union Foncière d'Egypt, of Alexandria, who is on his way to New York. Towards the end of last year M. Frangoudis's brother, Colonel John Frangoudis, who was in America, at the head of a military mission, met his death as the result of inadvertently coming in contact with a broken electric wire in the streets of New York. M. Frangoudis has been deputed by his fellow passengers from Egypt to express their profound gratitude for and admiration of the manner in which the ship's officers handled the situation after the *Mooltan* was struck. Within six minutes the last passenger had been got off without the least confusion.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has handed over this week to the Red Cross Society the sum of £10,000 for hospital work in Mesopotamia, and to provide and maintain six motor launches and one steam tug for work on the Tigris. One of the most important parts of the splendid work in Mesopotamia which the British Red Cross Society is carrying out is done by the motor launches, some fifty in number, which have rendered wonderful service during all the operations of General Maude's forces. Several of these launches have been working right away up river at Baghdad ever since the occupation. The maintenance of hospital stores with a river line of communication that is now over 500 miles in length is no light undertaking. The need for continued help is still urgent, and all contributions will be gratefully acknowledged by the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.1.

There is a wonderfully happy appreciation of the late Mr. G. B. Allen, by Sir Valentine Chirol, in *The Pioneer Mail* of July 14, from which the following passages are taken:—"With George Berney Allen there has gone out of this world one of those who sweetened it for all who knew him at all well. His influence was always an influence for good. His was not a commanding personality, and he never played a conspicuous part in great affairs, but he had so many interests in life that he came into contact with not a few who did, and by his transparent integrity of purpose and his invariable honesty and kindliness of judgment, he exerted upon them an influence which they themselves probably never wholly realized, and which his own modesty would assuredly never have claimed. . . . He was incapable of thinking and *a fortiori* of speaking ill of anyone. He clung steadfastly to his own gentle optimism, and nothing could shake his conviction that human nature is generally better than it seems, and that all things, even when the outlook is darkest, are being shaped towards higher ends. This belief sustained him during the war, though its horrors weighed heavily upon him. In his personal relations he was the kindest and most considerate of men. There was nothing he would not do for his friends."

And Sir Valentine concludes:—"I am not only myself the poorer by one of the truest of friends, but the world, too, is the poorer by one of the best of men."

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OBITUARY.

DR. MARIAN ELIZABETH WILSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Dr. Marian Wilson, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), surgeon to the Scottish Women's Hospital at Abbaye de Royaumont, France, died on August 1, after four days' illness, at St. Martin-Vesubie, where she had joined her family for a few weeks' rest. Dr. Wilson was the only daughter of the late Rev. John Wilson, D.D., of Abernyte, and of Mrs. Wilson, of Lausanne. Dr. Wilson graduated in Edinburgh in 1906, her first medical post being at Barrow-in-Furness. She was appointed assistant-doctor to Dr. Paterson at Hebron in 1911, and had been there for nearly four years when the outbreak of war necessitated the closing of all the British mission stations. On returning to England she worked for six months at York, and in November, 1915, she joined the staff of the Scottish Women's Hospital at Abbaye de Royaumont, where her skilful and devoted services made her a most valuable member of the medical staff. Early in the present year her very distinguished services to the French wounded were recognised by the French Government, and she was awarded the Médaille des Epidémies en vermeil.

Dr. Wilson was unusually gifted in many ways, but especially so in languages. Her French was as pure as her English, she knew both Greek and Latin extremely well, and had a fair knowledge of Italian, while she mastered Arabic with extraordinary ease and quickness. Her personal charm, and her endless care for and interest in her patients won her their great affection and gratitude wherever she worked. Her patients at Royaumont, after leaving the hospital, wrote constantly to her, and they would walk miles to see her during their short periods of leave. Their grief at her death is intense.

Dr. Wilson was not robust, but her love for her work and her high, courageous spirit, carried her unflinchingly through every period of extra anxiety or fatigue, such as every hospital, whether military or mission, must experience. She was one of those who raise the name of their country very high in foreign lands, and whose memory is a constant call to us who are left to "Carry on!"

Lieutenant-Colonel Boyd Francis Alexander, late Rifle Brigade, who died on August 19, was the third son of Boyd Alexander of Ballochmyle and Southbar. He was born in 1834 and educated at Harrow. He served with the Rifle Brigade in Turkey in 1854 and afterwards in the suppression of the Indian Mutiny, when he fought in the battle of Cawnpore, in the siege and capture of Lucknow, and in the Oudh campaign. He commanded the storming party in the attack on Fort Birwah, and was twice wounded. Colonel Alexander had the Mutiny medal with clasp, and was mentioned in despatches. In 1870 he also saw service in Canada in connection with the Fenian raid.

We regret to learn of the death on August 3 at Port Said of Mr. Whitfield the manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Port Said. It seems that Mr. Whitfield was sitting at his desk transacting business as usual, when he suddenly complained of feeling ill. Help was at once summoned, but he expired an hour or so later. Mr. Whitfield had been for many years in Port Said as manager, and his loss will be felt by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Great sympathy is felt for Mrs. Whitfield and the children in their sad bereavement.

EGYPTIAN DECORATIONS.

The King has granted the undermentioned gentlemen authority to wear decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by the Sultan of Egypt, in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—

Second Class of the Order of the Nile.—Mr. N. T. Borton, Postmaster-General, Alexandria.

Third Class of the Order of the Nile.—Mr. W. A. E. Coxon, Inspector of Mines, Cairo; Mr. W. B. Trelawny, Director of Government Press, Boulaq, Cairo; Mr. R. V. Wild, Sub-Director-General, Direct Taxes, Finance Ministry, Cairo; and Mr. C. Barton, Assistant Sub-Director-General, State Accounts, Finance Ministry, Cairo.

Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile.—Mr. A. Holden, Director, State Domains Administration, Cairo; Mr. A. Wood, Chief Engineer, State Domains Administration, Cairo; Mr. L. Royle, Assistant Director, Coast Guards Administration, Cairo; Mr. K. Dowson, Assistant Director, Coast Guards Administration, Cairo; Mr. S. C. Peacock, Senior Inspector, Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria; Mr. C. E. D. Trelawny, Captain of Port, Port Said; and Mr. J. J. Jelf, Private Secretary to the Financial Adviser, Cairo.

Fifth Class of the Order of the Nile.—Mr. R. Phillips, Officer Commanding the cruiser Abdel Monem, Coast Guards Administration, Cairo; Mr. D. R. Tweedie, Officer Commanding Salloum District, Coast Guards Administration, Cairo; and Mr. A. Borg, Superintendent of the General Post Office, Alexandria.

Before leaving London for Paris, the *Morning Post* is informed, M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, asked M. Miyatovitch to write in Serbian a popular history of the British Empire, which the Serbian Government will publish in order to acquaint the Serbian nation with the true "greatness of the honour of being an Ally of the British nation." M. Miyatovitch was formerly Serbian Minister in London, and is the author of "The Memoirs of a Balkan Diplomatist," recently published.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

BONHAM-CARTER.—On the 16th August, 1917, at 24, Carisbrooke Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, the wife of Captain B. H. Bonham-Carter, Indian Army, of a son.

DEATH.

WILSON.—On August 1, very peacefully, after four days' illness, Marian Elizabeth Wilson, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), of Hebron, Palestine, and of the Scottish Women's Hospital, Abbaye de Royaumont, France, the beloved only daughter of the late Rev. John Wilson, D.D., of Abernyte, and Mrs. Wilson, Lausanne.

Twenty-four Jugoslav officers, who served in the Austrian Army, and who surrendered to the Italians on the Isonzo front, have sent a telegram to M. Ristitch, the Serbian Minister in Rome, declaring that they are ready to sacrifice their lives in order to contribute to the liberation of Serbia, and hailing King Peter as the King of the Jugoslavs.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1917.

THE FALLEN IDOL.

The Greek Government is well advised, before ex-King Constantine passes out of the ken of the world at large, to disclose, as far as it is able, the true story of his relations with Germany. Greece owes it to herself to see that there is no room for misunderstanding in regard to this unsavoury chapter of her history; for until most of the facts of the case were known she was in danger of appearing to have stood by the Sovereign up to a certain point, and then to have abandoned him in favour of the winning side. The quarrel of the Greeks with King Constantine, however, covers more points than one. It is at least open to argument that the outbreak of the European war momentarily obliterated the *casus fœderis* between Greece and Serbia, and the Greek Government was free to place its sympathies with either of the belligerent groups. The fact that the Entente had in the past rendered special services to Greece did not necessarily entail that its cause in the present struggle was just and that its enemies must be in the wrong. On the other hand—still apart from the alliance with Serbia—the past relations between Greece and the Entente Powers did require that she should not lightly ally herself with their enemies. This, however, is precisely what King Constantine did, and his action was taken without reference to the wishes of his people. Even when Serbia was threatened with disaster, and appealed to Greece to honour her treaty of alliance, it might have been possible to adduce sound military reasons which prevented the latter from risking suicide without the prospect of being able to bring any practical assistance to the hard-pressed Serbians. But whatever course Greece adopted on the King's initiative, the people had the right to expect that it should at least be honourable and consistent with the interests of the country. The policy actually followed by King Constantine, however, entailed the violation of his own personal honour, of his country's pledges, and of its material interests, in consequence of which Greece was compelled to endure a period of bitter humiliation.

As far as can be judged from the telegraphic summary of the White Book issued in Athens, the Greek Government has been successful in laying hands on the material documents in King Constantine's amazing record of infamy. That on the outbreak of the war the Emperor William should have telegraphed to remind him of the reasons "why Greece should stand by Germany's side" is not a matter for wonder. Nor can exception strictly be taken to the King's reply, which, while stating that his personal sympathies and political opinions drew him towards the Emperor, amounted to a declaration of neutrality. What was to have been expected was that King Constantine, having shrewdly diagnosed the situation and realizing that Greece was for the time being at the mercy of the Entente Powers, would have been very careful to adhere to a policy of the strictest neutrality. This he did not do. It will be of interest to follow the workings of his mind and to trace the connection between his change of attitude and the course of military events. When once he had satisfied himself that the Central Powers were bound to win the war, he seems to have thrown discretion to the winds. To gauge the extent of his treachery to Greece, we have to bear in mind the normal relations between Greeks and Bulgars. If King Constantine's dealings had been exclusively with the Germans they would have been more venial. But from the outset he had recognized with whom he would have to work. In his reply to the Emperor William's first telegram he suggested that Greek neutrality would be profitable to Germany, "considering that I engage not to harm his (the Emperor's) friends and my neighbours so long as they do not harm our local Balkan interests." The reference to the Bulgarians clearly shows what the attitude of the two peoples to one another was. Yet a little later King Constantine was to be found making an agreement for the surrender of Fort Rupel and a considerable amount of Greek territory and Greek material of war to these very Bulgarians. It is for that act that he will never be forgiven by the Greeks as a nation. The documents now published show that the subordination of Greek interests was carried even to the extent of suppressing reports of the maltreatment of Greeks at the hands of Bulgarians. Finally, to clinch the sordidness of the whole story, there is the inference to be drawn from the secret loan obtained from Germany that King Constantine and his corrupt Government simply bartered Greek interests for a financial consideration.

When ex-King Constantine has become more accustomed to the leisure of private life we may look for his version of the part played by Greece, for it is hardly to be supposed that he will allow himself to pass down into history with his present reputation without some attempt to clear himself. At the time when he was in particularly close touch with Germany, it will be remembered, he chose to ventilate his grievances and to protest his innocence in the British and American Press. Those declarations, in the light of subsequent events, make him appear still more contemptible. They proved that he realized that his place was by the side of the Allies, but the crookedness of his character prevented him from acting up to his own interests and to those of Greece. The only explanation of King Constantine's action would seem to be found in his physical fear of what the German Emperor would do to him in the event of a German victory. There the matter must, perhaps, be allowed to rest. The disclosures now made by the Greek Government exonerate Great Britain and France from any possible charge of highhandedness in demanding the King's abdication. Their chief fault was that they should have tolerated for so long an impossible situation. M. Venizelos and his colleagues in the Provisional Government are once more justified in their decision to cut themselves adrift from the regime of intrigue and corruption in Athens. Greece is now shown to have been the victim of peculiarly malignant circumstances, and leaves the bar of public opinion with a clear conscience. Some sympathy may be felt for King Alexander, whose position is rendered even more anomalous by the publication of the White Book. But the more hopeless the regime to which he succeeded is shown to have been the greater the merit, if he is able to live the stigma down and to lead Greece along the path of constitutionalism and progress. The presence of M. Venizelos at the head of affairs should be a guarantee that Greece will be able to count on generous treatment at the hands of the Allies, in order that in the prosperity opened up to her by the new era she may find ample compensation for the tragedy of the past three years.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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THE UKRAINE QUESTION AND THE BALKANS.

The Ukraine question is far less known in England than the Polish question, nor is the reason far to seek. The Ukraine has played a much smaller part in the political history of Europe than Poland; the Poles themselves have filled a bigger place on the world's stage, in its art, literature, and more especially its music, than the Ruthenes; nobody could deny that the Poles were a distinct nation, even after the partition, whereas the status of the Ruthenes was a matter of indifference. Recent events in Russia have changed things considerably, and the future destiny of the Ukraine will not only react on the Polish question, but will have a vital bearing on the position in the Balkans. If the Ukraine is divorced from Russia, then Germany's path through the Balkans is cleared of one great obstacle. It is, therefore, Germany's interest to stimulate the separatist movement at Kieff, and there are signs that her agents have been busily engaged in the agreeable task.

The Ukraine is a rich and fertile country which stretches from Lemberg in the west to Odessa in the east. The Ruthenes, or Little Russians, who inhabit it are remembered as having put up a valiant fight against the Ottoman invader, but their empire fell to pieces, passing first to Lithuania, then to Poland, and finally being divided between Austria, which obtained Eastern Galicia, and Russia, which obtained the lion's share. The nationalist movement was late in waking, but about the beginning of the twentieth century it showed signs of becoming a force. The Russian Government, after its customary manner, endeavoured to suppress the propaganda; the Austrian Government was more wily. It saw that the Ruthenes who owed allegiance to Vienna could hardly be a serious danger, since their numbers were small, and they were confined to the farther end of a remote province; on the other hand, the Ruthenes disliked the Poles, and it might be useful to play them off against the Poles in Galicia. That cunning policy was adopted; the Ruthenes were patronised, a Ruthene review, published in German, was founded in Vienna, and for a time the new nationalist movement basked in the sun of Imperial and official favour. Presently other advantages became apparent to the authorities. The Ruthene movement could be used as a means of embarrassing Russia by increasing the tension already existing between the Ukraine and the Government at Petrograd. The contrast between the position of the Ruthenes in Galicia and in Southern Russia was emphasised; the Ukraine movement across the border spread, newspapers, novels, histories appeared discussing the Ruthenian national ideal—all of which was extremely awkward for Russia, and by no means awkward for Austria. A great deal of money must have been spent in encouraging this movement, which in time reached out far beyond Austria and Russia. A gentleman of Polish parentage lectured to English audiences under the pseudonym of "Bedwin Sands" on the wrongs of the Ukraine, which had hitherto been a *terra incognita* to the stolid Briton; presently he wrote a book on the subject, which was beautifully illustrated and sumptuously produced. When war broke out in 1914, this gentleman did not find it convenient to remain in London to pursue the good work of enlightening us on the Ukraine movement; he migrated to New York. In the leisure which he could spare from Ukraine propaganda he was frequently seen in company with his intimate friend, the head of the Wolff Bureau in London—a Prussian gentleman who may or may not have been absorbed in the nationalist movement of the Ruthenes, but whose more visible activities were connected with the German Embassy and von Kuhlmann.

The Ukraine movement has certainly made headway since the Russian revolution. It has demanded something more than autonomy; its Provisional Government, set up at Kieff, appears to be reaching out for independence. If that were attained, there would be a new state in Europe, reaching from the Austrian frontier to the Black Sea, built up of a sturdy peasant stock—the Ruthenes are an agricultural people—and Russia's access to the south, to the Black Sea and the Balkans would be cut off. Petrograd would hardly count for more in the Balkan capitals than Stockholm.

Obviously, therefore, it is to Germany's interest to foment this unrest, much of which is legitimate and the natural consequence of past Russian policy, in the Ukraine. And not in the Ukraine only. Germany would like to see Russia split up into a series of little states—a nominally independent Finland, which would cut Russia off from the west, a nominally independent Lithuania, a shrunken and dependent Poland. Germany herself is contemplating, as one of her statesmen admitted a few days ago, an "enlargement of her eastern marches," which means, presumably, an expansion of East Prussia by the annexation of the Baltic Provinces; were that secured, and Russia split up into a collection of little states, none of which were strong enough to stand alone against pressure from Berlin, Germany could make terms with the Western Powers with equanimity, for she would have won the war on the Eastern front, and the menace from Russia would be removed for a century at least. Moreover, she would strengthen her internal political position, for her Socialists, both tame and wild, were convinced of the defensive war theory by the insistence upon the plea that Russia had attacked Germany. They would be convinced that Germany had repelled the attack and had then proceeded to make a magnanimous peace, after liberating the Russians from servitude. The German Socialists have swallowed so much that they would find no difficulty in digesting that agreeable pill—and supporting the Government thereafter.

No doubt the Central Powers have provisionally apportioned the spoil. German manufacturers would then have a free run in Russia, and the securing of that great open market would do much to pay for the war, and compensate the commercial interests for the loss of trade in the rest of the world. Meantime, Germany, through Austria, would dominate the Balkans, for Vienna would no longer have to fear that Petrograd would intervene in Serbia or elsewhere. Indeed, there would be no Serbia left on the Austrian assumption, and now that Greece has rejected "the husband of the Kaiser's sister" and declared war upon the Central Empires, Austria's last scruples against gratifying her old desire to seize Salonika are dispelled. She has pursued that ambition for a generation and more, and no doubt she calculates that a "give-and-take peace" on the Michaelis model may end in her taking Salonika in return for giving the Ukraine—her blessing.

Hence the present peace manœuvres. Germany is content to postpone the decision in the West for a generation, and even perhaps to give up Belgium, if she can secure peace (the Pope's offer seems explicit on that score), provided she can rely upon the war-weariness of the Western Powers to snatch a victory in the East and its consequences, the elimination of Russia and the domination of that country and the Balkans by Germany and Austria. It is an ingenious scheme, not unworthy of a shrewd diplomacy.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Serbian Deportations. August 16.

Mr. W. THORNE asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had any official information showing that the Turkish Government had ordered 8,000 young Serbian girls into Turkey; and whether anything could be done in the matter.

Mr. BALFOUR, in reply, said: I have no official confirmation of the report alluded to by the hon. member. I have no doubt that, if true, the Serbian Government will take whatever action is possible, and I can assure them that, if they desire it, they will receive all support from his Majesty's Government.

English Prisoners in Turkey.

Mr. J. F. HOPE (Lord of the Treasury), replying to Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS, who asked whether Turkey had yet consented to allow a representative of the Geneva Red Cross to visit the camps in which English soldiers are imprisoned, said that the request for permission to visit camps was addressed by the International Red Cross Committee to the Turkish Minister at Berne. No reply had, so far as his Majesty's Government knew, yet been received, nor had the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople yet succeeded in obtaining similar permission.

The Troops at Aden.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India what arrangements are now in force for the provision of the troops at Aden and other places on the Arabian coast of an adequate supply of fresh vegetables and ice?

Mr. PRATT: As regards Aden, the bulk of the vegetables are imported from Bombay, but the Government of India were arranging last summer to restart the old Commissariat Garden at Sheikh Othman. The free issue of ice was sanctioned in October last. I have no information regarding the other places on the Arabian coast, but I will inquire.

Allied Policy in the Balkans. August 17.

Major D. DAVIES asked for information regarding the results of the conferences of the Allies on war policy in the Balkans. On behalf of the friends of Serbia, he expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs for their speeches at the luncheon to M. Pashitch. Those speeches were a renewal of specific pledges, but the speech of the Prime Minister was a great advance on some earlier speeches. If the promises made to Serbia were redeemed, she would become again, as Mr. Lloyd George had described her, "the keeper of the gate in the East," and hold it to the end. In regard to the health of our troops at Salonika, he asked whether, before the troops went there, the medical authorities were consulted and measures taken to guard against malaria. He asked whether there was an Allied Staff at Salonika, whether the War Cabinet were satisfied that overland routes were being used as far as possible in order to economise tonnage, and whether everything possible was being done to keep in close touch with the Serbian General Staff, who had the most intimate knowledge of fighting in the Balkans.

Mr. CARR-GOMM called attention to the question of recognition of the services of the officers and men of the Salonika force. He protested against complaints that the offensive was not taken in the Balkan theatre of war. It was unfair to ask infantry to go forward to attack in such a country without the artillery and aircraft support which infantry had on the Western front. Then, when a position had been taken in mountainous country, it was often impossible to dig in owing to the rocky nature of the ground. He thought the Government ought to make some statement in regard to the allegations brought against the Salonika troops. Great difficulties beset that expedition. He agreed, however, that, after making all due allowances, we seemed never to have succeeded in making up our minds as to our exact plan of action. There had been a lack of coherence in seeking our objective. One had a slight fear that, as on the Tigris, there was a certain divided responsibility—in this case between the Foreign Office and the War Office.

Mr. BALFOUR: My hon. and gallant friend who has just sat down has called upon me to vindicate the character of the British troops on the Salonika front. I confess when I came down to this House this afternoon it never occurred to me that anybody at any time had called in question either the discipline, courage, or competence of the British force which is now on that front, and maintaining the honour of the British flag with the same courage, with the same high qualities with which the British soldiers are maintaining the honour of the British flag on other fronts. My hon. friend referred to some debate in which rather wild charges appear to have been tossed about in the House in regard to these troops. If I understand him rightly these charges were immediately, categorically, and emphatically repudiated by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I do not know why the defence of the soldiers on the Salonika front should always fall on the Foreign Office, but the defence appears to have been undertaken with considerable success by my noble friend on the previous occasion. I think I can certainly say with confidence not less than he showed that the Government are entirely in agreement with my hon. and gallant friend, that the attempt to discredit either the character, discipline, or courage of the British troops on the Salonika front has no foundation whatever.

After repudiating the suggestion that there was any divided responsibility between the War Office and the Foreign Office, Mr. Balfour continued:—

Not only has the Foreign Office nothing whatever to do with military matters on the Salonika front, but no British general and no British officer has control of the operations on the Salonika front. The force fighting there, as everybody knows, is a mixed force. There are Russians, Italians, Serbians, British, and French, and the Commander-in-Chief of the whole force is not appointed by the War Office and does not belong to the British Army. He is a French general of great distinction.

Mr. KING: Would the right hon. gentleman say whether there is not an Allied staff over which General Sarrail presides?

Mr. BALFOUR: I presume that General Sarrail settles his own staff with his own Government. Certainly the Foreign Office has no knowledge of these matters, and the question should be addressed to some other Department. Whether it should be another Department in this country, or in another country, is a different question.

Mr. Balfour noted that the speeches of the Prime Minister and Lord Robert Cecil at the luncheon in honour of M. Pashitch had been quoted with approval, and pointed out that those speeches represented the views of the Government.

We yield to no man and to no body of men in our admiration of the courage and the distinguished and incomparable valour with which the Serbians, amid great misfortunes, amid almost overwhelming trials, have sustained the reputation of their race. We look forward with hope and with confidence to the restoration of the Serbian kingdom under conditions which will make its future more successful and more glorious, more full of promise, than was the case in the years which preceded these great disasters. More than that it would be impossible for me to say. We share my hon. friend's hopes, and we are confident that these hopes will find final and adequate fruition.

My hon. friend apparently carried his natural and legitimate enthusiasm for the Serbian cause to the extent of thinking that the proper main front on which an attack should be conducted on the Central Powers was the Balkan front. It would be very presumptuous of me to offer observations on military strategy, but I think ——

Major DAVIES: May I interrupt my right hon. friend? I think he misunderstood what I said. What I intended to say was that the Balkan was one of the possible fronts, if not the main one.

Mr. BALFOUR: I rather gathered that my hon. friend thought that the public attention in this country—I am sure he said so—had been unduly concentrated upon the Western front, and to the loss and sacrifices on that front through the great operations that have been carried on there. It would be very presumptuous of me to offer upon a purely strategic problem any opinion to the House, but I may venture to call my hon. friend's attention to what fell from my hon. friend the member for Southwark (Mr. Carr-Gomm), because my hon. friend the member for Southwark has personal acquaintance with the Salonika front. He gave a description of that front, of its means of communication, of the character of its terrain, and other important military aspects of it, which clearly indicated that, at first sight at all events, it was not the front on which the attack could be carried on with the best hope of immediate success. I trust we shall see on that front activities successfully displayed. (Hear, hear.) But that will depend on a great many circumstances—physical, moral, international, material—and it seems very unlikely to me that in the immediate future we can expect any operations on that front on the scale my hon friend appears to desire, which would be comparable to the great operations which are now going on in France, and possibly elsewhere. My hon. friend asked me a great many questions which are purely military, and on which I am not qualified to give an opinion. But he asked one question, with regard to transport, on which I hope I can give him some satisfaction. He asked me to assure the House that every effort is being made to increase the land transport on the Salonika front in order, among other purposes, to relieve the tonnage which is now necessarily employed in supplying the troops. I can assure my hon. friend that is an aspect of the case which has not escaped the attention of any of the Allied Governments. France, Italy, and Greece have to assist. That is a policy to which we are deeply committed and which has been successfully carried out, and which I hope will produce valuable, important results in the near future.

Essad Pasha. August 20.

Captain AUBREY HERBERT asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his Majesty's Government has officially recognised Essad Pasha as representative of Albania.

Lord R. CECIL replied that the answer was in the negative.

Commissions to Indians.

Replying to Mr. Charles Roberts, who asked whether the Secretary of State for India could state the Government's decision as to the granting of commissions in the Army to Indians,

Mr. MONTAGU said: The Government have decided that the bar which has hitherto precluded the admission of Indians to commissioned rank in his Majesty's Army should be removed, and in accordance with this decision steps are being taken for the grant of commissions to nine Indian officers belonging to the Native Indian Land Forces who have served in the field in the present war and have been recommended for this honour by the Government of India in recognition of their services. Their names will be notified in the *London Gazette*, and they will be posted to the Indian Army in the same *Gazette*. The general conditions under which Indians should in future be eligible for commissions are under discussion between the Government of India and myself. I shall

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in due course consult the Army Council, with a view to the introduction of a carefully-considered scheme which will provide for the selection of candidates and for their training in the important duties which will devolve upon them.

Commander WEDGWOOD: Will that training take place in India or at Sandhurst?

Mr. MONTAGU: These gallant officers require no training. They have earned their commissions on the field of battle. With regard to the future, that matter is under consideration.

A New Policy in India.

Mr. MONTAGU (Secretary of State for India) made the following statement in regard to the Government's policy in India:—The policy of his Majesty's Government, with which the Government of India are in complete accord, is that of the increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions, with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire. They have decided that substantial steps in this direction shall be taken as soon as possible, and it is of the highest importance as a preliminary in considering what these steps should be that there should be a free and informal exchange of opinion between those in authority at home and in India. His Majesty's Government have accordingly decided, with his Majesty's approval, that I should accept the Viceroy's invitation and proceed to India to discuss these matters with the Viceroy and Government of India, to consider with the Viceroy the views of local government, and receive with him suggestions of representative bodies and others. I would add that progress in this policy can only be achieved by successive change. The British Government and the Government of India, on whom responsibility lies for the welfare and advancement of the Indian people, must be the judges of the time and measure of each advance, and they must be guided by the co-operation received from those upon whom new opportunities of service will be conferred, and by the extent to which it is found that confidence can be reposed in their sense of responsibility. Ample opportunity will be afforded for public discussion of the proposals which will be submitted in due course to Parliament.

Mr. ROBERTS: While congratulating the right hon. gentleman on the very far-reaching statement of policy which he has made, I would ask him whether a statement to the like effect will be made officially in India?

Mr. MONTAGU: The same statement will be made in India to-day.

Sir J. REES: When does the right hon. gentleman go to India?

Mr. MONTAGU: During the winter.

Italy and the Near East.

Mr. KING asked the Foreign Secretary whether, on the occasion of the visit of Baron Sonnino to this country, it was agreed to increase the tonnage for the service of Italy, to accept the Italian modifications in their demands for spheres of influence in Asia Minor, and to maintain the previous claims made by Italy for the Dalmatian coast.

Mr. MOLTENO also asked the Foreign Secretary whether, on the occasion of the recent conference in London with Baron Sonnino, the modification demanded by Italy in the division of the spheres of influence in Asia Minor was discussed and accepted.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to both questions, said he was not prepared to make any statement on the subject.

THE HEALTH OF THE ADEN TROOPS.

It is officially announced that returns of the health of the troops at Aden received up to July, 1917, show rather high rates of admission for the previous six months, viz., 60.01 per cent. for British troops and 30.6 for Indian troops, but they are in each case an improvement on the corresponding six months of 1916. Slight malaria and sandfly fevers are the prevailing complaints, and the more serious tropical diseases, enteric, scurvy, and dysentery, are almost entirely absent.

The figures are not considered excessive in view of the fact that during the great heat the troops have been constantly engaged in minor operations against the Turks.

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ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

By JOSEPH OFFORD.

A Roman Road from Syria to the Euphrates.

At a recent meeting of the French Academy, the Belgian savant, M. Franz Cumoret, described the inscriptions upon two Roman milestones discovered in Syria a few years ago, which explain the route taken by the great Roman roadway which was constructed between Antioch and the Euphrates. These two texts were found, one between Hierapolis (now called Mimbidj) and Tell Batnan, the ancient Batnea; and the other at Sheikh Nedjar, about two hours' journey north of Aleppo, on the way to Batnea. The first monument gives the number thirteen as being its distance upon the road from Hierapolis; whilst the figures upon the other stone are obliterated. These inscriptions disclose more than the mileage, for they also inform us that the stones were erected to commemorate a work by the Emperor Septimus Severus and Caracalla in the year A.D. 197.

The date supplies the historical value of the texts, for it explains the cause for the building of the important military highway that assured rapid communication between Antioch and Mesopotamia. In A.D. 196 Septimus Severus crossed the Euphrates and captured Nisibis, and in A.D. 197 undertook his Parthian expedition. It must have been his experience of the necessity of such an important highway, gathered during the vicissitudes of the 196 campaign, that induced him to order the road to be constructed in readiness for the next war in A.D. 197, when he was to march his legions against Parthia, doubtless by the new route. The portion of the work of a classical historian, Dion Cassius, describing the Emperor's advance, has been lost, and the precise line of march taken was hitherto uncertain. The Romans, with their usual special regard for all means of communication within their dominions, carefully kept up Severus' highway, and by it Julian advanced upon his ill-fated expedition to his death; for Amminianus Marcellinus especially mentions that he went towards the Euphrates from Antioch by way of Hierapolis. By this road also a Spanish Christian lady pilgrim to the Holy Places went when she journeyed, at the end of the fourth century, to Edessa.

Through the facilities it afforded for the passage of an army later on, unfortunately for the Romans, the road was utilised by Chosroes, marching from east to west, when he invaded Syria and sacked Berea and Antioch. Under the enlightened earlier Arab Khalifs the road was still kept in repair, but with the arrival of the Turks it was neglected and fell into disrepair. Finally it became entirely obliterated in many stretches, and remained forgotten until the discovery of these two memorial inscriptions have thrown light on its conception and creation, and have served to remind us of its many centuries of existence.

"ROMÂNUL."

A group of Roumanian journalists and publicists now residing in Paris have undertaken to issue a weekly paper, which will supply general information relating to Roumanian affairs, and thus contribute to place on a more solid foundation the sympathy which has always united the French and the Roumanian peoples. The first issue of the *Românul* appeared on July 26. The text is mainly French, with occasionally Roumanian articles and notes, and interesting illustrations of Roumanian places and events. The well-printed paper has evidently set itself a high journalistic standard, and by its very moderation should prove a valuable means for the creation of a better understanding for Roumanian problems and affairs. We wish that interesting publication a fruitful career, and recommend it very heartily to the attention of those interested in Roumania and her people.

(The editorial offices of the *Românul* are at 7, Rue Meyerbeer, Paris. The annual subscription, post-free, is 15 francs.)

THE SALONIKA ARMY.

In a communiqué issued recently the following reference was made to the health of the British troops at Salonika:—

The health of the troops shows a marked improvement. In proportion to the strength of the force admissions to hospital during July, 1917, show a reduction of one-third compared with July, 1916, and deaths from all diseases a reduction of nearly two-thirds. Cases of malaria are slightly fewer than last year, in spite of the fact that a considerable number of cases are occurring among men who contracted the disease last year. Dysentery and diarrhœa are appreciably less prevalent. The admission rate for fevers other than malaria shows a reduction of nearly four-fifths.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt in War-Time.

Sir Malcolm McIlwraith writes interestingly of Egypt in war time in the *Fortnightly Review*:—

In almost every letter one receives from friends in Cairo or Alexandria one is told that, were it not for certain restrictions on travelling, both in the interior and abroad, they would scarcely know that the greatest war in history is still in full progress within a few days' steaming from their ports. Such are the natural resources of that fertile land—thanks, mainly, to the British engineers and their mastery of irrigation problems—that, in spite of the German and Austrian submarines in the Mediterranean, there is hardly any food scarcity or menu restrictions of the kind to which we are becoming accustomed here, and such as most of our Allies are undergoing in a far more drastic degree. The general cost of living has increased but little in the last two years as compared with conditions at home, and few commodities of domestic use have become unprocurable. And the only really great advance in price is that of coal—which, at one time, was as high as £8 a ton!

All the fears of disaster that the early days of the war conjured up, particularly in regard to the stoppage of the tourist traffic, were quickly dissipated when the Imperial troops began to reach the country. The writer depicts the altered conditions very graphically, and then gives another side of the picture:—

From the point of view of the Egyptian official, on a tour of inspection, the altered conditions were by no means devoid of charm. As to the principal Upper Egypt towns, notably Luxor and Assouan—those favourite winter health resorts of the rich and leisured classes from all the countries of the old and new world—they wore an aspect very different from their ordinary appearance. Luxor, usually crowded at that time of year with beautifully-dressed ladies and their attendant straw-hatted and white-trousered cavaliers, was full of convalescent, blue-suited soldiers—the wounded from Gallipoli or the western desert—and of nothing else. There were, literally, no other visitors, and there was only one small hotel open, where occasional officials and officers from Cairo could be accommodated.

As for Assouan, it was like a city of the dead. No hospital had been established there, as it was considered to be too far up the river, and not a soldier or a visitor of any kind was to be seen.

The Egyptian Capitulations Commission.

Of the Commission appointed to study the legal and other changes involved by the impending abolition of the Egyptian capitulations, Sir Malcolm McIlwraith writes:—

The composition of this Commission is typical of Egyptian administration. It consists of three Native Ministers, one of them being President, three British Advisers, one Frenchman, and one Italian—these last two being both eminent lawyers. So heterogeneous a composition of so vital a Commission in the new British Protectorate may possibly occasion some surprise, but in reality it is perfectly right and proper.

The Commission itself is small and somewhat ultra-governmental—seven functionaries and one judge. It might, perhaps, with advantage, have been of a rather more representative character, but it is satisfactory to note that it is empowered not only to co-opt other members, but to call for suggestions and criticisms from any qualified persons or bodies, and to publish in advance drafts of any laws or regulations which it intends to propose, with a view to obtaining the fullest amount of information on the points in question. Doubtless the various Chambers of Commerce will be consulted. It may also prove advisable to submit the proposals, in some form, for the opinion and recommendations of the Legislative Assembly, or any other representative Chamber which may take the place of that body after the war. The present Assembly contains several men of ability and special knowledge, whose criticisms, especially under the altered political conditions, would probably prove helpful to the Government. There is room in Egypt for a larger number of able and independent critics of Government measures, provided they never allow the principle of systematic opposition to official proposals to exceed legitimate bounds of conduct and speech.

Babylonian Civilisation.

A graphic account of the commercial development of Babylonia at the height of its prosperity is given by Mr. Bernard Maimon in the *World*:—

Already in the time of Hammurabi there was a continual intercourse between the different towns in the North and South, stimulated by the requirements of products which were peculiar to each, all of which were situated either on the Euphrates or on the principal canals. It is this king who promulgated laws determining the relations between sellers and buyers, and the forms to adopt in order to make the transactions between them binding. All business had to be done in writing—no other was considered valid. Most business was negotiated at the gates of the city walls where the caravans were camping, but important business was transacted in the precincts of the sanctuaries, the priests acting on behalf of their gods, to whom, in principle, all land belonged, as also the free and slave labour, who had virtually the monopoly of the produce of the soil, as they had the monopoly of the cattle and sheep who were grazing on fields under their control and led by shepherds they supplied. The priests were scribes at the same time. They knew the style of contracts for each individual transaction, and they had witnesses at hand whose signatures were obligatory. As a rule, each free man carried his seal cylinder on a string round his neck. He who had none, pressed his finger-nails into the clay and the scribe added—"Instead of a seal he impressed his finger-nails in my presence." If history is to do justice to the Babylonians it should then record postal communication as one of their numerous inventions. There was a regular postal system between the southern and northern parts of Babylonia, between Sumir and Accad, certainly as far back as 2,000 B.C.

Articles to Note.

"With the Serbian Forces," by F. Fox, in *The Field*.

"A Jugoslav Federation," by Sir Thomas H. Holdich, in the *Fortnightly Review*.

THE SALONIKA FIRE.

As a result of a conflagration which broke out at Salonika in the afternoon of August 18 practically two-thirds of the town have been destroyed. It is reported that 100,000 persons, including 42,000 Jews, have been rendered homeless. The Government buildings and the Church of St. Sophia have been saved, but it is reported that all the banks, business premises, hotels, and most of the shops have been destroyed. The Greek Government is discussing measures for the relief of the sufferers, for which a large credit will be voted.

The Serbian Relief Fund announces that it has received the following cable from their representative at Salonika:—

All goods in our stores completely destroyed by fire and should be replaced. Will you authorise me to purchase from military authorities foodstuffs in order to carry on our work? Personnel all safe.

These goods, it is pointed out, comprised some hundreds of bales of clothing and large quantities of foodstuffs, valued at many thousands of pounds, which were destined for the hospital, wayside dispensaries, canteens, orphanage, and distributing centres for clothing and food, which are some of the extensive relief operations of this Fund, among the civil population in Southern Macedonia. A special appeal is, therefore, made for funds to replace the losses caused by the fire.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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An interesting review of the foreign trade of Russia in 1916 appears in the official Consular reports of the United States Department of Commerce at Washington. A good many people will be surprised to learn that the imports in the year exceeded those of 1915 by 100 per cent., and that as the figures given do not include war material the value of goods actually received must have been much in excess of the value recorded. In view of all that has happened it is significant, I think, that Austria-Hungary was a considerable supplier—to the extent of nearly two millions and a half of roubles, while Germany contributed nine millions to the import value, Turkey also finding mention.

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A marked decline occurred in imports of raw cotton, but this is apparently accounted for by a shifting of trade routes. Thus the quantity received at European Russian ports declined from 360,000,000 pounds in 1913 to 28,000,000 in 1916, but imports over Asiatic frontiers increased from 74,000,000 to 198,000,000. Owing to increased prices the total value only showed a decrease of 36 per cent.—not an indication of prosperity, but of an additional handicap on the Russian textile industry.

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I referred some months ago to the establishment at Salonika of a commercial institution which was designed to develop trade relations between the Allies at the end of the war. The concern appears already to have begun its work and is attempting to secure information from manufacturers. The question of prices cannot be discussed at the moment, of course, but requests are being circulated for samples, particulars regarding weights, catalogues, etc. Serbian members of the institution are particularly active, as will be seen from an extract of a letter from the Consul-General, which is printed elsewhere in this issue of THE NEAR EAST.

***

I hear that owing to a recent (and temporary) demand from Egypt the prices for Mocha coffee in the Aden market advanced by something like 33 1-3 per cent. It is pointed out that owing to shipping conditions the Egyptian coffee trade, which was formerly in American hands, has been diverted to Aden, with its easier transport facilities for Egypt. At the beginning of the year superior grades of Mocha in the Aden market sold at Rs.9.8 a maund of 28 lbs. In June lsat it was up to Rs.13 8a., and is still rising.

***

An interesting return has been made available recently of Swiss trade in 1915. Egypt, I see, increased both exports and imports. Roumanian imports were down by nearly half, but exports were better by nearly £150,000, while Algeria and Tunis showed increases on both sides of the ledger. Germany maintained its position at the top of the list of contributing countries, but exported £2,400,000 less than in 1914; Swiss exports to Germany, however, advanced by nearly £7,000,000. In the same way Austria-Hungary also decreased her exports, but bought nearly £4,000,000 more of goods than in the preceding year. I wonder where all the extra merchandise came from originally and what it consisted of!

***

The returns of the foreign trade of Egypt for the first half of 1917 are published in THE NEAR EAST to-day, and as will be seen the result of operations was satisfactory. Exports continued to increase, while imports, less in value certainly, were not much behind those of previous years. The net result was a decline of £581,473 in the value of imports, and an increase of £4,600,226 in exports—figures which show an excellent favourable trade balance. It is interesting to note, too, that Greece and Persia both increased their sales to the Land of the Nile.

***

I referred in these Notes last week to the excellent address delivered by Mr. Macleod, British Consul at Fez, at the inaugural meeting of the British Merchants' Morocco Association. I overlooked at the moment an interesting account he gave of an interview he had with a deputation from the Oran Chamber of Commerce. "They all said" (Mr. Macleod stated) "that just now the one British article they traded in was *coal*: but they would be perfectly willing to take up any British business which offered prospects of profit." Mr. Macleod emphasised the necessity—from a general point of view for the development of a big trade—of the "establishment of British firms on the spot." I have consistently advocated this in these Notes.

***

Scarcely a limit can be placed on the trade openings in the country, and the three principles which, it seems, are indispensable are co-operation, cheapness, and due appreciation of the fact that a market is not merely a geographical or political area, but rather a group of persons who are able and willing to buy. These are facts which British manufacturers and merchants have not always heeded in the past; they have an important and constant bearing on trade, and they cannot be emphasised too strongly.

***

I wonder how many of the British firms that aspire to strengthen pre-war trade relations, or to open up new relations with Baghdad, understand the conditions that prevail out yonder. Mr. C. F. Brissel, the United States Consul in the city of the Khalifs discussed the question recently in a report which he presented to his department—the document is summarised elsewhere in this issue—and I am interested in his view that economic pressure has had much to do with the development of the enormous and complicated credit arrangements which were ushered in after the advent of German traders, who, indeed, have been blamed pretty generally for the long and extensive credit given in the Persian Gulf.

***

Assuming that at the outbreak of the war something like £300,000 was out at credit with local traders, it is estimated that that sum represents a large "proportion of the capital of many of the firms operating in the city, including the personal funds of many business men and others." This may, or may not, be true—I am inclined to think it is not quite accurate—but it certainly shows that there is need for reform, and that British merchants will do well to devise a way of re-inaugurating a cash-on-delivery business. Some credit will have to be given, of course, but it ought to be given with a wiser discrimination than was displayed in the bad old days of Turkish ownership.

***

One of the interesting points raised is that of the moratorium. When the war broke out, and this trade device was adopted, it was made to apply only to merchants in the city, and it was declared that five per cent. per month was to be paid. British business firms were all closed, of course, when Turkey took the wrong turning, and no debts were paid to British nationals. How many of the debtors will be found when the time comes for a readjustment one may wonder; and of those who will be there, how many of them will be solvent? An interesting, but uncomfortable meal for reflection!

COMMENTATOR.

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ADVANCE, EGYPT!

Excellent Trade Returns in First Half of 1917.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, July 30.

The Customs returns for June published this week show a satisfactory state of affairs; exports continue to increase, while imports are very little behind previous years. Imports during June came to £E2,594,455 and exports to £E2,835,114, as against £E2,673,820 and £E1,498,230 respectively in June, 1916. During the half-year the figures were £E13,830,277 and £E20,921,955, as compared with £E14,411,750 and £E16,321,729 in the corresponding period of 1916. Thus, whilst imports have fallen off by the very small amount of 4 per cent., exports have increased by nearly 30 per cent.

The principal imports during the half-year were:—Preserved meat, £E633,738; skins and tanned goods, £E138,017; rice, £E245,300; flour, £E279,652; coffee, £E272,349; raw sugar, £E147,419; tea, £E170,856; petroleum, £E314,144; stationery, £E264,165; coal, £E1,515,918; natural indigo, £E90,195; medical drugs, £E128,934; chemical manure, £E374,651; worked iron and steel, £E495,257; machinery, £E132,531; tobacco, £E993,160; textiles, £E5,016,322; cotton threads, £E293,599; cotton tissues, £E3,281,090; wool tissues, £E257,962; silk tissues, £E128,884; sacks, £E236,722; ready-made linen and millinery, £E186,156; beer, £E88,756; liqueurs, £E97,211.

Chief Increases.

Under imports, the chief increases were:—Preserved meat, £E531,343; rice, £E220,444; raw sugar, £E147,113; tea, £E102,721; natural indigo, £E25,845; chemical manures, £E175,078; cotton tissues, £E651,837; tobacco, £E559,597. On the other hand, the following decreases were recorded:—Flour, £E89,880; jams and preserves, £E188,392; beer, £E238,419; liqueurs, £E149,470; petroleum, £E88,146; coal, £E681,216; medical drugs, £E72,568.

The principal exports during the six months were:—Eggs, £E304,399; skins and tanned goods, £E238,287; cotton seed, £E1,222,545; cotton cake, £E449,539; onions, £E271,750; cereals, £E431,856; sugar, £E523,930; gum, £E147,821; cotton seed oil, £E68,877; cotton, £E16,700,421; wool, £E92,724; and cigarettes, £E171,762. The chief items showing increases were:—Cotton, £E4,922,573; cotton seed, £E294,532; cotton cake, £E242,603; gum, £E137,085; cotton seed oil, £E59,787; whilst the decreases were:—Eggs, £E105,664; cereals, £E840,906; alcohol, £E125,037; wool, £E82,030.

Pre-War Figures.

A comparison with pre-war figures, for example, with those for the first half of 1914 shows that imports up to the end of June this year amounted to about the same as three years ago, whereas exports had increased by over 35 per cent. This is, of course, in regard to value. The same does not apply, however, to quantities. Except in the case of some of the exports, practically all the articles passing through the Egyptian Customs show a marked decrease in quantity, and the table at foot of page throws an interesting light on the manner in which, in this respect, the war has affected the foreign trade of the country.

High Prices.

The above figures are, I think, sufficiently striking to show that, albeit Egypt is receiving the full benefit of the world's high market prices for whatever she can export from her own production, she is at the same time having to pay very heavily for whatever she takes from abroad, and that even then, if one takes pre-war figures as the normal, she is not obtaining sufficient for her requirements in some of the most essential articles.

Turning now to the share taken by the different countries, we find that Great Britain sent goods worth about one million less than during the first half of 1916, but that this diminution was more than made up by the British colonies, who between them sent £E1,147,000 more. All the other countries exported less to Egypt with the exception of Chili, Greece, China, Persia, and Japan, all of whom showed marked improvement. On the export side, Great Britain increased her share from 47 per cent. to 55 per cent. She took half the cotton, all the eggs, cotton-seed, and cake, 90 per cent. of the onions, and 17 per cent. of the gum. India also improved. Russia, Switzerland, and America all increased their purchases, mainly cotton. The only countries showing any important diminution were Spain, France, and Japan.

The Sudan.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan during the half-year has been very brisk. Imports into Egypt more than doubled—£E1,111,905, against £E517,292 at the end of June, 1916; and exports to the Sudan rose from £E559,780 to £E678,345. The principal imports into Egypt (figures in brackets are for the corresponding period of 1916) were:—Livestock, £E189,478 (£E72,881)—the number of sheep trebled; skins and tanned goods, £E29,618 (£E11,523); maize, £E297,310 (£E47,111); sesame, £E136,427 (£E106,069); ground nuts, £E43,646 (£E12,225); gum, £E46,241 (£E16,687)—the quantity trebled; cotton, £E210,099 (£E125,178). The chief exports from Egypt were:—Flour, £E14,116 (£E9,737); sacks, £E33,651 (£E10,693); sugar, £E160,865 (£E145,531)—the quantity fell off by 20 per cent.; and cotton tissues, £E155,399 (£E113,844).

The *Neue Freie Presse* (Vienna) states that after supplying the home population and the Austrian and German armies, Roumania will be able to send 100,000 wagon-loads of wheat, barley and maize to Germany and Austria-Hungary.

FRUIT IN BULGARIA.

Acreage Doubled in Less than Seven Years.

No other country in South-Eastern Europe offers such an excellent field for extensive and profitable fruit growing as Bulgaria, writes Mr. D. I. Murphy, United States Consul at Sofia, in a recent despatch to Washington. Better soil or more favourable climate can hardly be found anywhere than in the region about Kustendil. Fruit grows in abundance throughout Bulgaria, but in the Kustendil section greater care is given to its culture, with much better results. While the apples, pears, peaches and plums grown there are almost as fine as those raised in the Rhine Valley or the Southern Tyrol, they could be greatly improved if modern methods of cultivation were introduced.

The Kustendil region is the only one in Bulgaria with a large area of orchards in close proximity to each other, and it is the only one with definite statistics relative to fruit culture.

Acreage Under Fruits.

The earliest records are those of the year 1897, when the area planted in fruit trees in the Kustendil district was 11,317 acres. By 1911 this area had increased to 24,390 acres. In 1911, the latest year of which there is record, the orchards in that section consisted of 35,755 separate holdings, in the hands of 34,491 proprietors, Bulgaria being then, as now, a country of small landowners. It appears that fruit trees in 1905, 1910, and 1911 were classed as follows:—

Year.	Plums. Acres.	Apples. Acres.	Other fruit. Acres.	Total. Acres.
1905 ..	10,820 ..	120 ..	6,612 ..	17,552
1910 ..	12,218 ..	205 ..	7,895 ..	20,318
1911 ..	12,060 ..	3,225 ..	9,105 ..	24,390

These figures represent but a small fraction of the fruit-growing industry in Bulgaria. From general information, it is certain that since 1911 the acreage has increased at least 100 per cent. The average fruit production for the period 1900-1910, according to the Director of Statistics, was approximately as follows:—Prunes, 50,000 tons; apples, 5,000; pears, 3,500; cherries, 800; apricots, 100; and peaches, 500 tons.

No reliable information can be gathered as to prices during that period.

Imports, Canning and Preserving.

While the entire crops were consumed in the country, they were not sufficient for its needs, as will be noted from the following table showing the imports of fruits:—

Year.	Fresh fruits. Tons.	Dried fruits. Tons.	Other fruits Tons.
1895	542	23	196
1900	323	30	27
1905	1,058	120	38
1910	331	273	60
1911	85	6	8

There are no canning or preserving factories in Bulgaria. The single establishment that was kept running at Philippopolis for a time has discontinued operations, and no attempt has been made in the section about Kustendil in the way of canning or preserving. There is a fine field in Bulgaria for the introduction of modern methods of fruit growing; likewise for the establishment of canning and preserving establishments, with the aid of capital.

Imports.

	1914. Quantity.	1914. Value.	1917. Quantity.	1917. Value.
	Tons.	£E.	Tons.	£E.
Rice	29,779	253,342	14,543	245,300
Flour	101,222	1,027,066	9,938	267,780
Sugar	10,895	121,570	4,797	147,419
Coffee	3,878	202,002	3,895	272,349
Petroleum	62,946	281,793	29,720	314,144
Coal	921,343	1,072,877	265,072	1,515,918
Indigo	334	50,521	116	90,195
Chemical manures	38,028	308,105	20,274	374,651
Soap	4,470	132,270	1,640	57,798
Cotton tissues (metres)	8,992 / 44,555,682	1,111,750 / 853,128	8,739 / 47,793,730	1,882,122 / 1,398,968
Oils	11,945	275,882	4,566	238,763
Construction wood (metres)	206,719	469,357	1,053	12,153

Exports.

Eggs (units)	125,040,000	187,556	149,232,000	304,399
Cotton Seed	168,000	1,276,664	12,630	1,222,545
Rice	9,359	106,270	5,532	106,990
Cotton Cake	42,843	182,065	62,562	449,539
Onions	56,800	347,330	58,626	271,750
Sugar	1,765	26,191	16,284	523,930
Gum	374	9,727	2,956	147,821
Cotton (cantars)	3,570,550	12,365,497	2,044,436	16,700,421
Wool	1,292	86,127	928	92,724

(Where no special indication is given the quantities are tons.)

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SERBIAN TRADE.

Preparation for After-the-War Campaign.

The Serbian Consul-General at Salonika wrote recently to his American colleague:—

The Royal Government, taking into consideration the precarious state in which we shall find our territories after a long occupation by our enemies, and animated by the desire to provide for the first necessities of our population, has taken the decision of establishing in Salonika an economic and military direction, a common institution of the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture and the Ministry of War, with the task of helping commerce and industry, by laying a solid basis for the development of the relations, already close, between Serbia and the Allies during and after the world war.

The economic and military direction will, through its work, encourage agricultural production, lend its co-operation to the organisation of the flour-mill industry, to forest and mine working, with a view of providing for the most urgent needs of the army and population, and will assist the Ministry of Commerce and Agriculture in order to obtain for the country the most indispensable goods.

In addition to that, by gathering data relative to the agricultural, commercial, and industrial resources of our Allies, the economic and military direction will contribute for a large part to the extension of relations between our tradesmen and those of the Allied countries.

I have the honour to request you to put to the disposal of said direction the addresses of all commercial corporations, enterprises, manufacturers, and exporters in order that they may be able to gather the information necessary to their working.

Among the articles of principal interest to the association, which is termed La Direction Economique Militaire Serbe, are electrical apparatus, groceries, cotton goods, shoes, drugs and pharmaceutical articles, iron and steel, locomotives and cars and railway material.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Little Change in Conditions in the Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the week have not shown very much change. A miscellaneous business has been done in certain quarters, but very few producers have met with any real encouragement. The feeling is growing that lower prices are about to be experienced in raw cotton rates, as crop advices are more favourable, but it is doubtful whether yarn and cloth will be much cheaper to buy even if values decline to a considerable extent in the New York and Liverpool markets.

Owing to representations made to the Cotton Control Board, an alteration has been made in the system of levies for those spinning firms who decide to run more than 60 per cent. of their machinery from the beginning of next month. Instead of such mills paying penalties for the full quantity of machinery, levies will now be required for spindles worked beyond the 60 per cent. The total amount received will probably be much the same as under the original scheme, but the scale of charges will be more equitable.

The Egyptian cotton crop is understood to be making steady progress, and although the plants have still to pass through a critical period, there are hopes of a fairly large output.

Egyptian yarns remain very irregular. The difference in prices quoted for similar counts and qualities is surprising. Buying has not been at a standstill, but transactions of weight have been isolated. The undercurrent of demand in piece goods for Egypt keeps up fairly well, but increased difficulties are now being experienced in arranging sales. More business would undoubtedly be done if shipping arrangements were not so awkward.

Grey shirtings for India have been slow of sale, and only a miscellaneous business has been done in lighter materials.

China has given a little support in bleaching cloths, and some fair lots have changed hands in a variety of goods for Singapore and the Straits Settlements. In view of the uncertain outlook, some manufacturers have got as much work to go on with as they care for, and prices all round have been firmly held.

American yarns have moved off slowly from day to day at very irregular rates. Particulars against old contracts have been pressed for by producers of medium numbers. A fair business has been offering in single and two-fold yarns for India.

BULGARIA'S SILK INDUSTRY.

Mr. Murphy, United States Consul at Sofia, gave an interesting outline of the silk industry in Bulgaria in a recent report.

The first silk factory in Bulgaria was established at Stanimaka about 1888, he writes. The modest capital invested, which was entirely American, was insufficient, and after struggling for a few years the establishment was forced to close. At that time spun silk had to be imported, the silkworm, the culture of which had been a prosperous industry in Bulgaria for a century, having become practically extinct from the ravages of the pebrine.

Other factories started up later with more success, keeping pace with the revival of silkworm culture. These establishments, three of which are located at Adrianople and two at Dimotika, have enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity. They turn out a good quality of silk, which is almost entirely disposed of in the home market. There is every reason to believe that, with sufficient capital and the application of modern methods of production, the silk industry of Bulgaria would become a most profitable industry.

Favourable Conditions.

The conditions are most favourable for raising silkworms—an ideal climate and splendid groves of mulberry trees covering many miles of territory. Besides, the Government gives an annual subsidy to the grower of 3 dollars for every hundred mulberry trees, and has established special courses of study in the silkworm culture at the National Gymnasia at Vratza and Sadovo. It has likewise established cocoon markets at Philippopolis, Tatar-Pazardjik, Adrianople, Svilen, Xanthi, Soflu, Dimotika, Vratza, and several other places, and it is announced officially that the Agricultural Bank (under Government control) will purchase vast quantities of cocoons this year.

It is likewise officially announced that the Government, in its anxiety for the development of the silkworm industry, will proceed to take possession of all private mulberry groves that are found upon inspection to be improperly cared for, and will instal custodians who thoroughly understand modern methods of culture.

In 1878, the year of Bulgaria's liberation, over 5,000 one-ounce boxes of silkworm eggs were produced. The amount had increased in 1907 to 26,649 boxes, in 1909 to 61,367, and in the present year, from January 1 to March 31, 46,000 boxes have been the output. As for the cocoons, it has been ascertained that the production in 1887 was 280,000 kilos, valued at £26,920; in 1897, 500,000 kilos, valued at £38,480; and in 1907, 2,000,000 kilos, valued at £192,300. Since that year the annual production has averaged 2,500,000 kilos, valued at £384,600. From official reports it is ascertained that fully 50,000 families are supported, at least in part, by the cocoon industry.

WHEAT IN EGYPT.

The current number of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* contains an interesting article by Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, or the Egyption Ministry of Agriculture, on the "Production of Wheat in Egypt." Mr. Dudgeon is of opinion that so long as Egypt finds cotton her most remunerative crop no considerable extension of the area devoted to wheat or other cereals will take place. It is possible that by the development of intensive cultivation an increase in the yield per acre of cereals may occur, though this increase is hardly likely to do more than keep pace with the growing consumption of wheat and other cereals in the country itself. It is interesting to note that in 1914-15 there was for the first time a surplus of cereals of about 27,475 tons produced in Egypt. This appears to have been used for the military forces in the country.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Agricultural Machinery for Greece.

A correspondent writes that as a result of Thessaly having now returned to normal conditions, the demand for agricultural machinery and implements this autumn and next year will be very great. The statement is quite correct, although the fact is that not only in Thessaly, but in all agricultural districts of the Balkan States there has been an unsatisfied demand for such machinery from the time the Balkan war ended. The remarks of the correspondent, however, as regards the prevalent system of agriculture in Thessaly, may be discouraging to manufacturers intending to do business in that market; for in a country where "the prevalent system is primitive to a large degree, and there is *now* a desire on the part of farmers and landowners to discard the old wooden plough, which to-day is practically identical with the plough that was used there 3,000 years ago!" the prospects of introducing modern machinery and implements, and doing business, are not so very hopeful as in a country where modern systems of agriculture, and up-to-date machinery are well understood and used. And such, as the latter category, is Thessaly. At the time of her annexation to Greece in 1882, the very extensive lands and large fertile estates belonging to Turks were bought by rich Greeks living abroad. These hastened to send there competent engineers, agriculturists and practical men, with the most modern agricultural machinery and implements, mostly of British manufacture, introducing, thus, new systems of cultivation, machinery and practices which have ever since been followed by other landowners and farmers in that province as well as in other districts of Greece with success. Ploughs made by well known firms at Ipswich, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Suffolk, etc., have soon replaced the plough of Heriod to which the correspondent refers above, and which perhaps is still being used in some out of the way corner of Thessaly by poor farmers. The monopoly of the British plough, however, was of short duration. The indifference, to say the least, of their manufacturers gave ample opportunity to their German competitors to step in and capture the plough market in Thessaly, as well as in other parts of Greece, and the Americans to almost monopolise the harvesters of all types, while great Britain is still leading in the supply of thrashing machines.

There is undoubtedly a great demand in Greece for ploughs of all classes, harrows, sowing machines, harvesters, thrashing machines, flour mills (for fine country flour) and small tractors, and as the time when farmers and landowners realise their crop is approaching there may be a special demand for prompt delivery on cash terms.

Geology of Oilfields.

From geological evidence the following explanation of the petroleum formation in England appears to be the most rational. Upwards of a quarter of a million years ago beds of sand accumulated in shallow water near their existing continents, just as at present sand is being deposited round the English coasts. In many cases decaying animal and vegetable refuse was buried along with the sand, and, after many centuries, the whole accumulation was submerged deep in the sea by *some* great earth movement, compared with which modern earthquakes are insignificant. Deposition still went on, but the character of the deposit was changed, very fine silt being deposited instead of sand. The layer of silt and mud, after an enormous lapse of time, formed beds of clay and shale. It may be mentioned that a similar process of deposition is going on to-day, sand being deposited near the coast, while fine mud and silt are carried by ocean currents into deeper water before they fall to the bottom. In the course of hundreds of centuries the animal and vegetable refuse, protected from contact with air, has undergone a complete chemical change, the chief result of which has been the formation of petroleum and the natural gas associated by it. An impermeable layer of shale or clay on top of the oil-bearing sand is necessary for the accumulation of petroleum, otherwise in the course of centuries it would evaporate.

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MOROCCAN PRODUCTS.

Important Mineral Resources in the Spanish Zone.

Much has been done to develop the native resources of Morocco under Spanish influence. Roads have been extended, harbour and port works advanced, and a permanent exposition established in Melilla by the Centros Comerciales Hispano-Marroquies. Representatives of the Spanish Government and the Spanish press attended the opening in 1916 and commented favourably upon the display of products by 800 Spanish exhibitors.

Among the products of Melilla in 1916 were 2,975 metric tons of wheat, 3,838 tons of straw, 14,659 tons of barley, 422 tons of oats, 385 tons of corn, 58 tons of chick-peas, 142 tons of horse beans, and 187 tons of grapes. The agricultural possibilities in Spanish North Africa are excellent; fertile land is found in Larache, Rio Martin, Ceuta, and Tetuan. With slight effort, grapes, olives, almonds, and oranges could be raised in commercial quantities, and there are vast plains suitable for the cultivation of sugar beets, cotton, and tobacco.

Mineral Resources.

The mineral resources of the Spanish zone in Africa are valuable. About 100,000 tons of different ores are shipped from the various ports annually, the district of El Rif leading in this production.

In 1914 was formed the Spanish Company of Colonization, to procure capital and promote investments in all kinds of economic activity in Spanish North Africa and also encourage colonization. Rights were acquired on about 120,000 acres at Dahir del Garet in the vicinity of Monte Arrui. Four-fifths of this land is susceptible of cultivation and the remainder is adapted for forestation. The company provides for three groups of colonization, classified as agricultural colonization, public-service work and construction, and city works, each having its sub-divisions.

Much has been done to facilitate the import of Spanish merchandise into Spanish possessions in North Africa. In February, 1916, the customs duty on sugar from the Peninsula was removed, with the provision that sugar should not be re-exported without the payment of a tax. Before the war German, French, and English merchandise was imported in considerable volume, but now the Spanish exporter has less competition and the products of the Peninsula are assuming a leading place in the Moroccan market.

EXPORTS OF SULPHUR FROM SICILY

There was a marked falling off in exports of sulphur, both crude and refined, from Catania as well as from all other parts of Sicily for the first three months of 1917. The exports from Catania during the first quarter of 1916 were 40,976 metric tons as against 12,372 tons during the first quarter of 1917. During the 1916 period Sicily's total exportation was 151,382 tons as against 39,673 tons for 1917.

BAGHDAD PROBLEMS.

Some Debts that will Never be Recovered.

Writing recently on the Baghdad credit system, Mr. C. F. Brissel, the United States Consul in the city, remarked that the question of granting credit for a considerable period of time has been a noticeable and growing factor in foreign trade for a number of years past, not only in Baghdad and along the Persian Gulf, but also along the West Coast of Africa and in China. It has been stated that in Persian Gulf trade and the trade of the West African Coast, the advent of German merchants who granted longer credits than those formerly given by the British merchants is the reason for the excessive credits extended; but I am inclined to believe that economic pressure has had much to do with the development of the present conditions. Certainly Baghdad's credit system is much older than ten or fifteen years; in fact the local system seems to be an integral part of the commercial life of this city and the surrounding vicinity.

Credit in Import Trade.

There is scarcely any business done for cash except from the last seller to the consumer. Shipments of freight from England to Baghdad usually require two months; and if there is a considerable quantity of freight congested at Busreh, the delay between Busreh and Baghdad may prolong the period. There are thus two months of credit required. While there is much cash in Baghdad, it does not pass freely and the consignee of the goods in Baghdad often delays payment for a considerable period after the date his bill is due by means of a *compiala*. That is a promissory note and runs from four to twelve months, or perhaps longer. In addition, many Baghdad merchants finance their businesses by borrowing comparatively large sums from foreigners here and paying 8 to 10 per cent. interest, giving a *compiala*.

War Credit Conditions.

It is impossible to say just how much money was out in *compialas* at the outbreak of the war. The business community of Baghdad is not large, and if £300,000 was so placed it represents a very large proportion of the capital of many of the firms operating in Baghdad, including the personal funds of many business men and others in the city.

At the outbreak of the war the moratorium was declared and only 5 per cent. per month was to be paid. This, however, applies only to merchants in the city, for the agricultural population who buy oil and pumps can not pay, as their crops were not exported by reason of a military measure taken by the Ottoman Government. Then, too, the Ottoman Government closed all the British business firms and issued an order that no debts due to British subjects by Ottoman subjects should be paid.

Those who had out large sums in *compialas* thus face a most serious situation. Many men have been sent to the war and may never come back, hence their *compialas* may never be collected. The British firms who had large sums out may find, upon endeavouring to resume business, that those who owe the *compialas* are dead or bankrupt, and no collections or only small ones can be made on the papers formerly considered good.

A Glasgow steamer (name unknown, but believed to belong to the Clan Line) has been sunk in the Mediterranean through collision with an Italian vessel, the "Europe." Eight sailors were drowned; the rest of the crew have been brought to Gibraltar.

BANK OF BRITISH WEST AFRICA, Limited.

Established 1894.

Bankers to the Governments of the Colonies, of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Nigeria.

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LIVERPOOL OFFICE: WEST AFRICA HOUSE, 25, WATER STREET.
MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

Directors:

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P. | GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
D. O. HENRIQUES, Esq., J.P. | SIR OWEN PHILIPPS, K.C.M.G., M.P.
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Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON.

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The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

Lionda and Company, Ltd.,

34, Fenchurch Street, LONDON, E.C. 3.

Tel. Address: "EXPLIONDAC FEN, LONDON."
During the War, Tel. Address: "LIONDA THIRTYFOUR FENCHURCH, LONDON."

Export Department:

Heavy and Light Chemicals, Colonial Spices, Metals, Dried and Salted Fish, Matches, etc., Paper of any description, and all kinds of British, Scandinavian, Dutch and American Produce.

Hellenic, Sudanese and Egyptian Produce:

Are always Buyers of Currants, Figs, Olive Oil, Locust Beans, etc., Gum, Senna Leaves, Beeswax, Hides and Skins, Cotton Seed, Onions, etc., etc.

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British and Neutral Steamers chartering effected on the Baltic. Insurances of any description effected through Lloyd's and Government.

Coal Exporters, &c.

SALONICA HOUSE: Postal Address: G. N. LIONDA, SALONICA, GREECE.

Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

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TRADE NOTES.

The British Consul-General at Algiers (Mr. B. Cave, C.B.) reports that an agent in that city desires to obtain agencies for Algeria for United Kingdom manufacturers or exporters of all classes of textiles. United Kingdom manufacturers or exporters of textiles, desirous of appointing an agent in Algeria, may obtain the name and address of the inquirer on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2. In making application the reference number (291) should be quoted.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to May 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to June 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, May, 1917		3,257,804	500,000
Do. do. do 1916		2,830,202	2,475,000
Estimated Receipts for 5 months (Law of Control)		12,041,666	4,458,333
Actual do. do., 1917		12,408,121	4,952,000
Do. do. do., 1916		14,647,925	12,025,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 5 months	1917	+ 366,455	+ 493,666
	1916	+ 2,606,258	+ 7,566,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold both from Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average ate.

BAY SEED FOR EGYPT.

Last August a quantity of bay seed was sent from the Botanic Station, Montserrat, to Egypt and East Africa, and in connection with the seed sent to Egypt interesting results have now to be recorded. The seed was sent packed in two different ways. First of all, 5½ oz. of seed were despatched in damp charcoal, 4 oz. of water being added to 1 lb. of charcoal; shortly after, two more tins were sent, one with water at 3 oz. to 1 lb. of charcoal, and the other at 2 oz. to 1 lb. of charcoal. The seed was received in Egypt towards the end of September. Those packed in damp charcoal containing the larger proportion of water germinated *en route*, but seedlings were saved and have been established. The seed in the other packages containing lesser amounts of water arrived without having germinated, but on being sown no plants developed. No particulars concerning the supply of seed sent to East Africa have yet been received. It will be remembered that bay seed in the ordinary way very quickly loses its vitality. The method of sending germinating seed is of interest, for it is that which is made use of in sending hevea seed by post over long distances, and similarly in transporting living sugar-cane.

The Egyptian Government has nominated Sir Henry McMahon as their representative on the board of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields, in place of the Hon. Hugo Baring, who is serving in the British Army.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street, E.C.,
Thursday.

There has again been a large business doing in Egyptian shares, without very much fluctuation in quotations. Government bonds are firm and unchanged, with a small business passing round the quoted prices.

In Bank shares, National Banks have not been very active, but some transactions have been effected between 16¾ and 17. On the other hand, Agriculturals have been a very active spot, with business at one time as high as 6⅞, but finishing unchanged at 6 7-16. There have also been some transactions in Anglo-Egyptians round 13, whilst several hundred Land Banks have changed hands in the neighbourhood of 6⅛.

A small business has been done in Delta Light Railway pref. at about 6⅛. In land shares, Aboukir has been quite a feature, rising from 18s. 6d. to 21s., and finishing 2s. up at 20s. 6d. Allotments have been picked up round 3, and some transactions have taken place in Behéra at about 12¾. Delta Lands have been dealt in pretty largely, and close 3d. firmer at 14s., while New Egyptian have changed hands freely between 13s. 9d. and 14s.

In Egyptian and Foreign Trust and in Sidi Salem some quiet buying has been going on round 7s. 6d. and 17s 6d. respectively. Gharbieh Lands have advanced a further 1s. 6d. to 33s., at about which price some business was put through; and Union Foncière has been done to the extent of some few hundred shares between 2 and 2⅛.

There has also been a fair amount of business passing in United Egyptian Lands between 1s. and 1. 3d. In miscellaneous shares, some few hundred Egyptian Markets have changed hands round 26s. 6d., and there have been many transactions in Salt and Soda, which finished about unchanged at 27s. Khedivial Mail are unchanged, but are looking a firmer market than for some time past. In Greek securities business has been at a complete standstill, and prices are all unchanged.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The Egyptian Markets, Ltd., have declared a final dividend of 5 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. (less income-tax at 4s. 6d. in the £) for the year ended December 31, 1916, on the ordinary shares, payable on and after August 10, 1917, at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Clements Lane, London, E.C.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended July 20, 1917.

	1916. £E.		1917 £E.
July 10–July 20	4,896	..	5,118
April 1–July 20	51,845	..	59,028

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Aug. 17.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84½	84½
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	73½	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	54½	54½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fmg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	88½xd	88½xd
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 7/16	6 7/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13 7/16	13
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7½	7½	7½
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6½	6½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	16½	16½
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6½	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 7/16	18/6	20/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12¾	12¾
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	14/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	7/6	7/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	31/6	33/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/9	13/10½
Sidi Salem Co.	7/8	17/6	17/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2⅛	2 1/16
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/1½	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 7/16	12 7/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 3/16	26/6xd	26/6xd
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1½	27/-	27/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅝	35/-	36/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON AUGUST 4.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	15⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New	Frs.	80
" Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	82
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85½
Privilégiée		76
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 7/16
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	—
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	166
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		24 6
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	710
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	336
" 1903 "	Frs.	264
" 1911 "	Frs.	267
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		5/16

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(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

Accounts opened with traders and private persons. Every kind of Banking Business transacted.

Offices in Egypt at Cairo (Head Office), Alexandria, Assiout, Assuan, Benha, Beni-Suef, Chibin-el-Kom, Damanhur, Fayoum, Keneh, Luxor, Mansourah, Minieh, Mousky (Cairo), Port Said, Sohag, Tantah, Zagazig, and in the Sudan at Khartoum, Port Sudan, Suakim, and Wad Medani.

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PAID-UP CAPITAL AND RESERVE - - £530,000.

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Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:
AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
J. C. GEORGES BOUILLAT, Esq. J. S. HASKELL, Esq.
Lt. Col. J. LEIGH WOOD, C.M.G. G. BROMLEY-MARTIN, Esq.
EMILE FRANCQUI, Esq. SIR EDWARD SASSOON, Bart.

The Bank issues Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, negotiates and collects Bills of Exchange, and transacts Banking and Agency business in connection with the East on terms to be ascertained on application.

Deposits are received for 1, 2, or 3 years, at 5 per cent. per annum, and on Current Accounts interest is allowed at 2 per cent. per annum on the minimum monthly balances.

F. H. SUTTON, *Manager.*

IONIAN BANK, LIMITED.

INCORPORATED 1839.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL - - -	£600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - -	485,580
RESERVE FUND - - - -	65,000

HEAD OFFICE—
25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.4.

BRANCHES—
Athens, Patras, Corfu, Cephalonia, Zante, Piræus, Tripolitza, Nauplia, Salonica, Syra, Chios, and Mitylene, in Greece; and at Alexandria, Tantah, Mehalla-Kebir, Mansourah, Fayoum, Wasta, Beni-Suef, Faschen; and Minieh, in Egypt.

Every description of Banking Business undertaken on most favourable terms.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK, LIMITED,

LONDON, ALEXANDRIA, CAIRO, MALTA, GIBRALTAR, TANTAH, MANSURA, BENI-SUEF, ZAGAZIG, PORT SAID, and KHARTOUM.

Subscribed Capital - -	£1,500,000
Paid up Capital - -	500,000
Reserve - - - - -	690,000

The Bank undertakes every description of Banking Business on most favourable conditions.

THE IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA

(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

CAPITAL (fully paid) - - -	£850,000
RESERVE - - - - -	£100,000
Reserve Liability of Shareholders -	£1,000,000

London Office: 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.
Chief Office in Persia: Teheran.

Branches at Ahwaz, Birjand, Bushire, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohammerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Sabzavar, Shiraz, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd. Agency at Busreh.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers, and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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MODERATE FARES.

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OF FAST TWIN SCREW STEAMERS
SAILING FORTNIGHTLY FROM
LIVERPOOL
TO
CEYLON, BURMA, and SOUTHERN INDIA.
SAILINGS FORTNIGHTLY, AS ARRANGED.

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THE NEAR EAST

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 330.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Some account of the great battle which was fought on the Roumanian front during the first fortnight in August has now been received. It is clear—indeed, there is direct evidence of the fact from the correspondence and admissions of captured officers—that the Germans intended to make an end once for all of Roumania in the war; the aim of Mackensen was to smash their army or to drive it disorganised into Russia, and to occupy the whole of the kingdom. It is probable that this was to be but the prelude to a further thrust which might have given Germany Kieff and Odessa, and the control of the rich countries that lie between.

The Roumanians have put up an extraordinarily brave and so far successful resistance. They have lost very little ground, and part of what has been lost during one day's incidental operations has often been recovered on another. The greatest battle in which Roumanian troops have ever been engaged is giving the Roumanian army the most distinguished laurels it has ever earned. The defensive has been a magnificent success, and if it can be maintained, it will set the bounds to the German advance in the east.

Unfortunately, the question of holding the front on this section is not exclusively a Roumanian one, or it might be answered more hopefully. The Roumanian troops only hold part of the line, and the Russian troops further west are not to be depended on. One of the characteristically frank Russian communiqués admits that the Russian infantry began their retreat without waiting to be attacked; and the speeches at the Moscow Conference have been full of sensational revelations of relaxed discipline and mutiny at the front. The whole line is imperilled by the loss of spirit in the Russian army: the grain-growing districts of the south are in danger, and in the north Riga is insecure and the road to Petrograd lies open. The whole position is deplorable.

Everything is being done by the authorities to restore order, but there are so many authorities that their orders conflict, and few are obeyed. Moreover, the process of disintegration continues, and the many allusions made at the Conference to the movements in Finland and the Ukraine in favour of independence show how serious the position is now recognised to be. It is notable that the German Press is devoting a great deal of attention to these activities, and remarking how pleasant it would be to make peace on the basis of a friendly Russia, an independent Courland, Lithuania and (Russian) Poland. The oracles of Berlin hint that it would not take long for Russia to see that her road in future lay with Germany against the Anglo-Saxon tyranny of England and America. We are likely to hear a great deal more of this in the future.

It is hardly likely that Russia, which has amid all her difficulties again repudiated the idea of a separate peace, will walk into this particular mantrap, for the German publicists who have set it have, after their own peculiar fashion, pointed out how rotten is the bait with which it is equipped. The separatist tendencies in Russia—the position in Finland may be different—are essentially towards independence; they are anti-imperial in the sense that they do not intend to be part of a great Russian centralised empire, but they have no desire to exchange that to become in effect if not in name a part of a German Empire which would embrace the whole eastern part of Europe. That is now admittedly the whole German idea.

It pleases the Germans to think that France is no longer a great Power—was there ever a more incredible instance of their blindness?—and that Germany, admitting a drawn war on the western front, could enlarge the Mitteleuropa idea so as to include Russia and the whole of the Balkans. These could be then welded together in an economic alliance, of which the head would be Berlin; political control would, of course, follow, and in a decade or so this great union of Powers under Prussian direction would be mobilised against England. The calculation is that its power would be irresistible.

The Berlin programme is not one to appeal to Russians, who would merely renounce a Slav control for a Teutonic control, and, as a series of petty States, whose divisions would be carefully maintained by the Germans, would be helpless in the hands of their new masters. The whole of the Balkans would come under German-Austrian control—it is significant that the Balkan railways are now controlled entirely by Prus-

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sians—and any chance of the Balkan nationalities achieving their independence would be gone for a century. Even Bulgaria might regret the iron hand of her ally after she had experienced a few years of it.

The position in Palestine has not undergone any real change. No announcement has been made by the British Commander, but the Turks report an artillery and cavalry attack at Beersheba. They state that we retired precipitately, but as they can only claim the capture of four horses and several rifles they can scarcely suggest a victory, even in a communiqué. On the other hand, it is reported through a Dutch newspaper that Marshal Falkenhayn has visited Palestine. There is nothing very improbable in the news, even though it appears in a neutral journal which is not usually the vehicle of German military information; but the deduction that his presence there is conclusive evidence of a strong Turko-German offensive is not necessarily sound.

It is generally believed, and there is evidence to support the belief, that the Germans have been urging the Turks to resume the offensive on a large scale. It is very possible, too, that the Turks, whom none would accuse of reluctance to fight, have not needed much persuasion, and that they have been considerably helped by Prussia, both in reorganising their armies and in the supply of the much-needed material. At the same time, it must be remembered that the Turks have the choice of two fronts for their offensive; that they have lost Baghdad, but not Jerusalem, and that the loss of Mesopotamia was a far more serious blow to their prestige than the loss of southern Palestine. Moreover, the withdrawal of the Russian army in the former, small though their forces were, will not have been without its effect on Turkey's attitude.

In Germany itself there are two views as to the question. On the one hand, there is the Berlin-Byzantium-Baghdad school, which looks towards the Persian Gulf, and will certainly not rest while there is any chance of recapturing Baghdad, the loss of which was very seriously felt in those Oriental and financial circles there which are heavily engaged in that colossal enterprise. On the other hand, there is the older strategic school which looks upon Egypt as the vital centre of the British Empire, and which holds that a blow there would not only be easier for Germany to deliver, because it is less remote from headquarters, but also more effective. (In some ways, however, this argument is countered by the fact that a blow there would also be easier for England to parry.) This strategic school is naturally enforced by the colonial school, which, having given up hope of expansion in the Pacific, is now devoting all its energies to convincing the Government and the people of Germany that a great Central African Empire is not merely a possibility, but a necessity. The colonial school is not perhaps very influential, but it has won some support from the powerful industrial or National Liberal party, which is perturbed about the supply of raw materials for German manufacturers after the war. It is quite certain that these various parties have represented their views in the proper quarters, but it does not in the least follow that the German High Command will act in accordance with their wishes.

Mr. Athelstan Riley has written a very important and timely letter to the daily Press pointing out the danger of German schemes of conquest in the Near and Middle East. As one who is intimately acquainted with the countries about which he speaks, his warning that Germany may aim at drawing the war in the West in order to win a great objective in the East—a warning that has already been given in these columns—is very necessary. It is all the more appropriate in view of the fact that various Socialist parties in this country, whose names appear to be chosen on the principle that the fewer the members the more imposing should be the title, have been issuing various peace programmes suggesting that the Turkish Empire should be left intact. These ideas (which are combined with the strange confession that even Alsace-Lorraine should be abandoned) have no chance of influencing public opinion in this country; nor in America, where President Wilson's firm reply to the Pope, although it does not specifically mention the Balkans or Asia Minor, retracts not a jot from his previous standpoint of relief for oppressed nationalities. But it is nevertheless well that Mr. Riley should have stated the situation in so cogent a form.

King Alexander has done well to pay a personal visit to Salonika, and thus to testify to his sympathy with the unfortunate inhabitants of that town. He has a difficult position to fill these days. No doubt M. Venizelos is adopting the right course in withholding nothing from the youthful Sovereign. He has announced in the Chamber that monarchy in Greece is on its final trial. The sincerity of his desire to make a success of it is above suspicion; but the bluntness of the declaration does not render King Alexander's task the easier. It will call for a very old head on his young shoulders to allow him to make a friend of his Prime Minister, and if M. Venizelos cannot fill that part, there is a danger that someone less worthy will seek to occupy the post. When there was no thought of his occupying the throne, Prince Alexander was more conspicuous for his partiality for youthful companions than for the pleasure with which he followed the advice of his elders. He has been called upon to make a very sudden and a very complete break with the past. Indeed, the wrench is such that he can hardly be expected to bring it off single-handed without a wise counsellor always at his elbow. M. Venizelos, it is to be hoped, will not lose sight of this fact, but will recognise the value of unofficial as well as of official advisers to the King.

The debates in the Greek Chamber have been full of interest this last week. After the revelations that have been made, any shadow of doubt that could have remained in even the most prejudiced quarters as to the intention of King Constantine's policy must be dissipated. Prince George's urgent and moving appeal to join the Entente Powers, to avoid "the suicide of the nation," left him utterly unmoved. The lie that Greece need not have fulfilled her treaty obligations to Serbia because Serbia had already refused Greece military support in May, 1914, was also refuted. When Greece asked for her support at that time in the event of war against Turkey, Serbia replied on June 3 that she recognised it was her duty to fulfil her obligations, and took care to inform the Grand Vizier that what affected Greece also affected Serbia. It is almost incredible that such allegations should have been made—or believed.

Some further information has also been given as to the method of communication between King Constantine and Berlin. It seems that at first communication was made viâ Monastir, and beyond Sorovitch the telegraph line was divided and carried secretly on to Monastir by two routes, one of which followed the railway, the other going by way of Kenali. These lines were used by the German, Austrian and Bulgarian Ministers at Athens to communicate with their Governments, and Berlin was also given information concerning the army of the Orient. It would not be surprising to learn that this line was also used by Berlin to keep in touch with their submarine bases in Greece. It is to be noted that only last week a German naval officer dressed as a peasant was arrested in Laconia; he is said to have been the organiser of the system of provisioning the German submarines on that coast, and to have been helped by two deputies of the old régime, who are to be prosecuted by M. Venizelos. No doubt there are others connected with this submarine traffic still at large. But now that they have lost the protection of the Court they will scarcely be able to do much more mischief.

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One point in the letter of M. Venizelos to King Constantine in 1914, now at last published, is worthy of special attention. "We know," he said, "even from the mouth of Count von Quadt (the German Minister to Greece in 1914), that Germany, in agreement with the fixed idea of Austria, is inclined, in the event of a complete victory, to create a Great Bulgaria, stretching as far as the Adriatic, to serve as a bulwark against Slavism, since the discovery recently made in Germany, according to which the Bulgarians are not Slavs but Tartars."

One need not, perhaps, devote too much attention to the question of racial origin; Prussian ethnographical discoveries are apt to coincide with the necessities of *Real-politik* in the most happy fashion, and the discovery that the Bulgars are Tartars was probably subsequent to the much more certain evidence that King Ferdinand was inclined to throw in his lot with the Central Powers. But here again King Constantine would not listen to his adviser; conceivably he anticipated that some German university would presently discover that Greece was really the original home of the Teuton, with the inevitable consequences.

Some terrible stories are quoted in the *Basrah Times* as to the Turkish treatment of subject races. To some of these, such as the method of deporting and assassinating Armenians at Erzerum, we have already referred; but it is now related that Jews in Baghdad, who were suspected of having trafficked in notes, were summoned secretly to the Court of the Prefect of Police at night. They were confined by day and taken out after dark and tortured; finally, they were murdered and thrown into the Tigris. The nineteen Jews in question have never been seen alive since, although the bodies of five of them, one of whom was headless, have been washed up by the river. The Turkish argument appears to have been that by no milder methods could they have given discredited paper the value of gold—murder as a means of influencing economic laws, however, will hardly prove a very effectual method. Their idea was that if they killed one or two of the Jews, the remainder would soon come to their senses and stop the trafficking in notes.

Beyond a vague knowledge that there was trouble on the North-West frontier of India, the British public had no very exact information at the time regarding the extent of the disaffection among the border tribes, which was understood to be connected in some way with enemy intrigues. A Statement issued from the India Office on the "moral and material progress and conditions of India" during the year 1915-16 gives a more comprehensive picture of the anxieties under which the Government of India laboured during the earlier part of the war. The story of the steps taken by Turco-German agents to corrupt the Afghans has already been told. The measure of the success they achieved is now set forth in some detail by the Statement. By March, 1915, attacks by the people of the Afghan province of Khost, on the Tochi and Kurram, had been engineered by the fanatics, who had been fed on tales to the effect that the British Government was destined to disappear, and that a great Islamic renaissance was beginning. In April 4,000 Mohmands invaded the Peshawur district. Repulsed with indecisive results, they returned in June with reinforcements, and the unrest spread to Swat and Bunar. By August the employment of troops on a large scale became necessary. The following month a force of 10,000 Mohmands was operating at one point, and the losses among the tribesmen assumed more serious proportions. Fighting and demonstrations continued into November, and the Mohmands carried out a series of raids in the Peshawur district in December. But the arrest of cis-border Mohmands suspected of assisting the raiders put an end to the trouble. Throughout all these events on the Peshawur border, it is stated, the loyal adhesion of the Afridis to the Government was of the greatest value, while in all districts real proofs of devotion to Government were evoked.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 2.

Garden Party at the Residency.

The High Commissioner and Lady Wingate gave another garden party, on Saturday last, at Bulkeley. It was even more numerously attended and much more representative than the first one, held about a month ago, owing to the fact that on this occasion the Moslem element was able to be present. (The last garden party took place during the fast of Ramadan). Amongst the guests on Saturday last were T.H. Princes Ahmed Fuad, Kemal-ed-Dine, Toussoun and Ismail Daoud. Both Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate were most indefatigable in the manner in which they moved about amongst, conversed with, and looked after their several hundred guests, and all those who were present spent a most delightful afternoon.

Bairam Feast and Our Turkish Prisoners.

On the occasion of the feast of Bairam, the Ministry of Wakfs, on the initiative of the British military authorities, delegated various of its preachers to visit each of the camps where Turkish Moslem prisoners are detained, with instructions to carry out the religious ceremonies customary on the first day of the feast. Needless to say, this action on the part of the British authorities has profoundly impressed the Egyptian Moslem element, which has not hesitated to comment in most favourable terms on the generosity and religious tolerance displayed by the British towards their enemies.

An Egyptian Medal for Merit.

In view of the fact that there are many services rendered to the State and society which deserve some public recognition, but for which the existing orders and honours cannot be awarded, H.H. the Sultan has decided to strike a special medal called "the Medal for Acts of Merit," which can be conferred on any person, without distinction of sex or nationality, who may distinguish himself or herself by long service to the State or by a special act, whether rendered to the State or to society. There will be two medals, one in silver and one in bronze. The medal will be circular, having on the obverse the Sultan's Arms with the date A.H. 1335, the year of the institution of the medal, and on the reverse in the middle the inscription "Sultan of Egypt" with "Medal for Act of Merit" above, and "He who serves best, serves most," below, and the name of the recipient engraved underneath. The new medal will take precedence immediately after the other decorations at present conferred, and all War Medals awarded by the Sultan. His Highness has issued a rescript and decree ordering the new medal to be struck.

The Pay of the Smaller Government Official.

As a result of the various petitions presented to the Government by its junior officials, a committee has been appointed to investigate the question and report on what steps, if any, should be taken to mitigate the lot of the smaller paid Government officials, who, as already mentioned in this correspondence, have been and still are badly hit by the great rise in the cost of living. The committee has already held several meetings, and has, it is understood, reached an advanced stage in its deliberations. It is generally admitted that if assistance is afforded all those classes which are in need of it, *i.e.*, all officials up to and including those drawing £E200 per annum, the cost to the State will be a considerable one, but it is considered that no matter how large the amount involved may be, the Government should make the utmost effort to provide the money, as the situation of many of the officials in question has become deplorable through no fault of their own.

The Foodstuffs Question.

Notwithstanding the reinsertion of cereals in the tariff at the current market price, and an intimation that in subsequent weekly tariff lists those prices will be gradually reduced until they reach what the Government considers to be a reasonable figure, there are indications that holders of stocks are still withholding them from the market in the hopes that the hands of the Government will be forced and higher prices will again be fixed. An interview, which the Prime Minister has

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had with the editor of *Al Ahali*, and which has just been published by that paper, should, however, effectually shatter the hopes of these "cornerers." H. E. Rushdi Pasha clearly affirms the intention of the Government further to reduce cereal prices and keep them at a lower level than at present, and he adds a significant warning that the military authorities have the power to commandeer at tariff prices all stocks that are being withheld. With regard to future crops it is interesting to note that the local press is becoming alive to the situation, and that more than one journal is foreshadowing legislation in regard to the areas to be cultivated during the next agricultural year.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Occupied Territory.

For reasons which it is difficult to explain, the German authorities, from the very first day of their occupation, have systematically cut off the invaded Roumanian territory from the rest of the world. Under the pretext that the Government to which they were accredited no longer existed, the neutral Ministers who had remained in Bucharest were requested to leave. Postal communication with neutral and Allied countries was practically prohibited; and there was no means of securing the papers which appeared in the invaded territory. The old organ of the German community, *Bukarester Tageblatt*, was resuscitated after the fall of Bucharest, and for the benefit and enlightenment of the native population a new daily, *Gazeta Bucurestilor*, is being issued from the offices and press of the *Adevarul*.

Isolated copies of these publications sometimes escape across the frontier, and from them and occasional information in Bulgarian and Austrian papers one gets a glimpse of the life and activity in invaded Wallachia. The country is administered by a German general, with an Austrian colonel as second-in-command, but it is interesting to note that many public services have been placed under the direction of Roumanians, responsible, of course, to the German Governor. One gathers, for instance, that an ex-Minister, M. Virgil Arion, has been placed at the head of the Department of Education. Many schools have been re-opened, primarily those in which German teaching is provided. In the German schools at Ploeshti and elsewhere special classes are run for Roumanian children desirous of learning German.

All technical and mechanical installations are in the service of the military authorities, who also supervise and regulate agricultural labour, fix prices, and determine the distribution of the various products. Commerce is at a complete standstill. The numerous advertisements tend to convey an impression that life was never so comfortable and enjoyable as under the rule of the German general: there are endless announcements of theatrical performances, concerts, and cinematographs, many of the performances being in German. A special company from Vienna is amusing the population of Bucharest with the latest success of the well-known composer of musical comedies, Fall, "The Rose of Stamboul." A somewhat different picture is suggested by the lists of persons fined or imprisoned for having disregarded the *Befehle*, which one guesses are many and multifarious; in Bucharest alone 192 persons were sentenced for not having complied with the regulations concerning the billeting of German troops.

It is not surprising to find that the Roumanian politicians who have stayed behind take but a small share in the public life of the town. The journalists whose accommodating imagination supplies the material for that "official" independent Press are either totally unknown or personages whom the German occupation has at last provided with an opportunity to publish signed articles. There are perennial rumours of revolutions which have taken place, or are about to take place, in Jassy, and the news of the deposition of King Ferdinand by the Russians reappears from time to time with a somewhat touching consistency.

The Death of M. Maiorescu.

A few weeks back M. Titu Maiorescu, the well-known Roumanian scholar and politician, died in Bucharest, at the age of seventy-seven. He was one of the few "pro-Germans" who remained in Bucharest when that town had to be abandoned by the Roumanian armies, and now he has died in the midst of a foreign invader, while the country which gave him birth, Transylvania, is groaning under Magyar oppression, and the town which saw his intellectual awakening, Jassy, shelters the leaders and the supporters of the broken Roumanian nation. That, in a certain way, has been the doing of Maiorescu. For it was he who, by an article of historical importance which he published in the *Deutsche Revue* of 1883, laid down the intellectual foundation for the political alliance which was to be achieved in the same year between Roumania and the Central Powers. It was a strange coincidence which made Maiorescu preside, as Prime Minister and Secretary for Foreign Affairs, over the events of 1912-1913, whose inevitable effect was the breakdown of that uncongenial connection. Having been educated in Austria and Germany, Maiorescu had undoubtedly intellectual leanings towards those countries; what made him advocate a political co-operation with them was, however, mistrust of the Russian autocratic regime. The alliance with the Central Powers he considered a necessity as a guard against Russia, but he never understood it to mean a wall between Roumania and the Western Powers. For England especially he entertained an unbounded admiration. His students well remember the enthusiasm with which he expounded the teachings of English philosophers and the praise which he bestowed upon English political organisation; and it may be mentioned here that some time before Roumania's entry into the war, while he still considered it imperative for Roumania not to embark upon hostilities against the Central Powers, Maiorescu made an intimate friend of his publish in the *Adevarul* an article which was nothing less than an Anglophile profession of faith. It is difficult to say what his attitude towards the war would have been had the Russian revolution been achieved one year earlier. That we disagreed with him in that emergency shall not prevent us from proclaiming that his character was as fine as his intellect was brilliant, and that in him Roumania loses one of her best sons.

Foreign Visitors.

After the visits of MM. Thomas and Vandervelde Jassy had the privilege of entertaining an American military mission composed of nine officers, under the leadership of General Hugh Scott. The lofty attitude adopted by President Wilson on the question of oppressed nationalities had naturally found a grateful echo in the heart of the Roumanians, and they welcomed the opportunity which was afforded them by the visit of the American officers to express their appreciation of America's policy and action. The visitors were received by the King and the Queen, were entertained at a dinner by the Prime Minister, and honoured at a special joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament. One of the most interesting incidents was a military review, at which one of the new Transylvanian regiments took part.

General News.

The dearth of small coinage which has made itself felt in many of the countries at war became especially acute in Roumania after the great retreat. A large quantity of the existing stock had remained, of course, in the occupied territory; but, in addition, there was a deficiency in the metals necessary for coining new supplies, and a continuous reduction of the available currency on account of hoarding by the rural population. The Government has, therefore, decided to print paper money for the value of ten million lei in notes of 50, 25, and 10 centimes (5d., 2½d., and 1d. respectively). Soon one will be able to afford the luxury of having a pocket full of notes.

Unfortunately, not all necessaries can be so easily multiplied. The supply of fuel remains as bad as before, notwithstanding efforts to increase the output of the Moldavian oilfields, and the supply of meat is worse than ever—so much, indeed, that, by order of the military authorities, meat may only be eaten now once a week—on Sunday—if it can be obtained. We rejoiced at hearing that a consignment of sugar had been received from Russia, and that it was to be distributed forthwith. But the well-meaning authorities decided that only those persons should be provided with sugar who had submitted to vaccination against smallpox; there was a rush upon hospitals and infirmaries, and then a tragic discovery—there was not enough serum.

The main cause was lack of transport. To improve local transport the authorities have decided that the electric tramways of Jassy are henceforth to be used only for military purposes and for the transport of goods. But we have no control over, and no possibility of improving, the means of transport outside our own boundaries. A certain improvement may be hoped for from the establishment of two Roumanian Commissions, at Petrograd and at Odessa, for the purpose of acquiring the necessary supplies for Moldavia. They are to be under the direction of a superior official attached to the Embassy in Petrograd, and will keep in contact with the Russian military authorities through the Roumanian representative at the Russian headquarters. The whole organisation is placed under the direct control of the Roumanian Minister at Petrograd. Much strenuous effort on our part and much sympathetic consideration on the part of our friends will be necessary in order to spare the Roumanian people a repetition of the misery which all had to undergo, and to which so many succumbed, last winter.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Situation in Greece.

News from Athens and Salonika has continued to cause great excitement in the Greek community. Great as the popularity of King Constantine had been, owing to his military achievements for Greece, there has always been an ardent feeling of admiration for M. Venizelos; and while the Greeks have been divided in their political views as regards the part Hellas should play in the war, a large proportion of the people and the Press has been strongly in favour of active co-operation with the Allies.

Olive Prospects.

The olive crop is likely to be only a moderate one. No tree calls more loudly for attention than the olive tree. Both berry and oil are largely consumed as food, and importation of a large quantity of both is required where there ought to be exportation. Insufficient production is due not only to failure to graft, but also to faulty methods of cultivation, and to a very injurious system of beating down, instead of gathering, the fruit; while the modes of extracting oil are antiquated and wasteful, as well as insanitary. Very little good oil is prepared, most of it being what in Europe would be sold for burning. Here again an important item in the list of island products is suffering from ignorance and neglect.

Game and Sport.

The season for game shooting is at hand, and is looked forward to by British and native alike. Hares and red-legged partridges will again be in the market, and sport, such as it now is, will be afforded to those who care for hard exercise, under a hot sun, chiefly over hilly tracts. The prospect of good sport was held out as one of the attractions of Cyprus at the time of the occupation, but expectations were doomed to considerable disappointment. Noted for sport, with hound and falcon, in the middle ages, the island now has but little to offer. Fair snipe and duck shooting can be enjoyed in a few marshes, and in cold winters plenty of woodcock visit the island. During the early years of the occupation fairly good bags could be made of partridges and hares from September onwards; but this sport has greatly deteriorated. Native "sportsmen" have increased tenfold, and more; and much of the best land has been cleared of cover and brought under vine and other cultivation. Sporting attempts were made by the late Lord John Kennedy to introduce pheasants, and by Mr. (now Sir John) Middleton to put down English partridges, but neither succeeded. A fair number of quail visit the island during the great trans-Mediterranean flights, but they are only picked up here and there. The only big game is the large-horned moufflon, or wild sheep (*ovis ophion*), which is distinct from, though it greatly resembles, the Sardinian and Corsican species. It was very soon perceived that the limited number of herds which remained in the Cyprus forests were being steadily reduced by shepherds and village poachers. Attempts were made to arrive at an approximate census, the forest staff being called upon to report the numbers of moufflon seen, and a law was passed to save them from extinction. The use of a bullet was made compulsory, and a permit, costing £1, and valid for one month, to kill one buck moufflon, could be obtained. But before long it was found necessary to prohibit shooting this game at all, except under special permission of the High Commissioner. The Cyprus hare differs but little from the English, and is much appreciated. The francolin used to be found in fair numbers in parts of the island, but this excellent bird, so abundant in many parts of Asia Minor, has also so diminished in numbers that protection by legislation became necessary.

KING ALEXANDER AT SALONIKA.

Reuter's Salonika correspondent, in a message dated August 25, says:—King Alexander arrived here this morning, and was received by the Greek authorities and General Sarrail, General Milne, and the Consular body. Guards of honour from the Allied Armies were drawn up outside the station and presented arms, the bands playing the Greek National Anthem. The crowds cheered the young King. King Alexander inspected the burnt-down parts of the town and the concentration camps and refugees. Later he received in audience General Sarrail and General Milne, and left in the evening for Athens. The Royal visit has produced a good impression and afforded the townsfolk of Salonika their first opportunity of seeing the new King.

During the year ended December 31, 1916, the Home Secretary issued certificates of readmission to British nationality to one man and one woman belonging to the Ottoman Empire.

Proclamations have been issued by General Allenby, Commander-in-Chief in Egypt, referring to lighting and landing for further safeguarding the northern coast.

THE TURANIAN MOVEMENT AND ISLAM.

References have appeared from time to time in these pages to the campaign being waged in Turkey under the present Constantinople *régime* against Islam. The following translation of an article in *El Qibla*, the Arab organ published in Mecca, throws further light on the activities of official Turkey in this direction. *El Qibla* writes:—

"We learn from the camp of H.H. the Emir Zeid that amongst the papers found in the portfolio of the brother of Ghalib Bey, District Commandant of Medina, who was killed in the recent engagement, is a circular issued by the Central Committee of the well-known 'Turk Ojaghi' Society, of which branches exist in every town and village of Turkey, as well as abroad, and whose functions are the dissemination of the Turanian doctrine and the substitution of this for Islam amongst all Turanian peoples, in order that they may thereby reduce all other Moslems to subjection to themselves and their own aims. All decisions and reports of this committee are distributed to the branch committees of the society, and to their travelling delegates, who are charged with the duty of spreading the doctrine in the country. It is beyond doubt that the paper now in question, of which a translation follows, is a resolution of this kind. We do not conceal from our readers that we have for some while past wished to abstain from discussion of the principles, aims, and intentions of the Turanians, as we are convinced that these are generally known, and we are weary of writing about these fellows; nevertheless, circumstances may at times compel us to reopen the subject, and the present document, dated April 24, 1916, furnishes one of such occasions. This is the translation:—

"'To the branches of the Turk-Ojaghi Society and the travelling delegates.

"'That monstrous figment of imagination which is known as the Community of Islam, and which has for long past stood in the way of present progress generally, and of the realization of the principles of Turanian Unity in particular, has now entered on a phase of decline and ruin. We need not apprehend from it any further danger to the execution of our hopes and principles.

"'This is abundantly shown by the state of affairs among the Moslems in India. These belong to a number of Islamic sects, being divided into the Nushiri, the Kadiani, the Wahhabi, and others. A small remainder, with whom we are now concerned, are known as "the People of the Law and the Community." We have succeeded in enlisting the services of a number of these, under the guise of the "Society of Servants of the Kaaba," this band consisting of active individuals who are skilled in explaining our utterances and proceedings and zealous in our cause; so much so that they can convince the people of India that black is white, or white black. For this purpose they have special methods which dispense them from the necessity of logical discussion or argument; they merely sow in the minds of the people the seeds which we consider suitable, and on this issue we need not count upon any general public opposition.

"'In these circumstances, the branches of our society, and the travelling delegates in the various countries, must not in future be afraid of encountering any opposition to our Turanian Community on the part of the Community of Islam, as the latter is completely decadent and no longer capable of standing in our way, or in the way of our hopes and aims.

"'The moment has arrived for openly proclaiming all those matters which we had previously advised you to keep secret for the present. Go on confidently and act in all security. Deal the final blow to those ideas and trammels which have hampered our Turanian Community for hundreds of years. Greeting to all the Brethren.

"Doubtless much of what has been published in regard to the Turanian gang has been attributed by some to prejudice, and our zeal for the Faith makes it therefore incumbent on us to reproduce this circular or resolution literally, without addition or comment, acting in accordance with the saying of the Prophet, 'Religion is in counsel with God, His Prophet, and the Moslems at large,' and in the hope that our Indian brethren will take warning by what is here attributed to them."

The Times correspondent at Athens learns from a reliable source that the authorities have arrested, at the village of Gerakis, in Laconia, a man, dressed as a peasant, who was proved to be a German naval officer, and who had on him a very large sum of money. He was the organiser of the system of provisioning German submarines on the Kardamyli coast in Laconia, and was helped by two deputies of the old *régime*, against whom M. Venizelos's Government is at present taking proceedings.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

JUGOSLAVS AND THE BERLIN CONGRESS*

Bosnia and Herzegovina have been household words in Western Europe since 1878, when their fate was temporarily settled by the Berlin Congress. They are, however, little but geographical expressions for many, and M. Nikola Stoïanovich has done good service to the cause of civilisation by furnishing a vivid sketch of their history. They occupy the north-eastern extremity of the Balkan peninsula, and are a vast natural fortress, protected on all sides by mountain and river. Although only 5 per cent. of their area—about a third less than that of Ireland—is level ground, the soil is very fertile everywhere, and produces every species of crop known to temperate latitudes. With such natural advantages Bosnia and Herzegovina have bred a remarkably virile type of man. The eminent geographer Elysée Réclus states that the people of those provinces are tall, slender, beautifully built, and gifted with an inborn distinction which mark them as a superior race. The indigenous population, which numbered 1,898,000 souls in 1910, are Slavs of the purest stock, and their ancestors formed part of the great Jugoslav immigration which colonised the Balkan peninsula in early centuries of our era. Réclus aptly styles their habitat "the Switzerland of the Near East," but the two countries have nothing in common except physical formation. While the Swiss had to struggle for freedom with comparatively petty feudal despots, Bosnians and Herzegovinians found their territory a bone of contention for two mighty empires. The peninsula fell under Turkish sway at the end of the fourteenth century and for five hundred years the Jugoslavs suffered extortion and injustice which would have killed the soul of a less vital race. One-third of them were forcibly converted to the tenets of Islam, about 23 per cent. are Catholics, and 43 per cent. have remained faithful members of the Greek Church. But their national spirit has never been affected by religious differences. Again and again did the entire population rise in revolt against their oppressors, and in 1875 a rebellion broke out which eventually lit up the Russo-Turkish War of 1877.

The Great Powers attempted to intervene in favour of the insurgents, and sent representatives to a conference which met at Constantinople in December, 1876. But concerted action was precluded by radical divergence of interests. Austria-Hungary had always opposed the formation of a powerful Slav State on her frontiers, Russia sought an opportunity of adjusting the Balkan imbroglio in her favour. Bismarck's settled policy it was to weaken Russia, in view of increasing her dependence on Germany. The Man of Blood and Iron had another aim in view—to thrust Austria-Hungary into the Balkans, in order that she might forget her ancient claim to the hegemony of Central Europe. Great Britain was swayed by two currents of public opinion. The Russophobe school, led by Lord Beaconsfield, regarded the integrity of the Ottoman Empire as essential to the protection of India from Muscovite invasion. Gladstone's followers, on the other hand, wished to evict Turkey from Europe, "bag and baggage."

Wily Abdul Hamid knew that he had nothing to fear from a coalition of the Great Powers. He promised reforms in his Balkan provinces, but soon showed that the *status quo* would be maintained there. Russia was goaded by a Pan-Slav agitation to declare war against the oppressors of her co-religionists in Bulgaria and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The phases of that struggle are too well known to need recapitulation. British sea-power forbade Russia to crown her victory by capturing Constantinople, and Bismarck's influence as an "honest (?) broker" induced the Powers to meet in congress at Berlin (June, 1878). Then for the first time did Austria-Hungary advance a claim to administer Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was made at Bismarck's instigation, and secured his heart-whole support. Our representatives were no match for their German and Austrian colleagues. They assented to the proposal, which was embodied in Article 25 of the Treaty of Berlin. In vain did Italy protest; in vain was the Congress flooded with remonstrances from Serbia, Montenegro and the population handed over to the tender mercies of their hereditary foe. The essentially piratical character of the enterprise was cleverly veiled. The Austrian occupation would be provisional, and the local autonomy was guaranteed by a *Sabor*, or national assembly. Soon after taking possession of her booty Austria-Hungary entered into a convention with Abdul Hamid which professed to safeguard Turkish suzerainty and all that it implied; but she also concluded a secret alliance with Germany for the mutual defence of their outlying possessions, namely, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Alsace-Lorraine. Such was the origin of the Mittel-Europa doctrine, which makes these provinces stepping-stones for the achievement of Teuton hegemony in East and West.

Once firmly established in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Austria-Hungary cynically threw off the mask She swept the country into her Customs Union, forbade the use of Turkish currency, and enrolled the male population in her army. Immigrants poured in, and in twenty-six years the non-Slav population increased sevenfold. At length the luckless natives rose in rebellion against oppressors more deadly even than the Turks; and a campaign of six months, conducted by eight army divisions, proved necessary to bring them again to heel (1882). For twenty years thereafter they had in Benjamin Kallay a Viceroy of the worst Teuto-Magyar type. He wasted their resources in "window dressings" and strategic railways, forbade public meetings, literary leagues, and the spread of education; he maintained a vast system of espionage—in short, left no measure untried which would kill the national soul. All was in vain; for it was kept alive by outbursts of national song.

In October, 1908, Germany deemed events ripe for another act of piracy. Great Britain was then rent by political and social strife. The Young Turks were open to bribery; and in February, 1909, they concluded a convention with Austria-Hungary which converted occupation into annexation, and the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina were sold to their oppressors for a cash consideration of exactly £1 7s. per head! This shameful breach of international law was undoubtedly instigated by the German Emperor, who met Russia's protest with an ultimatum, and stood forward "in shining armour" pledged to support his fellow-conspirator against the peace of Europe. The outbreak of the Balkan War of 1912 raised hopes of deliverance in the people's breasts, and many thousands of them fought as volunteers under the Serbian banner. It served as an excuse for further oppression. Austria-Hungary assumed control of the postal and telegraph services, made German the sole official language, and swept away the last vestiges of autonomy.

The little country was seething with suppressed revolt in June, 1914, when the Archduke Francis Ferdinand announced his intention of paying an official visit to Serajevo, which, with Teuton tactlessness, he made coincident with the National Festival in Commemoration of the Battle of Kossovo. The true story of his assassination has yet to be told. There is no doubt that the Heir-Apparent was cordially detested throughout Austria-Hungary, except perhaps in Bohemia, the country of his semi-morganatic wife. All the circumstances attending his tragic death point to complicity in Vienna and Budapest. But the wretched man had incurred the enmity of Jugoslavs, and M. Stoïanovich declares that many of them were accessories before the fact; that, indeed, the intended crime was known even to girls attending the local secondary school! Thus for the second time was this little country made the occasion of a German ultimatum, which caused the greatest war in history.

M. Stoïanovich's account of the measures adopted by Austria-Hungary since August, 1914, is simply heartrending. Martial law was at once proclaimed; the Viceroy Potiorek—destined to win notoriety on the battlefield—placed every educated male under arrest or forcibly enrolled him in armies sent against his brother-Slavs. Schools, newspaper offices, and the headquarters of literary societies were sacked by a mercenary mob, and their property to the tune of nearly half a million sterling was confiscated. Thousands of patriots were hanged or shot, others perished by hunger and disease in the dungeons of Arad. For three years a reign of terror has prevailed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the spirit of the population is still unsubdued, and their eyes are turning westwards in ardent hope of deliverance.

Their chequered history affords a clue to many phases of the Eastern Question, and M. Stoïanovich's able treatise should be translated for circulation on both sides of the Atlantic.

F. H. S.

* "Bosnie-Herzégovine," par Nikola Stoïanovich, Député à la Diète et Membre du Conseil National, Genève. (Albert Kundig, 1917. Im. 50c.)

HONOURS FOR SERVICE IN MESOPOTAMIA

There will be general satisfaction at the issue, long delayed, in a Supplement to the *London Gazette* on August 25, of a list of honours for services in Mesopotamia. Included in the list are a number of awards of the C.B., the C.M.G., the D.S.O., and the Military Cross, as well as various promotions. The Supplement also includes two awards of the C.S.I., and a number of appointments to the Order of the Indian Empire for meritorious service in connection with the war. Notable among the honours is the G.C.I.E. conferred on Lieut.-Colonel Sir Percy Cox, while Brigadier-General Sir George Buchanan, Major-General Sir Raleigh Gilbert Egerton, and Major-General Sir Harry D'Urban Keary receive the K.C.I.E.

A subsequent list, containing awards of Distinguished Conduct Medals and Meritorious Service Medals, conferred for services in Mesopotamia, was published in the *London Gazette* on August 29.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FALLEN IDOL.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The revelations of the Greek White Book prove to all the world how little reliance can be placed on any of the statements of the Greek Government made when Constantine was on the throne. Among them was the denial that the Greek Government had any part in the infamous attempt in the spring and summer of 1914 to seize South Albania. That this was the work of Greek regulars was proved by all the evidence. Greek soldiers who gave their names, regiments, and the names of their officers were taken prisoner. All the refugees—and they were from many different districts—told of soldiers, and in many places of artillery. But as first-hand evidence is the very best, I went myself to the mountains to try to spy out the position of the Greek troops. Creeping along the mountain side in the neighbourhood of Tepeleni, which had already been captured by them, I saw with field glasses their military outposts and men in khaki, on the other side of the valley. That they were military posts and not a native encampment was obvious. I returned in haste to Valona, meaning to try to arouse Europe on the subject. But I arrived there to find that the present great war had broken out. England had, in fact, declared war forty-eight hours before I had news that we were likely to be drawn into it.

In the whirlpool of excitement which I found when I reached England at the end of August, 1914, any attempts to draw attention to the miseries of South Albania were hopeless.

That the seizure of South Albania was part of the German scheme is fairly obvious. The Kaiser himself, some time before, had visited that land from his *pied à terre* at Corfu, and his visit had aroused great distrust in the minds of the Albanians. Many persons at the time were surprised that the Prince of Wied, feeble stick though he was, made no effort to claim those districts which formed part of his realm. The patriots of Koritza hoped and longed for his coming.

It would appear, however, from papers which Wied left when he fled, that he had been instructed from Germany not to move in the matter, as his realm would later be extended in the direction of Serbia and Montenegro. In the light of recent revelations this report seems highly probable.

During the few months that Wied was at Durazzo, so multitudinous and conflicting were European political interests that we can best describe it by saying that diamonds busily strove to cut diamonds, while wheels ran within wheels, troubled waters were fished in, and everyone tried to make a catspaw of the other. A nice "confusion of epitaphs" for confusion worse confounded. We may add another, and say Constantine's finger was in the pie.

Yours, etc.,

M. E. DURHAM.

71, Belsize Park Gardens.
August 24.

THE ANGLO-ROUMANIAN SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—A year ago next Monday Roumania entered the war in order to liberate the three and a-half million Roumanians of Austria-Hungary, who have been the victims of perhaps the most iniquitous oppression that the last fifty years of European history have known.

Years of negotiation with the Central Powers had failed to secure for the Roumanians of Austria-Hungary any alleviation of their lot. Promises were made only to be broken, pledges given only to be disregarded, until at last, when diplomacy had failed, there was no course left but to draw the sword. The Roumanian armies crossed the Carpathians, but a month of brilliant success was followed by disaster after disaster. Partly owing to military inexperience, but far more to political and strategic reasons over which she had no control, Roumania had to submit to the humiliation of retreat and to the evacuation of two-thirds of her territory. Undismayed, the Government, Army and nation have continued the struggle. The fighting forces of the country have been reorganised and their spirit is unfaltering. Once again, last month, they renewed the offensive. Once again, unfortunately, events abroad have robbed the Roumanian armies of the prospect of success, and now the country is threatened with complete occupation by the enemy. The moment is a critical one. The Roumanian armies are fighting most gallantly and tenaciously against a foe ably led and of superior equipment. The Roumanian King and Government are determined to leave their country rather than yield to any suggestion of a dishonourable peace. During the past three months the Roumanian Parliament, with the cordial approval of the King, has come into line with Western Democracy by enacting far-reaching electoral and agrarian reforms, guaranteeing also equal rights for the hitherto unassimilated Jewish element of the population.

Relations between Roumania and the British Empire have hitherto been scanty and spasmodic, largely owing to mutual ignorance and indifference. We believe that this hour of crisis offers a fruitful opportunity to give the official Anglo-Roumanian Alliance a broader basis of permanent, cordial relations between the two peoples, who are inspired by a common purpose. From such a beginning we look forward with confidence to a future of intellectual, social, economic, and political co-operation. Already other members of the Alliance, notably France and the United States, have been working towards the goal, and it is time for the British people to realise the importance of a permanent political alliance with Roumania. Though far removed from the Roumanians geographically and by reasons of language and history, we are one with them to-day in the determination to secure for all nations the free choice of their own destiny. The Allies have publicly pledged themselves to the full liberation and restoration of the Roumanian people. We wish on this solemn occasion to offer to our Roumanian Ally this tribute of admiration, sympathy, and warm encouragement in the fiery ordeal she is enduring in pursuance of her noble aims.

On behalf of the Anglo-Roumanian Society, we are—

Yours, etc.,

BESSBOROUGH, Chairman of the Provisional Executive Committee.

A. W. A. LEEPER, Hon. Secretary.

17, Cavendish Square,
August 25.

A SALONIKA MEMORIAL TO MRS. HARLEY

The Serbian Legation has issued the following account of the unveiling of the memorial to Mrs. Harley at Salonika :—

There took place yesterday (*i.e.*, June 24, Greek Calendar), at the Allies' Cemetery at Zeytinlik, Salonika, the ceremony of the unveiling of the memorial to Mrs. Harley, a never-to-be-forgotten benefactress of the Serbian race, the noble sister of the great English General, Field-Marshal Lord French, who fell a victim to the barbarities of the enemy over Monastir.

All the Serbian Colony of Salonika came to express their deep sense of gratitude to this courageous Englishwoman. Poor refugees were there, side by side with English nurses, British officers and soldiers, and also many Serbian and other Allied officers. Near to the veiled memorial were Mrs. Harley's daughters, also representatives of King Peter and the Crown Prince. With them were the officers of the Headquarters Staff, officials of the Department for Internal Affairs, and other representatives of the Serbian Government and institutions. From the tombstone hung the Serbian tricolour and British flags, and there was an English inscription on the memorial telling how Mrs. Harley had given her life for the service of Serbia.

After the service, conducted by ten of the higher clergy of the Serbian Church, Lieutenant-Colonel Athanasievitch, Commandant of Miera, delivered a short but touching speech, first in English and afterwards in the mother tongue. He said: "On behalf of myself and my officers in Micra, I have now to ask the authorities to accept the charge of this memorial. In erecting this monument we simply express our appreciation of the services which Mrs. Harley had rendered to our people and of the spirit by which she was animated." Speaking in Serbian, he then explained how greatly the officers and men of the Command were impressed by the news of Mrs. Harley's death, at the very moment when she was bravely ministering to the needs of the sorely-afflicted people in Monastir.

The monument bears the following inscription in both Serbian and English. The following is a translation of the Serbian lines :—

"Upon thy grave in place of flowers
Serbian thanks shall ever bloom;
In days far off thy name and fame
A later kindred shall acclaim!"

Erected by
The Officers of the Supplementary Command.

The Lord Mayor of London has opened a subscription list at the Mansion House in aid of the sufferers through the fire at Salonika. Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons have sent a donation of £1,000 to the Lord Mayor as a first instalment.

The *Round Table* is an invaluable publication owing to the judicial spirit in which it approaches every subject it handles. Though primarily a review of the politics of the British Empire, it touches of necessity from time to time upon Near Eastern subjects as they come within the sphere of British interests. In the issue for the current quarter (September) one article deals shrewdly with the reasons that brought Great Britain into the war and keep her there. Other articles of special interest are "The Internal Problem in Germany," "Finance After the War," and "Some Problems in Democracy and Reconstruction."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917.	1917.		1335.	5677.
August. 31	August 18	Friday	Dulkaada. 13	Ellul. 13
September. 1	19	Saturday.....	14	14
2	20	Sunday	15	15
3	21	Monday	16	16
4	22	Tuesday	17	17
5	23	Wednesday	18	18
6	24	Thursday	19	19

By the command of His Majesty, Mr. C. H. Montgomery, C.V.O., Marshal of the Ceremonies, called upon the Roumanian Minister, M. Nicolas Misu, on August 24, to offer King George's congratulations on the occasion of the anniversary of the birthday of the King of Roumania. His Excellency thanked Mr. Montgomery for His Majesty's most gracious message, the full text of which was immediately telegraphed to King Ferdinand. In the course of the day cards were left on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, and Colonel Sir Douglas Dawson, Comptroller of the Lord Chamberlain's Department. Several members of the Corps Diplomatique and members of the Roumanian colony called at the Legation.

The Earl of Cromer has left London for Minto House, Hawick.

Sir H. Babington Smith, K.C.B., has been appointed a Companion of the Order of the Companions of Honour.

The Hon. Sir Arthur Lawley arrived in London from Scotland last week.

M. Eulambios has been appointed an Attaché to the Greek Legation in London.

Colonel Caratasu, of the Roumanian Army, has returned to London from Harrogate.

M. Lahovary, the Roumanian Minister in Paris, arrives in London this week from France.

Major Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché, arrived in London on Monday evening. On Wednesday he visited the Earl of Derby, Secretary of State for War.

General Rudeano, of the Roumanian Military Mission, has arrived in London from Paris.

Madame Gennadius, the wife of the Greek Minister, left the Legation on August 25 for Eastbourne.

Twelve classes of Greek Reservists who have not yet been trained have been called to the Colours.

Captain Dr. David Albala, of the Serbian Army, arrived in London on August 25 from Corfu on a special mission.

Sir J. Roper Parkington, Consul-General for Montenegro, and Lady Parkington have left Harrogate for Tunbridge Wells.

It is understood that ex-King Constantine is settling at Zurich for the winter, and has taken a furnished villa on the Dolderberg.

M. Roussos, the newly-appointed Greek Minister to Washington, has left London for New York to take up his diplomatic duties.

Mrs. Mardon, the wife of Major E. J. Mardon, Rifle Brigade, I.C.S., retired, gave birth to a son on August 22, at New Court, Topsham, Devon.

Viscount Hardinge, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, who has been away for a brief holiday in Scotland, has returned to the Foreign Office.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, arrived in town on August 27 from Paris, where he has been on a special mission.

The Rev. William Alan Rutherford, who died at Penrith on August 27, at the age of eighty-eight years, was Chaplain of Malta Hospital, 1875-6.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Prince Ghika, the Roumanian Minister in that capital, has been placed on the retired list. He had asked to be sent to America, but his request was not granted.

Second-Lieutenant W. E. Polge, London Regiment, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in London, is reported "Wounded and missing."

The Crown Prince of Serbia has conferred on Mrs. Agnes Bennett, M.D., chairman of the English hospital in Ostrovo, the Order of St. Sava, Class III.

Mr. Anthony, Director-General of the State Domains Administration, Egyptian Government, has been making a tour of inspection in the Sakha Domain. He was expected to return to Cairo about the middle of August.

The *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* gives confirmation to the report that Count Bernstorff, formerly German Ambassador in Washington, is to be Herr von Kühlmann's successor as Ambassador in Constantinople.

The engagement is announced of Major Aubrey Jarrett, M.C., R.G.A., younger son of Colonel H. S. Jarrett, C.I.E., and Mrs. Jarrett, of South Lodge, East Grinstead, and Miss Dorothea Mary Campbell, daughter of Brevet-Colonel G. P. Campbell, Royal Engineers, and Mrs. Campbell, Quetta.

The King has given authority to Sir George Russell Clerk, K.C.M.G., C.B., Senior Clerk in the Foreign Office, to wear the Insignia of Commander of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazarus, which has been conferred upon him by the King of Italy, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him in the Allied cause.

An engagement is announced between Mr. Douglas E. H. Egremont, of the Assam-Bengal Railway, eldest son of the Rev. H. E. Egremont, of Southsea, and grandson of the late Mr. John Egremont, J.P., of Reedness Hall, Yorkshire, and Miss Gladys Murray Charlett, second daughter of the late Captain C. G. D. Newington, Indian Army, and Mrs. Newington, of 15, Nettlecombe Avenue, Southsea.

Sir James Walker has presented a challenge cup to the Indian Gymkhana Club for lawn tennis. The cup will be competed for annually by the members. The club, which was founded for the benefit of the Indian students in England, has its ground at Mill Hill Park, Acton. It has been very much to the fore this summer owing to the achievements of its cricket team, which has had a most successful season.

All male Roumanian subjects born between January 1, 1877, and December 31, 1898, both inclusive, residing in the United Kingdom who have not been called up for military service should present themselves before Major Arion, the Roumanian Military Attaché, at No. 1, Canada House, Kingsway, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. any day this or next week, bringing their military and civil papers with them.

The Dardanelles Commissioners examined a number of witnesses on August 28, including Colonel Keble, D.S.O., Assistant Director of Medical Services, who served throughout the Gallipoli operations, Colonel Riley, Colonel C. M. Begg, C.M.G., and Captain Jacka, V.C., M.C. The Commissioners sat again at the House of Lords on August 29, when Surgeon-General Sir R. W. Ford, D.S.O., Lieut.-Colonel P. C. Fenwick, and Lieut.-Colonel M. P. Corkery were examined.

Among the names of the first recipients of the new Imperial "Order of the British Empire" appears that of Lady Paget, who has been made a Dame Grand Cross of the Order. This honour has been conferred on Lady Paget in recognition of her services in connection with the Serbian Relief Fund. The Hon. Lady Lawley has also been appointed a Dame Grand Cross of the Order. Lady Lawley is hon. secretary of Queen Mary's Needlework Guild.

The other divisions of the new Order also contain many names of interest. Among the Knight Commanders, for instance, is Sir Richard Crawford, K.C.M.G., Commercial Adviser at the British Embassy at Washington. The Commanders include Lieut.-Colonel Jay Gould, M.B., I.M.S., late Commissioner, British Red Cross Society, Mesopotamia.

By no means the least interesting of the awards is the appointment as Commander of Miss Gertrude Lowthian Bell. The services for which the honour has been conferred are briefly recorded as having been rendered in the East. It might have been added that they are unique in the record of women's activities, even in a war that is conspicuous for the varied forms that women's work has taken. Miss Bell has an almost unrivalled knowledge of the Middle East, and it is gratifying to find that the authorities have been able to make the fullest use of this knowledge.

Mr. George Mounsey, First Secretary at the British Embassy at Rome, and Mr. John Henry Silley, of Messrs. Green, Silley, and Weir, are made Officers of the Order, while the Members include Mr. Albert Cocking, Commissioner of the Church Army for Egypt; Mr. William Charles Grant, Temporary Admiralty Overseer at Boat Yard, Abadan, Persian Gulf; Mr. George Price, Storekeeper, Headquarters, British Red Cross Society, Malta; and Mr. Leonard Charles Tricker, Storekeeper, British Red Cross Society, Malta.

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In the reference that was made last week to the mishap to the P. and O. Mooltan it would seem that only half the tale was told when the gratitude of the passengers was expressed for the conduct of the officers at the time when the vessel was struck. The passengers speak most warmly of the generous treatment they received from the company both when they reached land and subsequently in London, and especially of the courtesy they experienced at the hands of Mr. G. Brenier, the agent at Marseilles.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Bimbashi C. H. Gore, Department of Supplies, has been appointed Assistant Financial Secretary, E.A.

Mr. J. M. Marshall, of the Ministry of Finance, has been apponted Public Custodian of Enemy Property in Egypt, in succession to Mr. Hornsby.

Lewa E. C. Midwinter Pasha, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager Sudan Government Railways, is now on four months' leave of absence, and will return to duty on November 4.

His Highness the Sultan has been most graciously pleased to confer the Order of the Nile, Fourth Class, upon the undermentioned officers:—Kaimakam C. A. Barker Bey, Military Secretary; Kaimakam A. Craufurd Bey, Western Arab Corps, late Sudanese; Kaimakam R. S. Hart Bey, late Sudan Government; Kaimakam C. W. W. Sandes Bey, Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General; Bimbashi D. A. Fairbairn, late Sudanese; and Bimbashi H. F. C. Hobbs, Camel Corps.

His Highness the Sultan has also conferred the Order of the Nile, Fourth Class, on Captain the Marquess of Carisbrooke, G.C.V.O., and Captain the Marquess of Anglesey.

OBITUARY.

The death took place on August 23 of Eva, Lady Beville, daughter of the late Captain Edward Grove, and widow of General Sir George F. Beville, K.C.B., I.A.

The death occurred on August 21, of Lieutenant Harry Kemp Sewell, R.F.A., deputy coroner of West Kent, and son of Mr. H. B. Sewell, of Greenwich, coroner of West Kent and deputy-coroner of South-East London. Lieutenant Sewell took part in the Kut Relief Expedition, when he was wounded. He was invalided home, and never recovered his strength. The funeral took place on August 24, at Charlton Cemetery, with military honours.

The death occurred suddenly, on August 22, at his country house near Windsor, of Prince Emmanuel Bibesco, brother of Prince Antoine Bibesco, Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London. Prince Emmanuel Bibesco, who was educated in France and England, was one of the largest landowners in Roumania. The late Prince, who was about thirty-five years of age, and unmarried, had many friends in diplomatic and other circles, among whom he enjoyed great popularity, and the news of his death will be received with deep regret.

The first part of the funeral service for Prince Bibesco was held in the Russian Church in Welbeck Street at eleven o'clock on August 25. The coffin rested on a catafalque facing the altar, and was surrounded by flowers and lighted candles. The Very Rev. Eugene Smirnoff, the Archpriest to the Russian Embassy, officiated, and was assisted by the Deacon. Relatives and intimate friends attended the service, and were also present at Brompton Cemetery, where the interment took place.

A correspondent writes:—Flight-Lieut. Richard Keyser, whose death occurred on August 22, was the fifth son of the late Mr. Edward Keyser, for many years Director of the Bank of Salonica at Smyrna, and was educated at Uppingham School. When the war broke out he left Smyrna for England in company with twenty young British residents, and joined the Colours. He received his commission in the East Lancashire Regiment, with which he saw service at the front. Promoted to the rank of lieutenant, he was subsequently ordered to another front on special duty as an Intelligence Officer, but his work there proving too tame for one who craved for adventure, he enlisted in the R.F.C., and after a course of training abroad, where he won his wings, returned to England a few weeks ago to meet his tragic fate near Hounslow. It is stated by eye-witnesses that in the act of alighting in a field where some women were working, he swerved rapidly to avoid an accident, and lost control of his machine. Lieut. Keyser and Captain Hollanby, who was unfortunately killed on the same day, were laid to rest on August 27 at Heston Hounslow Cemetery, and received the honours of a military funeral amid a scene most solemn and impressive, rendered still more so when their coffins, borne on the shoulders of brother officers, were lowered into their graves, three volleys were fired, and the Last Post was sounded. Captain Albert Keyser, brother of the deceased, arrived from the front in time to be present at the funeral, and with him were his mother and sisters. Following the procession were a large number of officers and intimate friends, anxious to offer a last tribute to the memory of an able and gallant officer, whose genial disposition and kindliness of heart had endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

BECKETT.—On August 22, the wife of Henry Walton Beckett, Secretary of Mines, Cairo, of a son.

DANIELL.—To Major W. A. Daniell, Ontario Rifles, and Mrs. Daniell, at Crowborough, on August 27, 1917—a son.

MARRIAGE.

GILLAN—ORD-MACKENZIE.—On August 28, at Holy Trinity, Brompton, by the Rev. R. E. Vernon Hanson, C.F., J. Angus Gillan, Sudan Civil Service, eldest son of the Rev. James and Mrs. Gillan, 4, Regent Terrace, Edinburgh, to Margaret Douglas, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ord-Mackenzie, Headley Mount, Headley, Hampshire, and late of Walton Heath.

DEATH.

RUSSELL.—On August 23, in Cairo, H. E. Russell, of Sydney, N.S.W., aged 81.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

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Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

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In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

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For long stay, apply to the Manager.

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All arrangements for Transport, &c., are made by the above Firm.

If you are willing to help
THE SERBIAN ARMY
SEND YOUR DONATION FOR
THE SERBIAN RED CROSS
to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."

There is a separate fund for the
RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE
SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION
at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1917.

THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF INDIA.

Recent events have directed attention once again to the question of Indian constitutional reform, a question of profound importance not merely to the inhabitants of the great Dependency, but to every portion of the British Empire, and, indeed, to the whole civilised world, which cannot view without concern the future of a population exceeding three hundred millions in number. That future has now been declared, so far at least as its decision depends on the statesmen of the Empire; the Secretary of State has announced formally that India is eventually to govern herself, and that her progress towards the ultimate goal is to be gradual, the time and measure of each advance being determined by the responsible Governments. To thinking men this announcement contains little that is new, since the goal of self-government has for many years past been implicit in the policy pursued by successive administrations, and any other aim has long been seen to be impossible; but Indian politicians have of late been seeking for a sign, and the Government has been well advised to respond to their wishes and to state the position in such a way that all men of goodwill can join in the effort needed to secure the accomplishment of the accepted policy. Of the need for earnest and united effort there can be no question. The gradual but complete transformation of the established system of government presents a long series of problems as complex as any that have ever tested the quality of British statesmanship, and their satisfactory solution can be attained only by the cordial and harmonious co-operation of the Englishmen in India with the leaders and representatives of the people.

From this point of view particular interest attaches to the document published a few days before Mr. Montagu's announcement, and described not inaptly as the political testament of Mr. Gokhale. Alike in England and in India, Mr. Gokhale was known and respected as a statesman of outstanding capacity, readier than most of his contemporaries to recognise hard facts, and without faltering in allegiance to his ideals to lay his course towards them in accordance with the exigencies of the existing situation. These characteristics are shown in the document in question, in which he furnished a sketch of the constitutional arrangements which he considered might be adopted as the first halting-place on the long road leading to responsible government. The fundamental points in his scheme can be stated in a few words. Each of the provinces into which India is divided should be given full representative, but not responsible, government, with the supreme administration standing in the background, not as at present to scrutinise and interfere in a thousand details, but watching, and prepared to step in to prevent a serious breakdown. A hybrid executive would be appointed for each province, subject to the Legislature in financial arrangements, but not responsible to it in the technical sense of the word, the relations between the two bodies being, roughly, similar to those which exist in Germany between the Reichstag and the Imperial Government. The Legislature would be mainly elected, with due provision for the representation of those special interests which bulk so largely in Indian political life; and the presence of officials at its deliberations would be limited to the number required to represent the views of the executive. This scheme contrasts favourably with the efforts of the amateur constitution-builders who have been so busy in India during the last two years. Its salient feature, the internal autonomy of the provinces, has already been adopted as an administrative ideal, though it must be recognised that the efforts made to achieve it have been lamentably weak and inadequate. Everyone admits in theory that the existing system is over-centralised, but each concrete proposal for decentralisation is subjected to damaging criticism, sometimes from the standpoint of departmental efficiency, sometimes in the supposed interests of financial stability, and in the result is usually so much whittled down and so overloaded with reservations and safeguards that no real progress is attained. There is much, therefore, to be said for proceeding in this particular matter *per saltum*, for cutting the bonds of the provinces once for all, and for setting them free to mould their own destinies, under an executive appointed from above, but subjected to financial control and to continuous criticism by a definitely representative Legislature. The arrangement offers too many opportunities for friction to be recommended as a permanency, but that is not the intention with which it was put forward: judged as a measure designed to tide over a period of transition and to advance the political education of the Indian peoples, it is worthy of fair and dispassionate consideration.

Of the details of Mr. Gokhale's scheme it is unnecessary to say much. Many of them are open to more or less serious question, but the author of the scheme would have been the first to admit that details are matters for adjustment, and they may safely be left to the authorities charged by the decision of the British Government with working out the measures to be definitely adopted. Such criticism as we have to offer relates rather to a fundamental question on which Mr. Gokhale did not touch. Each provincial Executive is to be controlled by an elected Legislature. Who is this Legislature to represent? The small minority of the people who have benefited by Western culture and are inclined to monopolise the political activity of the country, or the overwhelming majority of peasants and labourers and artisans, who at present have no votes and are nearly as destitute of direct political influence as they were in the days of Akbar or of Aurangzeb? This question is evaded with greater or less dexterity in all the schemes which emanate from the regular political organisations, the authors of which are naturally more anxious to increase the power they already possess than to share it with the silent masses of the people. Their attitude will not, however, commend itself to the British nations, who are so deeply interested in the future of India, and who will insist that the measures now to be taken, while framed in accordance with the facts of the existing situation, shall be such as to prepare the way for democracy rather than for oligarchy. The simple course of enfranchising the masses forthwith is not practical politics. For a thousand years they have been taught to consider themselves of no account, and the lesson has been too well learned to render such action expedient. The task in hand is much more difficult: it is necessary to foster and develop the awakening of the political consciousness of the masses, already beginning to show faint traces of life, to provide them with suitable means of expressing their ideals, and to ensure to them an amount of influence, substantial from the outset, and increasing steadily with every increase in their power of self-expression, until finally the people as a whole are prepared and equipped to control their own destinies. To our mind that is the essence of the problem which has now to be solved: the questions of administrative machinery are difficult, and we have no wish to minimise their importance, but they shrink almost into insignificance when compared with the need for developing and educating an electorate qualified to sustain the burden which it will ultimately have to bear.

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THE CAUCASUS AND THE REVOLUTION.

(From an Armenian Correspondent.)

While in the second week of March last the Revolutionary movement was developing in Petrograd, people in the Caucasus were only told that "grave events were happening in the capital." In anticipation of coming events, the Grand Duke Nicholas, the Viceroy, asked all the editors of papers at Tiflis to meet him at the Palace to discuss measures of public order and safety—an unprecedented step for a Viceroy to take. On the abdication of the Tsar, the whole truth was telegraphed by M. Rodzianko to the Town Council of Tiflis. The President of the State Duma at the same time asked the municipal authorities to keep order and to await further instructions from the Duma. All bureaucratic governors, chiefs of police, gendarmerie and secret agents were arrested without much resistance, and volunteer militiamen were engaged to keep order. As there was no Zemstvo Government in the Caucasus, the Town Council of Tiflis, strengthened by a few public men representing various nationalities, established itself as a government under the leadership of Khatissian, the able mayor of that town. These twenty-three men, increased later on to forty-four, appointed on the principle of proportional representation, managed affairs fairly well for the first three weeks, while the townspeople and the inhabitants of the provinces were holding demonstrations and making speeches. The Grand Duke Nicholas, General Janushkevitch, and others of the old régime left for Petrograd in the first week, seen off at the station by only a few representatives of the Georgian aristocracy and the mayor. In Baku, Batum, Erivan, Kars, and other centres the devolution of authority was effected by almost the same processes as in Tiflis. Agents of the old Government, from Governors downwards, were arrested and imprisoned, and municipal authorities everywhere assumed the work of administration pending new instructions from above.

At the beginning of April the State Duma sent its five members from the Caucasian constituencies to Tiflis as Commissioners to organise the new administration in the Caucasus. These Commissioners—M. Kharlamoff, the chairman, a Russian; M. Babajanian, an Armenian; M. Apashitze, a Georgian; M. Jafaroff, a Tartar; and M. Tchekhengeli, the well-known Georgian Social Democrat and representative of the Petrograd Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates—together with a number of local bodies, are now called the Special Commission of Trans-Caucasia. The Commissioners have been touring various centres of the Caucasus, organizing authority, and directing the development of devolution on lines similar to those carried out in Petrograd. They represent nominally the supreme power in the Caucasus, but as time goes on authority seems to be slipping from their hands. M. Tchekhengeli and others have organized local Councils of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates in Tiflis and other centres; but so far they have achieved little success in this direction. They have established the *Kawkasskoe Rabotchi*, a daily paper in Tiflis. In the general confusion, however, the masses are hesitating as to what to do and whom to follow. The changes proposed by the extreme Socialists in regard to the land, wages, and working hours are so radical that people seem to doubt their feasibility. Towards the end of May the Caucasian Soldiers' and Officers' Delegates met at a Congress in Tiflis and held discussions on many points. One distinguishing feature of the situation in the Caucasus is indeed striking: it is the lack of co-operation between the soldiers and workmen, or between the former and Socialists.

To turn now to the question of nationalities and inter-racial relationships. For the sake of convenience, the inquiry may be restricted to the three main elements of the people of the Caucasus—Armenians, Georgians and Tartars. Russians count for little, because most of them, being officials of the old Government, have taken only an inconsiderable part in public life. (Even in March, 1916, during the conference held at the Grand Duke's palace in Tiflis for considering measures for introducing Zemstvo government in the Caucasus, most of the nominated representatives of Russian origin voted with the Armenian party and some others with the Georgians.) The same was the case of the Jews, who number several tens of thousands.

Armenians.—On the whole the Armenians have felt great satisfaction and joy at the downfall of the old régime, which had been anything but friendly to themselves. The behaviour of the Grand Duke Nicholas towards the Armenian Volunteer Movement had created indignation and disgust throughout the country. While some hot-headed and irresponsible groups of Armenians have been indulging in violent propaganda of socialism and social democracy, the mass of the people and responsible bodies, from the Catholicos downwards, have maintained a cautious and sympathetic attitude towards the movement, exerting themselves in the meantime to consolidate the new régime. Recent bitter lessons in Turkey are uppermost in the minds of Armenian leaders and committees. Under the revolutionary régime Armenians and Georgians jointly predominate in administrative posts and the work of reorganisation. The Armenian *bourgeoisie* and industrial classes seem rather to be standing aloof, whereas the Daschnakzutiun party and *Intelligentzia* have wholeheartedly thrown themselves into the forefront. Armenian papers are full of advice for moderation and caution; *Mschak*, a Liberal daily, insists on concentrating attention on national requirements and needs.

The Catholicos, the supreme head of the Armenian Church, has officially applied to the Provisional Government demanding a revision of the restrictions which were inflicted upon the spiritual and hierarchical independence of the Armenian Church by the "Polojenie" statute of 1836. Leaders are arranging an Armenian Conference soon to be held at Etchmiadzin to determine *inter alia* the Armenian attitude towards the Constituent Assembly, the position of Armenians in the Caucasus, and problems of their future there and in Turkish Armenia. There is a fresh revival of nationalist movement in consequence of the new freedom. Keen interest is being manifested by people who had almost forgotten their Armenian origin. The *Mschak* party is strengthening itself by new elements into a National Liberal party. A "Haikazian" society has just been formed by millionaires and conservative intellectuals solely to encourage Armenia's arts, literature, science and historical research. Large capital has been subscribed to support it.

Georgians.—After a century of willing submission to Russian rule and submergence in the Greek Orthodox Church, Georgians had been moving fast into a new sense of national self-consciousness and nationalism for the last twenty years. The Georgian *Intelligentzia* and some aristocratic University men combined have brought about this new movement, first starting as internationalists and then, most of them, developing on nationalist lines. The chief party was the Social Democratic party (Marxist), which had no great difficulty in breaking down to any large extent the patronising tendencies of the Georgian people by an effete and impoverished artistocracy, an influential class of landowners and State officials. The Russian revolution

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN.

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gave a great impetus to tendencies for which, after a generation of propaganda and education, the Georgian people were ripe. The will to assert themselves as a distinct nationality and to establish the independence of their Church from the Russian Orthodox Church, into which they merged themselves in 1801, manifested itself from the first day of the revolution.

The first act of this nationalist movement was embodied in an appeal by the Georgian Holy Synod of Tiflis to the Provisional Government at Petrograd, requesting the latter to cancel the union of the Georgian Church with that of the Russian Church; to recognise the spiritual autocephaly of the Georgian Church with its seat of a Georgian Catholicos at Matzkhet (near Tiflis), and to nominate this new supreme patriarch for their own Church as distinct from the Russian Exarch appointed for Georgia by the Holy Synod at Petrograd. In answer to this appeal, which was made early in April, the Provisional Government has in principle recognised the right of the Georgians to spiritual self-determination and hierarchical independence, leaving the other points for later consideration. Elated by this initial success, Georgians are developing a strong sense of nationality, preparing new programmes of national education, of democratising their institutions, and making efforts for the economic uplifting of their peasantry. So far most of the Georgian aristocrats have conspicuously held aloof from all this activity, as if showing their mistrust in the endurance of the present order of things.

There is complete understanding and co-operation between the Armenian and Georgian *Intelligentzia* and political parties in matters affecting the future régime—labour, economic problems, and inter-racial relationships. But the aloofness displayed by the greater part of the Georgian aristocracy and part of the Armenian rich *bourgeoisie* indicates that their antagonism has not yet disappeared completely, even in the heyday of the great occasion.

Tartars.—Mohammedans of various categories number about 5,000,000 in the Caucasus, a little more than the total of Armenians and Georgians combined; but they are not well organised, and possess no national institutions like the other elements. Since the revolution their first pre-occupation has been religious and social rather than political. The Tartar Press, from Turkestan, Orenburg, Kazan, down to Transcaucasia, is discussing means of raising the status of their women and of removing the petty schismatic differences between Shia and Sunni sects. Under the auspices of the Union of Benevolence of Baku, a Congress was held on April 28 in which representatives of Southern Russia and all the Caucasus took part. After much discussion they did not reach an agreement as to whether Mohammedan women ought to be allowed to go about without their faces being veiled. The Congress drew up a political platform of radical reforms to be submitted to the Pan-islamic Congress, which will be held in Petrograd, to discuss the Tartar aims and aspirations to be presented to the Constituent Assembly.

As to their present state of mind, the Baku daily paper *Sevkat* reflects the position in the following words:—"Georgians have raised the banner of the autonomy of Georgia; Armenians have raised the banner of the autonomy of Armenia, which they have cherished for so long. And what have we decided to do? Nothing. Let us gather ourselves under one banner and raise it. But what is going to be that banner which will fully answer our national and religious aspirations? The banner of a democratic Republic. Let us come together and raise that banner."

A. S. S.

The London County Council has issued for the schools under its control an account of the work done by London children in providing and buying material and making clothing for the Belgian and Serbian children. Some of the Serbian clothing has already been distributed in the villages which have been retaken from the Bulgarians, and the gifts have been very greatly appreciated. In all, about 10,000 kits have been supplied for Belgian and Serbian children, while £100 has been devoted to providing clothes for Serbian boys in England.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

So much has happened since 1914 that it is rather difficult to keep in mind the brief and very inglorious career of the ex-Mpret in Albania. Since his hasty departure from Durazzo, just under three years ago, very little has been heard of Prince William of Wied, and quite naturally so, for his Albanian failure is very much on a par with the type of social indiscretion for which a year or two's retreat is usually prescribed. Evidently the ex-Mpret feels that his retirement has lasted long enough, for, according to the *Vossische Zeitung* he has come into the limelight again with a memorandum addressed to the Central and neutral Powers upholding his claims to the Albanian throne. I quite understand the motive that has prompted him to this action. He is doubtless of the opinion that another twelve months or so will see the conclusion of the struggle, and he probably fears that the employment market will be overstocked even with German princes, and he is therefore anxious to stake his claim first.

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I fear, however—if I may be allowed to use a term which is admittedly a euphemism in the circumstances—that all the wiles of the ex-Mpret are unlikely to result in the removal of the preposition. "Ex" he will probably be, as far as Albania is concerned, to the end of his days. And I very much doubt whether his "august" sovereign would be willing, if he were able to do so, to find him a position outside Germany after the war, for failure has invariably a very chilling effect. The contingency, in any case, is not one that need cause us any concern. The day of German princelings set up by the Hohenzollerns has gone, never to return, and individuals like the ex-Mpret will have to be content in future with little principalities in the "Fatherland," where their peculiar abilities will have a much more appreciative audience than could possibly be the case elsewhere.

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Elsewhere in this issue will be found some extracts from an article describing some of the more piquant passages of the visit of the ex-Sultan of Morocco to Vichy. If I may be allowed to say so without any suspicion of *lèse majesté*, the incidents of which his Highness was the central figure remind me of nothing so much as some of the lighter adventures of Gulliver. To fall in with Vichy's ways the ex-Sultan needed a very complete mental orientation, but as he met life with his normal outlook it was only to be expected that there would be some ludicrous occurrences. And so it happened. It would be interesting to know how Vichy as a whole received the news of the ex-Sultan's *faux pas*. And it would be still more interesting if someone in his entourage could be prevailed upon to keep a diary of events, for there must have been other priceless incidents besides those related by the correspondent which ought not to be lost to posterity.

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The end of the Russian tragedy is not yet in sight, and I find myself wondering whether the Allies have really adopted the best means of trying to save the Russians from themselves. There seems to me to have been too much indiscriminate back-patting, and not enough care exercised to discriminate between the Possibles and the Impossibles who have been thrown together to the surface by the revolution. A little less hob-nobbing with the Impossibles might have rendered M. Kerensky's task somewhat lighter. The discretion displayed by Mr. Henderson, for instance, since his return does not make for excessive confidence in the discretion which he probably brought to bear on the situation in Russia. As far as I can make out, the handling of the revolutionary movement has been carried out best in Roumania. For a time it promised to be the "whole hog," not only for the Russians in the country, but at their instigation for the Roumanians as well. In the words of the prophet, however, the latter "were not taking any," and if the Russian extremists had not seen the wisdom of becoming "little piggers," things might have assumed an ugly complexion. The moral, as I read it, is that the stand taken by the Roumanian authorities gave the Russian officers and the more sensible of the soldiery just the support they needed and enabled them to recover mastery of the situation. No doubt the position at Petrograd has not been on all fours. What the representatives of the Allies could not teach them, the Russians have to learn for themselves by bitter experience.

CORSAIR.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Ex-Sultan of Morocco.

A vivid glimpse of the adventures that fate sometimes has in store for special correspondents has been given by the Morocco correspondent of *The Times* in a recent article describing his amusing experiences while in the entourage of the ex-Sultan of Morocco at Vichy, where that potentate was living at an annexe of the Hotel Majestic. The ex-Sultan, it should be explained, met *The Times* correspondent at Gibraltar, and insisted on his accompanying him as a member of his suite, declaring that otherwise he would claim British protection. And so it happened that he went with him to Vichy, where the ex-Sultan soon contrived to give a lighter and more breezy aspect to life. A characteristic episode shows him as a dog fancier. Intrigued by the wiles of a little puppy he had bought in the street, he sent out his slaves to buy dogs, telling them that every dog on a string was for sale:—

As, of course, none of the slaves spoke anything but Arabic, they were ordered to bring dogs and sellers alike to the villa, where the bargains would be completed. Now, the municipal authorities of Vichy had recently issued an order that all dogs were either to be led or muzzled, so when the fashionable world went out to drink its early morning waters at least half of the ladies had little dogs at the end of a string. The writer was at breakfast when he was hurriedly summoned to the villa. At an open window on the ground floor, sitting cross-legged on an armchair, was his Majesty looking down with a puzzled expression upon the little garden, crowded with excited ladies and little dogs. Some were in tears, others wore expressions of interested curiosity, and a few were evidently trying to look their best, for no social distinctions had been recognised by the slaves who had "rounded them up" in the promenades of Vichy. "I want to buy," said the ex-Sultan from his window, "all these little dogs, but the sellers do not seem to understand the first principles of trade, and seem to be making a terrible fuss." The situation was evident—and acute. I explained it to the ex-Sultan, who politely apologised for having disturbed the ladies' early walks, but still insisted, without success, in trying to buy the dogs. It required all the writer's tact and diplomacy to put an end to a difficult situation and to restore equanimity to the indignant ladies.

Then followed an amusing episode with twenty-seven cows which the ex-Sultan took a fancy to, and had them delivered in the courtyard of the hotel. A boiling August morning was the indirect cause of the following even more grotesque incident:—

The villa reception rooms faced south-east, and by eight o'clock in the morning were insufferably hot, for the Sultan refused to close the outside shutters, as he liked to see and to be seen. Half an hour later he decided to change his quarters. On the opposite side of the road was a charming villa, in the deepest shade, with a balcony on the first floor wreathed in flowering creepers. Ordering his slaves to follow him, the ex-Sultan strode across the road, entered the villa, and found his way to the upstair room with the balcony. It was gorgeous but empty. An immense bed, which had evidently been slept in, stood with its head against the wall. A word from his Majesty and the bed was wheeled by the slaves into the window which opened on to the balcony, and, arranging the silk quilt and lace-fringed pillows, the ex-Sultan seated himself cross-legged, gazing down into the street below.

Now, the Russian lady of title who had occupied the bed had retired a few moments previously into her adjacent cabinet de toilette to take her morning bath. Her ablutions completed, but not clad for a reception, she entered her room to find a dusky Oriental potentate, with his still more dusky slaves, in possession. The ex-Sultan's politeness was extreme. He bade her welcome, and invited her to sit down beside him.

An overflowing sense of humour on the part of the lady saved a situation which might otherwise have been embarrassing, and when the writer, hastily summoned, arrived, the lady, now more suitably arrayed, and her husband were thoroughly enjoying the novelty of the situation.

One final passage, at least as picturesque as the above, concerns a night at the opera, the piece being Meyerbeer's "Roma," when the ex-Sultan was seriously concerned at the gesticulations of the basso:—

Springing to his feet, his Majesty cried, "Where is Dr. V.—?" (Dr. V— was his English doctor who had accompanied him on his visit to France); "Where is Dr. V—? Find him quickly, someone. He may yet be able to save his life," and with an expression of terrible anxiety the ex-Sultan's eyes alternately gazed fascinated at the singer or sought for the doctor in the gloomy recesses of the Royal box. It was not without difficulty that his Majesty was persuaded that the singer was suffering no pain; but that he was actually supposed to be giving pleasure to the audience he entirely refused to believe. The ex-Sultan was bored and left the theatre before the end. The following morning he asked the writer what had taken place in the last act, and on being told of the terrible fate that almost all the characters in the tragedy had suffered, he replied: "I am sorry I did not stay. I should have sent for the manager and insisted that the piece should end happily. The young lady should have married the soldier with the big sword. The blind woman should have had her sight restored by an able doctor—and no one should have been stabbed or built up in a tomb."

Mesopotamia's Possibilities.

The present administration in Mesopotamia and the immense possibilities of the country form the subject of an illuminating article by Colonel C. E. Yate, M.P., in the *Star*. Referring to the statement of Sir Thomas Holdich in a lecture before the Central Asian Society, to the effect that Central Arabia, Mecca and Medina, Syria, and Mesopotamia would always remain separate entities, he comments as follows on the actual conditions in Mesopotamia:—

In Central Arabia and Mesopotamia at the present day no portion will own allegiance to another. There could be no possible Arab claimant for the honour of governing Baghdad equal in religious, political, and military strength to the Shereef of Mecca, now known as the Malik-ul-Hejaz, but he has no influence in Mesopotamia, and not one of the Sheikhs of the three big tribes in Mesopotamia—the Shammar, the Anizieh, and the Moutafik—would accept the overlordship of an Arab from Hejaz. Nor would they accept the supremacy of one of themselves. The smaller tribes own no allegiance to either of the three big tribes, and would not become subservient to them, neither would they accept the overlordship of a Hejaz man. Consequently there is no one in Mesopotamia with sufficient status or power to rule the country. Then, again, the population of Baghdad . . . is a very mixed one. Some 50,000 or 60,000 are Jews, another 10,000 are Chaldeans, Nestorians, and old-world Christians of sorts, and the remainder are a mixed lot of Arabs, Persians, Kurds, etc., some Sunni-Mohammedans, and some Shiahs, who probably own no allegiance to anything but the strong hand.

Colonel Yate proceeds to point out that the Government inaugurated by General Sir Stanley Maude, which has already produced order out of "all this chaos," is an administration formed by officials of the Government of India working on Indian lines:—

Mesopotamia under a strong and honest administration, such as it now has, will in days to come be one of the richest countries in the world. It will be the granary of Asia, and it is also very rich in oil. No one has yet fathomed the possibilities of its mineral resources, and time will be required to open these out and complete the railways. The carrying out of the magnificent irrigation projects designed by Sir William Willcocks has already been commenced, and the great Hindia barrage constructed by Sir John Jackson and Co. is an earnest of what is to come. Once the flood waters have been controlled and the ancient Babylonian canals restored, Mesopotamia will become a second Egypt; in fact, Egypt will be nothing to it, and the good work now so well set in hand by the officers of the Government of India will, I hope, not be interfered with. Think what Burma was when the Government of India took it over in 1885, and what it is now—one of the most peaceful and prosperous provinces of the Indian Empire. What has been done by the officials of the Government of India in an outlying province like Burma on the east in the last generation can be equally well done in another outlying province like Mesopotamia in the west in the coming generation. The Indian system of government is now becoming more generally known. I hope the day may not be far distant when we shall see Mesopotamia having, like India, its own local Governor and its own Provincial Legislative Council composed of members partially elected and partly nominated, representing all the various races inhabiting the country, and just as flourishing as Burma is at the present day under a similar Constitution.

The Crisis in Austria.

The political situation in Austria-Hungary, as it is understood in Italy to-day, is analysed in the *Corriere della Sera* as follows:—

There is strong ground for the supposition that active work is proceeding in Vienna on a plan for the transformation and reconstitution of the Empire on a federal basis, in which side by side with Austria and Hungary there will arise the autonomous States of Galicia, Croatia, Bohemia, and other minor nationalities grouped together. There would be a species of Confederation, like that of Germany, in which the German element would have the function of the Prussian element in the Germanic Confederation, and in which the Habsburgs would have a position

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like that of the Hohenzollern. These plans for transformation, which apparently are intended to satisfy the aspirations of the peoples and give effect to the principle of nationality, are being very cleverly adumbrated and discussed precisely at a moment when a steady activity in favour of Austria has begun in various parts abroad.

Of this activity it is possible to perceive some extremely significant indications. An attempt is made to present Austria under a benign light, and as a State that is, as it were, on the road to—repentance! There are discreet hints as to the possibility of detaching her from Germany, offering her good conditions, and of making her, transformed, into a sort of anti-Germanic barrier towards the East. An effort is made to exploit the "sympathy" which the Austro-Hungarian Empire has enjoyed in certain countries, especially in England. Symptomatic and instructing in this connection is an article in a Vienna journal, the *Sonn-und-Montagszeitung*, in which it is affirmed that the adversaries' hatred is directed specially against Germany, and it is regretted that "in the actual situation of things it is not possible, in connection with the question of the conclusion of peace, to utilise the *sympathy* which Austria and its inhabitants enjoy in many parts of the world."

Bulgaria and Germany.

A Bulgarian association for the maintenance of *Kultur* and economic relations with Germany is one of the latest products of the Central Alliance. In giving a reception in honour of the new society the German Minister to Sofia gave, according to the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, the following sketch of the future in the Near East for the edification of his audience:—

Relying on God's help, we may look forward to peace with perfect self-confidence. A peaceful mind and a mailed fist will secure us peace also in the future. Then, in peace and in the future, we shall rejoice together over the creation of a great united Bulgaria, who will bring home the brothers who for centuries were divided, and hand in hand with our faithful Turkish allies securely guard the road to Asia from the Danube to the Ægean.

The reference to the mailed fist ought to encourage our pacifists to redouble their efforts to save German militarism from final and complete defeat.

Articles to Note.

"Salonika Before the Fire," in *The Times* (August 27).

"Those Who Dwell in Tents," in *The Times* (August 24).

"Our Prisoners of War in Turkey: Their Places of Internment and Their Work," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Graphic* (August 25).

"La questione della Palestina," by Maggiore Cesare Cesari, in *La Vita Italiana*.

"Costumi Albanesi: La Vendetta del Sangue," by Generale Dott. Teodorico Rôsati, in *La Vita Italiana*.

"The Proposed Connection of the Russian and Indian Railway Systems," by Henry D. Baker, in the August number of the *Geographical Review* (New York).

THE ANGLO-ROUMANIAN SOCIETY.

We give below particulars of the constitution of the Anglo-Roumanian Society, the formation of which, in commemoration of the first anniversary of Roumania's entry into the war, is announced in a letter from the Earl of Bessborough and Mr. A. W. A. Leeper, chairman and hon. secretary respectively of the society, which is given elsewhere in this issue. The objects of the society are as follows:—

1. To promote closer relations between the British Empire and Roumania by mutual study of the life, literature, and economic conditions of both countries.
2. To support and to make known Roumania's just aspirations.
3. To spread a knowledge of Roumania, its political and geographical position in the Near East, and its importance for the welfare of the British Empire and for the maintenance of peace in Europe.

The following have accepted the office of vice-presidents:—The Marquis of Crewe, Viscount Bryce, Viscount Gladstone, the Bishop of London, Lord Burnham, Lord Carnock, Lord Dunedin, Lord Tennyson, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., the Lord Mayor of London, Sir Starr Jameson, Sir George Reid, Sir Alfred Pearce Gould (Vice-Chancellor of the University of London), Sir James Alfred Ewing (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh).

The following are the members of the provisional executive committee:—The Earl of Bessborough (chairman), Sir Francis H. Barker, Mr. E. W. H. Barry (joint hon. treas.), Mr. Arnold Bennett, Mr. A. C. Benson, the Right Rev. Sir William Boyd-Carpenter, Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P., Lieut.-Col. John Buchan, Mr. R. M. Burrows (Principal of King's College, London), Mr. Howard Corbett, Commander Sir A. Trevor Dawson, R.N., Mr. Robert Donald, Professor Sir Arthur Evans, Mr. J. L. Garvin, Professor Maurice Gerothwohl, Mr. J. G. Hodder-Williams, Mr. Kennedy Jones, M.P., Mr. Hugh A. Law, M.P., Professor Sir Sidney Lee, Mr. A. W. A. Leeper (hon. sec.), Mr. H. Locke (joint hon. treas.), Mr. H. J. Mackintosh, M.P., Mr. E. D. Madge, Mr. G. H. Mair, Professor Paul Joseph Mantoux, Mr. Arthur Maquarie, Professor George Gilbert Murray, Sir Henry Newbolt, Dr. G. W. Prothero, Professor Sir Walter Raleigh, Dr. Michael E. Sadler (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leeds), Dr. R. W. Seton-Watson, Mr. A. L. Smith (Master of Balliol College), Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey, Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P., Sir William Grey-Wilson, K.C.M.G.

ROUMANIA'S WAR ANNIVERSARY.

The following telegram, dated August 22, has been sent by the King to the King of Roumania:—

"At a time when your Majesty is engaged in a bitter struggle in the defence of your country, I desire to convey to you the admiration of the British peoples at the magnificent way in which the Allied armies under your Majesty's command have fought, and at the very gallant resistance they are making to the assaults of the enemy. The British peoples are closely following the course of the great battle now raging, and they trust in the valour of the Roumanian and Russian troops under the leadership of your Majesty to bring the enemy's efforts to nought. The British forces in the West, in co-operation with our gallant French comrades, are striking hard at the common enemy, and will continue by all means in their power to render all possible assistance to your Majesty's forces and their Allies.—GEORGE R.I."

Mr. Lloyd George has telegraphed as follows to the Prime Minister of Roumania:—

"On the anniversary of Roumania's entry into the war, I wish to express on behalf of the British Government our heartfelt admiration for the heroic courage and endurance displayed by the Roumanian people during a year of almost unparalleled trial. In declaring against the Central Powers, Roumania took her stand for the cause of freedom against autocracy and of right against might. This cause can never fail, however long delayed its triumph may seem. The re-creation of their Army and the stubborn and invaluable resistance which it is now making against the enemy under conditions of exceptional difficulty is a magnificent example of the strength which freedom inspires in a free people. It is no less a proof of the resolution which animates all the Allied Armies to prosecute the war until victory is won, a victory which I have never doubted they will ultimately achieve.—LLOYD GEORGE."

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So many alleged adequate substitutes for textile materials have been introduced since the war began that further developments in this respect do not awaken very great interest. This is not to be wondered at, perhaps; but a recent French discovery is an exception to this. Algerian alfa fibre has been known for long, and, so we are told, a new process for its treatment has recently been devised with the view to utilise it for textile purposes. The process consists in the removal of the gum and resinous matters from the plant, which renders the fibre smooth and silky. The fibres so treated can be readily dyed, particularly with black dye, when, it is said, the fibre greatly resembles animal hair. It is claimed that fibre prepared by this process does not rot nora decay while in water. A by-product similar to tow is also obtained, which can be reeled or corded and used for making bagging, cordage, etc.

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I was unable last week to deal in these notes with the published results of British foreign trade in July; the figures are as interesting as they are important. Increased values are shown both in imports and exports, the former having advanced by nearly thirteen and a half million pounds, and the latter by three and a half millions. Coming to an analysis, it is recorded that with regard to imports raw material and articles mainly unmanufactured are decreased by £1,004,464, articles wholly or mainly manufactured by £2,946,800, while miscellaneous and unclassified articles are increased by £349,570. Among raw materials the imports of raw cotton are reduced in quantity by 835,531 centals and in value by £635,659, equal to 56.2 and 12.3 per cent. respectively; sheep or lambs' wool is reduced in quantity by 5,431,318 lb., but is increased in value by £280,627. The imports of flax, hemp, and silk are decreased both in quantity and value, but those of jute are increased to the extent of 303.8 per cent. in quantity and to the extent of 338.4 per cent. in value.

***

On the export side raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured are increased by £178,605, articles wholly or mainly manufactured by £4,777,428, and miscellaneous and unclassified articles by £134,406. Cotton yarn and twist is decreased in quantity by 606,900 lb., but is increased in value by £536,280; and cotton piece-goods are decreased in quantity by 1,908,600 yards, but are increased in value by £2,514,729. Woollen and worsted yarn is decreased in quantity by 892,600 lb., and in value by £117,570; woollen tissues are decreased in quantity by 1,849,000 yards, but are increased in value by £405,534, and worsted tissues are decreased in quantity by 856,300 yards, but are increased in value by £66,330. The exports of jute yarn and piece-goods are increased both in quantity and value, the former to the extent of 19.2 and 32.6 per cent.; and the latter to the extent of 46.0 and 51.2 per cent.; linen yarn is increased almost equally in quantity and in value, but piece-goods are decreased by 5,444,500 yards in quantity and by £204,137 in value.

***

A summary of the report by the British Consul-General at Lyons on the world's supply of raw silk is published elsewhere in THE NEAR EAST to-day, and from it will be seen that the estimated production of last year was greater than that of any previous year except 1912 and 1913. The figures for the Levant and Central Asia were practically the same as in 1915, while the provisional estimate for the whole of Europe was greatly in excess. The outstanding fact seems to be that, despite all the extraordinary difficulties caused by the war and the conditions it has ushered in, the production and marketing of silk throughout the world is being maintained on an excellent basis.

***

The *Textile Mercury*, in an illuminating article in a recent issue discusses frankly, and without fear or favour, some of the "tricks of the trade" as they are employed in the Lancashire cotton trade. It is a very severe indictment of abuses which affect nearly every branch of the cotton textile industry, and the *Mercury* deserves thanks and congratulation for its courage in dealing with the subject. It would seem that there are many black sheep in the fold. Buyers of yarn, spinners, and manufacturers—all seem to have been in the "swim." Indeed, the writer of the article concludes by quoting a "cynic" who, some years ago, said that "the roof of the Manchester Royal Exchange covered the heads of more men of questionable trading honesty than any other building in the country." I cannot believe the position is as bad as that to-day; but it would certainly seem to call for amendment.

***

I am glad to observe that the commercial community in London is responding generously to the appeal made by the Lord Mayor in aid of the stricken population of Salonika. Great distress has been caused in the famous Greek town by the devastating fire of a few days ago, a graphic and intensely moving picture of which was sent to the *Daily Express* by Mr. Owen, its correspondent there. I understand that many traders have been absolutely ruined, and that, apart from the distress suffered by the ordinary population, it will require a great deal of money to restore the trade and commerce of the town. The fund at the Mansion House reached a total of nearly £3,000 yesterday.

***

People in this country are more in sympathy with the Greeks than they were, because a great deal, if not all, of the odium of the last two years was caused by the treachery and ingratitude of the ex-King Constantine and his immediate entourage. The people themselves have always been on the side of justice and freedom—they have been the victims too frequently of the other thing to be otherwise—and now that M. Venizelos has come into his own their real character is being indicated. I hope, therefore, the commendable attempt of Sir William Dunn to provide relief for the unfortunate people of Salonika will be as successful as it deserves to be.

***

The Roumanian Chamber of Commerce, I am glad to learn, continues to prepare for the coming of peace, and while recent unfortunate events in the Eastern European theatre of the war would seem at the moment to be retarding the progress of the Entente Powers, it is as well that we should be fully prepared for the day when trade and commerce will be reopened. Before the war there were amazing German influences at work in the Balkans, particularly in Roumania; but the excesses of the Teutons, their grasping dishonesty and utter disregard of interests that were not their own, have all served a useful purpose after all. The Roumanians now know what it means to be under the domination of Berlin, and the Hun will not be as popular in Bucharest as he has been. This will help in the campaign on behalf of British trade, and we may be sure that the Chamber will not fail to make the most of the opportunities thus presented.

***

It is probably only too true that the Germans have profited by their partial occupation of the country to send to Berlin and Vienna considerable quantities of produce, just as they have done from Serbia, and indeed from Bulgaria, in the latter of which countries they have exploited their allies almost as shamelessly as they have done their enemies. To what extent these supplies have been secured it is impossible to say; but I do not believe that they have been so great as was alleged some weeks ago in the Central European Press. Even so, it is bad enough: internal conditions in Germany and Austria were acute last year, and the imported food and material have, practically, been as much value to those countries as an important victory in the field would have been. We can only "wait and see," as Mr. Asquith would tell us. And the side that can "wait" longest will win.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE SUDAN.

No. 13.—The Province of Sennar.

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

So recently has the territory, of which the Province of Sennar forms part, been redeemed from savagery and desolation, that some ten years ago, when the Darfung and Burun country (to the south) were taken over, no white man had been seen in the district. To-day those same regions are ranged among the more civilised and economically prosperous in the Sudan markets, are open and are well attended; trade is encouraged; and road transportation is everywhere rendered facile and followed unrestrictedly. It would be untrue to say that *all* the members of *all* the tribes are yet to be counted within the fold; various lawless people like the Beni Shangul, the Ghomasha, the Assossa, etc., continue to occasion trouble to the local authorities, but as time goes on and communications are improved they are destined to become less and less able to effect much more than temporary annoyance.

Irrigation Works.

The Province of Sennar is likely to enjoy a particularly generous share of the Sudan's economic prosperity on account of the vast irrigation works that are to be constructed—indeed, they have already been commenced—within its borders in connection with the great Ghezira Scheme. With an area of 40,440 square miles and a population of some 112,250—including tribes both sedentary and nomadic—the province contains some of the most attractive semi-tropical scenery to be found in the Sudan. The banks of the Blue Nile are especially interesting on account of the immense variety of *fauna*, *flora* and *insectum*—both winged and wingless—that abound. Unfortunately, this apparently beautiful region likewise forms the haunts of the detestable *serut* fly, which appears and disappears with the rains, and of mosquitoes which, in myriads plague the life of the human dwellers in these parts. On the other hand, game is plentiful—elephants, buffalo, giraffe, hippopotamus, hartebeeste, triang, roan antelope kudu, water-buck, bushbuck, *Cobus leucotis*, gazelle, lion, leopard, cheetah and numerous other wild beasts, constituting the country a veritable hunter's paradise.

Historic Interest.

Sennar, moreover, is historically one of the most interesting of the Sudan's political divisions. Under the powerful Fung kings, the old empire of Sennar extended from the Abyssinian frontier, on the south, to Dongola, on the north, and hence along the entire length of the Blue Nile and the main Nile as far as the present Egyptian frontier province of Halfa. One by one the integral parts of this federated kingdom were lost in battle or seceded, and at the time of the final conquest at the hands of the Egyptian Ismail Bey (a son of Mohammed Ali) the whole empire was in a condition of distintegration. It was annexed to Mohammed Ali's Sudan possessions in 1838. General Gordon was there in 1877, on his way to Khartoum, his great desire being to relieve the unfortunate and suffering population of that place. One of his last acts some seven years later—in 1884—was to send an armed force to clear the country of the Dervishes who had held it since 1882—when the garrison of the town of Sennar—after a brave and sustained defence—fell. An entry in his "Diary" (Book VI.) reads as follows:—"They state the Mahdi sent a party of Arabs to Sennar, but the garrison sallied out and killed nearly all of them."

Economic Future.

The economic future of the Sennar Province may be regarded with hopefulness, as much for its great natural resources as for the fact that education has made as much advance in this district as in any within the Sudan. Not only has the Government given great attention to the moral and intellectual improvement of the people, establishing excellent schools, which are well attended, and encouraged actively the several schools presided over by the various religious celebrities; but Mr. Henry S. Wellcome, the philanthropist and scientific explorer, has wrought a great and—it may be believed—permanent reformation among the people by means of the welfare scheme which for several years he has carried on among the people, many thousands of whom he has employed in connection with the valuable exploration and excavation works carried on at Gebel Moya.

Then, again, the Sennar province is likely to prove a substantial contributor to the general revenue by reason of its almost untouched, but admittedly wealthy, gum forests. These exist to an unknown extent in the districts of Singa, Karkoj, Dinder, and Roseires. This forest wealth is of some moment; but, unfortunately, there has been pursued little—I might say no—system of exploitation or preservation, with the result that some of the finest stretches of timber-land have been devastated either by reckless cutting or by fires, wilful or accidental.

The collection of both hashab and talh gum is also increasing year by year in this province. In the as yet untapped forests lying between the two Niles in the neighbourhood of Jebel Matmum, hashab is found in considerable quantities.

Farming.

Farming, as we understand the term, is as yet in its infancy, but the Government has established some experimental agricultural farms at Singa and Saoleil, where "dry-farming" is carried on. The crops raised include sesame, dura, cotton, and ground nuts, and all of these products have proved encouraging from a marketing point of view. The establishment at Saoleil has done especially well, notwithstanding the small rainfalls that have been experienced in past seasons. The trees are rubber, and the tapping stage arrived some three years ago, so that the eventual success of the enterprise can now hardly be in doubt.

Sennar province is divided into seven mamurias, namely:—Dar Fung (the mamuria being at Soda), Dinder (the mamuria at Abu Hashim), Karkoj, Kurmuk, Roseires, Sennar Town, and Singa. Dar Fung marks the commencement of the dense forest district which stretches continuously east and west from Nile to Nile. The town of Dar Fung is situated in a district of little value now compared with its great importance of former days. The Fung tribe, which inhabited the whole of the surrounding country, was once extremely powerful; and although the race still continues to exist—a genuine Fung now rules as the mek, or king, of Dar Fung—its power has been broken for all time. The principal trade carried on is conducted with Abyssinia, immediately adjoining, lengthy caravans passing to and fro through Keili, the headquarters of the district of Dar Fung.

Abyssinian Problem.

The one disadvantage from which the province of Sennar suffers is its proximity to Abyssinia. The relations which have existed between the two countries recall Macaulay's observation upon the "system in which the two great commandments were to hate your neighbour and to love your neighbour's wife." The dusky ladies of Sennar and districts have always had a peculiar attraction for the wild hordes owning the Abyssinian Negus as lord (at present the sovereign is a lady); raids and armed expeditions across the border have prevailed for years, but nowadays the invasions would appear to be more in the smuggling than the kidnapping line. In any case, the Abyssinians make very bad neighbours, and prove a source of continual annoyance to the authorities of the Sudan. Moreover, the people of the Ethiopian Empire have never exhibited any great friendliness towards the British, nor, indeed, to any Europeans—a fact which sufficiently explains the failure of the German Minister and his agents at Addis Ababba—the capital of Abyssinia—to stir up strife against the British and the French resident in that country when war broke out. At various times the Abyssinians have found themselves in armed conflict with Great Britain, France and Italy, and a dangerous precedent was established when the French helped King Menelik to defy us over the arms-importation matter, and thus, indirectly, gave rise to the war with Italy, which ended at the battle of Adowa on March 1, 1896, with such disastrous consequences for our gallant Southern Ally of to-day.

Frontiers.

The frontier delimitation between Abyssinia and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan was formally agreed to in 1902, but this has in no great measure assisted to put an end to the troublesome traffic in contraband. Through the numerous mountain passes quantities of forbidden arms and ammunition still continue to find their way into the Sudan, notwithstanding the great vigilance and precautions exercised by the Sudan authorities. Probably this traffic can never be completely stopped, but it can be, and is being, kept within certain limits by increasing the number and strength of the military patrols employed by the authorities on the Sudan side of the frontier, and consisting of men who are picked and engaged especially for the purpose. "Still profoundly unsatisfactory" was the official description of the situation at the end of the year 1914; and the position has improved very little, if at all, since then.

The Provincial Government's headquarters are established at Singa, the removal thither having taken place in 1905. Ranking at all times as a considerable village, Singa has now developed into a thriving town, even if it be composed mainly of grass *tukls*. The Government buildings, of brick, are commodious and adequate. In normal times the administration is composed of the Governor and a staff of six European Inspectors, one of senior and five of second rank. At present, however, there are but four of the latter.

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SHIPPING AFTER THE WAR.

British Owners' Proposals and Recommendations.

There was issued on Wednesday a voluminous report which has been prepared by the Committee appointed by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom and the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association, in March, 1916, to advise as to the measures requisite for the maintenance of a British mercantile marine adequate to the Empire's interests in peace as well as its needs in war. The report deals with oversea trade during the ten years preceding the war, which is illustrated by a number of coloured diagrams, and discusses trade policy. The following are the principal conclusions reached:—

Victory the First Essential.

The victorious termination of the war is the first essential to the formation of a successful trade policy after the war. An incomplete victory can never be perfected and an insecure peace can never be made stable by means of any form of trade policy. The objects for which the Empire and its Allies are fighting—reparation for the wrongs done, restitution, so far as is possible, for the losses sustained, and security for the future—must be attained. The peace of the world can never be secure so long as Germany has a military system at home and colonies abroad from which to carry into execution a policy of piracy and murder on land and sea against the world at large. It is only through the complete defeat of the enemy that these ends can be reached and the purpose of the war accomplished; and when that has been done our trade policy will of necessity be a peace policy.

State Control.

In determining upon the trade policy to be adopted after the war, the first care of the State must be to do nothing to imperil the pre-eminent position the United Kingdom holds in the international trade of the world. Our manufacturing power, our commerce, and our shipping have been established for the world's trade, and no smaller field can provide scope for their employment. To maintain that position the nation must, with the utmost possible speed after peace is restored, bring back its fighting forces into productive industry, so as to re-establish its manufacturing power, and to replace the war wastage in its shipping; and it must adjust its trading operations to meet the altered conditions in international exchange resulting from the prodigious war borrowings and war lendings between the nations. To accomplish these ends the greatest asset of the nation will be the energy and enterprise of its individual citizens; an asset which could never be replaced by either State assistance or State control.

The ruling principle of our trade policy after the war should therefore consist in the maintenance for each individual citizen, be he producer or consumer, manufacturer, trader, banker, underwriter, shipowner, employer or workman, of the fullest possible opportunities for the exercise of his energies and enterprise in the markets of the world, subject only to such restrictions as must be imposed in the interest of national safety. We are satisfied that so far as shipping is concerned, apart from any exceptional case for establishing a new trade, it can only hold its own in competition with the world free from State control, and therefore free from State assistance, and that speaking generally, State intervention can most profitably be directed and limited to increasing the trading efficiency of the nation as a whole.

Ocean Transport.

To assist in the development of our foreign trade ocean transports should be relieved from special and onerous charges, *e.g.*:—

SUEZ CANAL DUES.—The dividends received by the British Government in respect of its shareholding in the Suez Canal Company should be applied for the purposes of developing British trade through the Canal.

LIGHT DUES.—The levying of light dues on shipping should be abolished. Responsibility for lighting the coasts should be assumed as a national duty.

TURKISH LIGHT DUES.—The lighting of the Dardanelles and of the Red Sea should cease to be managed inefficiently for the profit of any Government and of the holders of the concessions granted by that Government.

FRENCH BROKERAGE AND SURTAX D'ENTREPOT.—Steps should be taken to place British shipping in French ports on an equality with French shipping in British ports.

The State should render all such assistance as may be necessary to re-establish, at the earliest possible moment, the British ocean services which have had to be abandoned owing to war demands on British shipping. The State should render financial help where necessary for the opening up of new markets. The freedom of the passenger to travel without hindrance by land and sea on the route he selects should be established by international agreement, and should no longer be controlled by any nation with the object of securing commercial advantages for the vessels under its flag. The State should aid in the development of those ports of the United Kingdom which are of national importance. The conditions of labour in the ports of the United Kingdom can only be materially improved if the workers for whom there is employment will accept the responsibility of giving regular work in exchange for regular pay. It cannot be improved so long as the individual worker declines to work regularly.

State control over the general design, building, and equipment of the vessels of the British mercantile marine would be fatal to its improvement and development. The control exercised by the State over shipping should be in the nature of police control, exercised through a sufficient number of fully qualified surveyors, and directed to detecting and preventing the sending to sea of vessels in an unseaworthy condition. A uniform system of State control, limited as above, should be applied equally to vessels under all flags in all ports of the Empire. The standards of safety enforced should be international standards. The standards of safety adopted by the United Kingdom should be accepted throughout the Empire.

WORLD'S SUPPLY OF RAW SILK.

The British Consul-General at Lyons has forwarded a table of statistics, which has been published by the Lyons Silk Merchants' Union, showing the estimated world's supply of raw silk in 1916, together with the definitive figures for the previous year. The provisional estimate for 1916 puts the total for Europe at 857,000 kilogrammes in excess of the definite figure for 1915. The estimated production in the Levant and Central Asia in 1916 remains the same as the definite total for 1915, though it may be assumed that the estimate is only conjectural, having regard to the impossibility of forming anything like a definite estimate in circumstances existing in most of the countries included in this group. The production in the Far East in 1916 is estimated at 1,173,000 kilogrammes more than in 1915, by far the greatest proportion of the increase being contributed by Japan, although the exports from India—never an important figure—show a considerable increase. The estimated total output of raw silk in 1916 is higher than that of any previous year, with the exception of 1912 and 1913. It will thus be seen that, in spite of all difficulties, the production and export of silk throughout the world is being satisfactorily maintained.

SUNK BY SUBMARINE.

Eighteen large merchant ships were lost in the week ended on Sunday last, according to the official return issued on Wednesday night. This figure compares with a revised total of fourteen in the two previous weeks.

In addition, four small merchant ships were sunk.

The return is as follows:—

Arrivals 2,629
Sailings 2,680

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons (gross) or over 18
Under 1,600 tons (gross) ..... 5 (a)

(a) Includes one vessel sunk in the week ending August 19.

British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines ..... 6 (b)

(b) Includes two vessels attacked in the previous week.

British fishing vessels sunk ... Nil.

French merchant ships between January 1 and August 1, 1917, were successful in 106 encounters with enemy submarines.

In thirty-four cases this was due to manœuvring to avoid torpedoes, and in sixty-two cases to the use of artillery, chiefly in reply to the submarine. In thirteen cases it was not the submarine which began the fight.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Gemsah production for the week 22 tons (last week 22 tons); Hurgada production for the week, 2,029 tons (last week 3,683 tons).

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The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Portable Buildings for Salonika.

The great fire in Salonika has practically entirely destroyed two-thirds of the town, and many thousands of people are homeless and destitute at the present moment, living under temporary inadequate shelters until means are available to transfer them to other parts of Greece. But there are also many hundreds of rich and well-to-do people—landowners, bankers, merchants, etc.—whose affairs or interests do not allow them to leave the half-destroyed town; and as, under the existing circumstances, there is no possibility of attempting at present the re-building of their houses, or even temporary small houses, owing to the scarcity of labour and building material, there is already a demand for either iron or composite portable buildings. British firms wishing to secure orders should act promptly, either by sending representatives—which is rather difficult at present—or advertising in papers which are allowed to circulate in Salonika. In the latter case it is advisable to insert one or two designs (woodcuts), by preference of summer buildings, and in answering inquiries to give the fullest possible particulars in order to save further correspondence, which under the existing postal difficulties takes longer than the usual time.

The Value of Sawdust.

Sawdust is generally considered a waste product. At present its principal uses, especially in the Continent and the East, are for spreading on floors of cafés, cabarets, shops, etc., on wet or muddy days; also for fuel (when briquetted), and for stuffing dolls; whilst in Germany, if recent reports are correct, the humble sawdust is raised at the present time to a higher plane of utility by being used as one of the principal ingredients in the "manufacture" of war-bread! Its adequacy, however, in the latter form is very doubtful. But, whether as a medium for the protection of shop-floors, or as a convenient substance for stuffing dolls or Germans, sawdust is wastefully used. Yet, as in many other so-called waste products, there is wealth in it; for, as we had occasion to mention in previous Engineering Notes, besides a variety of by-products that can be obtained by chemical treatment from sawdust, an efficient motive power can also be obtained from it by its use as fuel in suction gas-producers. Its utilisation for such purpose will relieve the situation, especially in the Near East where the use of suction gas-plants is very extensive and the difficulty in obtaining the necessary anthracite is much greater than here. It is satisfactory, therefore, to note that with the same object in view a correspondent has recently suggested that there should be brought to the notice of all users of suction gas-plants the value of sawdust and shavings; and that their gas engines will work equally as well on sawdust as coal or anthracite, and that three tons of sawdust will give the same result as one ton of anthracite.

For the conversion of sawdust into gas, the plant is slightly larger than for coal, and with the addition of a tar extractor the principle is the same. The possibility of the use of this waste is not generally known, consequently the volume of sawdust destroyed and wasted is serious.

If British manufacturers of suction gas plants would let buyers and users in the Near East know that they can supply such plants for the conversion of sawdust, wood refuse, etc., into gas, the results would persuade them that there are great opportunities for them at the present moment in those markets.

Americans and Russian Mines.

According to reliable reports the Special Mining Committee of the Russian Ministry of Commerce has decided to recommend the transfer to American hands of a great part of the Empire's mines and mineral deposits. It was well known—an allusion was made in these columns at the time—that since the early part of last year American engineers have been visiting various mining districts of Russia and especially those between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, and as far south as the Baku district. The transfer to American hands of mines and possibly accompanied with certain privileges in that region will have considerable influence in the prospects of other engineering enterprises there as well as in Asia Minor.

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TRICKS IN THE COTTON TRADE.

Lancashire, as Lancashire Sees Itself.

A correspondent writes in the *Textile Mercury*:—

The cotton trade is full of anomalies and abuses of one kind and another, which spinners and manufacturers have allowed to grow until in many cases they have become almost recognised institutions. Owing to want of cohesion, those concerned are unable determinedly to clean out the Augean stable. One of the most glaring abuses just now making itself felt in many quarters is the practice, on the part of spinners' agents, of speculating in yarns.

Spinners are finding that their own yarns are being sold at prices considerably below those ruling on the day, and by this means manufacturers are having money put into their pockets by spinners' agents, who no doubt think they are preparing the way for favours to come. Spinners themselves are more or less responsible for these irregularities—for, undoubtedly, they are irregularities, if a stronger word would not more fittingly describe this sort of trade. A yarn agent receives a commission from the spinner to find him a customer; he is, therefore, purely the servant of the spinner, for he is in his pay.

Agents' Commission.

In all cases the buyer of the yarn should be disclosed, but it is probable that all spinners' salesmen do not insist upon this condition being complied with. A result is that agents now and again buy the yarn for themselves unknown to the spinner. In such cases the agents draw their commission without contracting a muscle, although they must know they are not legitimately entitled to it. They buy the yarn as a speculation pure and simple. If the market prices go in their favour they pocket the difference and say nothing about it. In the same market they will be offering the yarn against the spinner and undercutting him. It is a reprehensible, if not a dishonest, practice. But this is not the worst feature of it: in reality it is a game of "heads I win, tails you lose." If quotations favour the agent-speculator he wins and pockets the ill-gotten gains; if prices go against him, then either the manufacturer is not using that class of yarn or he notifies that he cannot meet his engagements. In either instance the spinner is hit. In the one case he has to carry his cotton to suit the agent, and in the other he has to accept a composition.

Another phase of the agent-speculator is that he can also sell yarns without buying. Many a spinning firm is to-day suffering from a policy of this kind, because an agent by this means can be brought down and the spinner will be left to whistle for the guaranteed yarn accounts, which may have been paid for by the manufacturer. But spinners have the whole matter in their hands; they can put a stop to these juggling practices and they can clear the trade of these speculative agents whenever they are so disposed. They can insist that the name of the customer accompanies every contract. If this is not done the spinner should have no compunction in cutting the agent. Were this action taken by all spinners the market would be cleared of men who are not content with doing an honest trade.

Manufacturers.

Manufacturers are sometimes guilty of offending practices. To take a typical case, we will suppose that a spinner is desirous of keeping down his stock and is securing orders for specified delivery. He purchases his cotton and commences to spin the yarn, so as to meet the manufacturer, but days pass by and he gets no particulars as to delivery. He becomes anxious, and writes to the manufacturer, but no notice is taken of his letters. The period of time lapses, and the spinner becomes still more anxious. Again he tries to get particulars for delivery, but all of no avail. Then, to protect himself, he notifies that unless particulars come to hand by a certain date steps will be taken to cancel the order. This procedure is carried out to the full. The manufacturer suddenly awakes, and declares it is all a mistake, due to the carelessness of one or other of his subordinates, or some other circumstance.

Manipulations.

In this way many a manufacturer manipulates his position. It may be that he has overbought himself, and seeks to put off the spinner until the time it suits him to take up the contract. Another trick of manufacturers is to tell the spinner that they are not at present using the class of yarn on order, and, in consequence, delivery is stopped until further notice. Many a time and oft the spinner knows that the manufacturer is deluding him, though he has not full proof of it, and that, simply because prices have fallen, his client is getting his requirements elsewhere. When prices again improve the manufacturer looks up the spinner whose deliveries he has stopped, and signifies his willingness to take in yarns. And so the oracle is worked. By such manipulation a manufacturer is enabled to stave off a loss. Nor are spinners themselves free from blame in regard to tricks of trade. Cases are known of spinning firms who, when cotton prices have risen considerably, have declined to deliver the lower-priced orders. On the day it would probably mean a great loss to complete these orders. But as these firms purchase the cotton to cover the yarn sales, they want to have the advantage of a rising market, and then when prices come back again to deliver the yarn, because the cotton quotations suit them. These firms are just as blameworthy as are manufacturers and agents.

None of these practices are allowed in the Liverpool cotton market, and very rightly so. The terms of the cotton contracts are precise, and must be complied with. Why should not the same terms obtain in the spinning trade, and also in the manufacturing trade if similar abuses exist? Traders should have their contracts so drawn that their terms must be met whether the market goes in favour of the buyer or seller, and there should be uniformity of contract terms throughout the trade. Attempts have at times been made to remedy abuses, but the trade has failed to respond to the occasion, till one almost despairs of spinners being united as one man to put their trading relations with their customers on a sound basis.

What a Cynic Said.

It may readily be confessed there are honest men among manufacturers and agents and spinners, and perhaps it is their balancing power which keeps affairs going as they do. Many have read around the middle dome of the Manchester Royal Exchange the words, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold." How many traders make this the practice of their lives? A cynic said some years ago that the roof of the Manchester Royal Exchange covered the heads of more men of questionable trading honesty than any other building in the country. It is not by any means so bad as this cynic would have us believe, but, without doubt, there is need of improvement in the trading practices of the cotton trade.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Markets Still Unsettled.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Thursday.

The market continues very unsettled. There are various disturbing influences at work at the moment, which result in a cautious policy being adopted not only in the way of buyers placing orders, but in producers hesitating to commit themselves to deliveries a long way ahead. A more bearish feeling has prevailed than for some time back, and the opinion is held in many quarters that in the near future prices will be on a lower level. It is quite possible, however, for a distinct decline to take place in raw cotton rates without there being a similar reduction in yarn and cloth values. The Control Board has decided to postpone the reduction of output scheme for one week until September 10. Numerous spinners and manufacturers scarcely know what to do: that is to say, whether to stop machinery according to the regulations, or run additional spindles and looms and pay the levies. It is said that certain reports relating to the damage to the Egyptian crop are exaggerated, and the growth on the whole is doing fairly well. Certain qualities in Alexandria are quite 6d. per lb. cheaper than a month ago. The official quotations in Liverpool are very little to go by. Business in Egyptian yarns has been demoralised by the developments in the raw cotton situation. Merchants who trade in piece goods for Egypt have welcomed the announcement of another boat for that market. Goods are wanted abroad, but much uncertainty exists as to future shipping facilities. There has been an absence of workable demand for India. Makers of grey shirtings are very depressed. Only sorting up lots have been put through for China. Rather less activity is now showing itself for the minor markets of the Far East. American yarns are easier on the week, and there seems to have been more irregularity in prices than ever. Now and again low figures have been taken by needy sellers of medium counts. Export bundles have been in moderate request for India, but our trade in yarns for Holland continues at a standstill.

RESTRICTION ON COTTON GROWING IN EGYPT.

A Reuter message from Alexandria, dated August 28, stated that the Government has decided to restrict the acreage under cotton in the coming season.

BRITISH SHIPS AND GREECE.

In response to representations made by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to the Shipping Controller with reference to the despatch of British steamships from this country to Greece, the following communication has been received by the Chamber:—

"In reply, I am to state that the change in the political situation in Greece cannot be considered as sufficient justification for exposing British ships to the very serious risk involved in a voyage to and from Greece. This risk ought not, in Sir Joseph Maclay's opinion, to be run except for the carriage of war material or supplies essential to allied interests, and in these circumstances Sir Joseph Maclay can hold out no hope of the immediate resumption of the facilities previously available for ordinary commercial purposes."

The Supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* of August 30 contains complete lists of articles which, according to the latest information received by the Board of Trade, are prohibited to be exported from Denmark, France (including Algeria), Italy, Japan, and the Netherlands. The Supplement also contains the list of articles (complete to date) which are prohibited to be exported from the United Kingdom. Copies may be obtained at a cost of 3d. (3½d. post free), either from any bookseller, or from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C., Thursday.

The great activity prevailing in the Egyptian share market during the last few weeks has given way to a much quieter state of affairs, and here and there this has led to some profit taking by holders in a hurry to snatch their profits, with the result that most prices are somewhat lower than last week.

The reaction may be considered a healthy one, and should it make further progress it will probably afford a good opportunity for many investors who missed getting in before the last sharp movement.

National Banks have receded ¼ to 16⅝, and Agriculturals are 5-32 easier at 6 9-32, but in both cases the business has been on rather a small scale. Land Banks have also shed ⅛ at 6⅛, about one hundred shares having changed hands.

Delta Light Railway Preferences are a further ⅛ down at 6, and in miscellaneous shares Salt and Sodas have reacted 6d. to 26s. 6d.; while Khedivial Mails are 2s. down at 34s. On the other hand, Egyptian Markets have been an exceptionally bright spot, and close 1s. higher at 27s. 6d.

In Land Shares, Aboukir has dropped 6d. to 20s., and Behéras are ½ down at 12¼. Delta Land have continued a very firm market, and are unaltered at 14s., after having been changing hands freely round 14s. 3d. In New Egyptians there has also been some profit taking, and the shares are 4½d. lower at 13s. 6d. Sidi Salem have also been subjected to a little selling pressure, with the result that they are 1-32 easier at 27-32.

With regard to the latter property, it is said that there is already a great improvement noticeable in the area which has since the war come under the new drainage installations made by the Behéra Company. In Egyptian Government stocks Unified are ½ lower at 84.

In Greek securities the market continues practically stagnant. Generally speaking there are buyers about, but sellers are very scarce. Some small transactions have been effected in Currant Bonds at 91, a rise of 2½ points.

Oil Shares.

Roumanian Consols have been easier at 125.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Wm. Johnston, a prominent Liverpool shipowner, passed away on Monday last at the age of 76. Mr. Johnston, who was senior partner of the firm of William Johnston and Co., Ltd., better known as the Johnston Line, the management of which some eighteen months ago was taken over by Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., founded the business, together with his brother, Mr. Edmund Johnston, half a century ago.

In addition to their well-known services from Liverpool to the Levant and other parts of the Mediterranean, they maintained regular connections between Liverpool and the United States. Mr. Johnston gave £20,000 towards the establishment of a laboratory for the study of tropical diseases at the University of Liverpool.

The death is also announced of Mr. Edward Catchpole, at the age of 81, who retired from the Moss Steamship Co., Liverpool, in March last, after being in their service for fifty-six years. He occupied the position of manager of their Forwarding and Shipping Department.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Aug. 24.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84⅛	84
Do. Pref. 5 % 1890	£8	75⅝	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	54⅛	54½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	45
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	61½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	60
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	88½xd	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 1½% Fg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6 7/16	6 9/32
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13	13
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6½	6⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	16⅛	16⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅛	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17½	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	80	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 7/16	20/6	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12⅜	12½
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4 5/32
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/-	14/-
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	7/6	7/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	33/-	33/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/10½	13/6
Sidi Salem Co.	1 3/16	17/6	27/ 27/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2⅛	2
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/3	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 7/16	12 7/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/6xd	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1 1/16	27/-	26/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	1 3/16	36/-	34/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

FRENCH MISSION TO MECCA.

The French Government has sent M. Cherchali to Mecca with the object of settling questions of Moslem interest, especially in regard to the definite acquisition and installation of French hotels at Mecca.

M. Cherchali has been invited to visit, under conduct of the Minister of Public Works, various buildings erected by the Malik of Hedjaz, with a view to facilitating the ritual ablutions of the pilgrims and benefiting the health of the city.

The attention which the Malik has shown to our envoy (writes a Paris contemporary) is a further proof of his friendly feeling for France. His vigilant care for all that concerns the welfare of the pilgrims proves his desire to make it as easy as possible for them to carry out their religious obligations.

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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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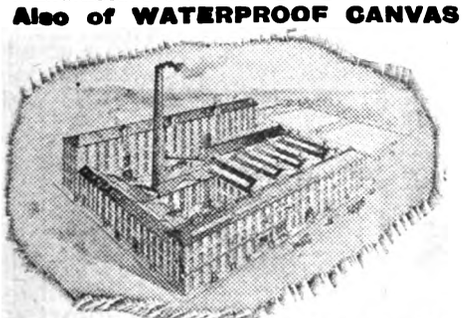
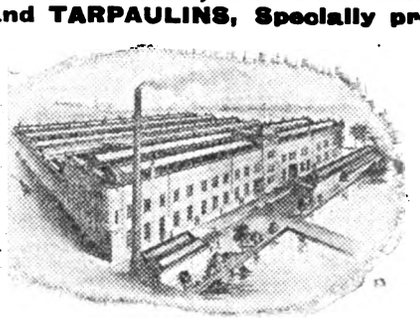
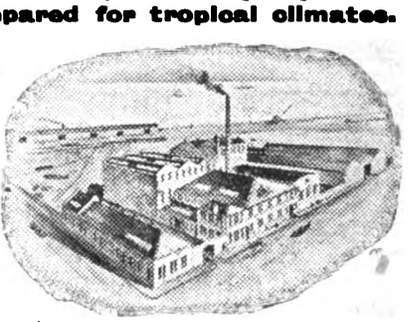

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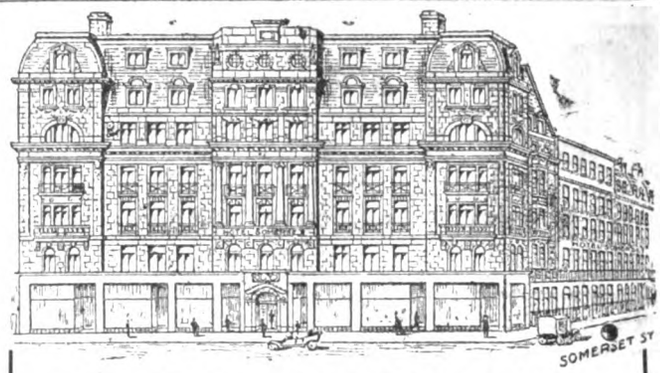

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 331.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The few details that have been received from Roumania during the week indicate that the fighting continues on normal lines—that is to say, that the Germans have not ceased to attack, while the Roumanian army has resisted and, so far as it can, has repulsed them with a vigour and a heroism worthy of all praise. The task, which would in any case have been sufficiently arduous, has been rendered desperate by the defection of Russian units—which has been made good, so far as possible, by hurrying up Roumanian reserves—and also by the revolutionary propaganda of German and Russian agents. But this kind of persuasion is likely to fail of its effect. The insinuating German has his own ends to serve, and it is not usual to take the advice of one's enemy; while the success of the Russian plea in favour of a revolution is very seriously discounted by the utter failure of their own revolution to ensure any kind of order or authority.

The great military event of the week, however, has occurred at the other end of the eastern front. Since Riga was saved two years ago by the Russians after a whole summer of disaster, there is little doubt that it could have been saved now. But the utter collapse of the Russian army gave the Germans an easy task, and if the enemy have the ambition to take Petrograd, there appears nothing particular to stop them, the continual efforts to restore a fighting spirit in the Russians apparently failing as often as they are made. It is evidently useless to minimise the extreme gravity of the position in the east, and indeed there is no longer any attempt to do so in any responsible English journal.

A minor but not less disturbing indication of the disorganisation of Russia is the demand put forward this week for autonomy by Siberia. Autonomy in this, as in other cases in Russia since the revolution, means in effect independence, and this last demand, following as it does on the similar programme put forward in Finland and the Ukraine, is only one more step in the general process of disintegration. For the time being M. Kerensky's efforts to stop the rot seem to have failed. It was at first hoped that the disaster to the Galician army would have convinced his political opponents of the need for discipline, but the Moscow Conference proved the contrary. It has yet to be seen whether the loss of Riga and the direct threat to the capital will waken these theorists from their dream, but it cannot be said that the omens are propitious. Should the policy of disintegration be persisted in, the downfall of Russia as a great Power could not be long delayed.

The German Press is naturally jubilant over the capture of Riga. It provides an effective debating-point against the visible blessings of democracy and revolution from the point of view of the upholders of the opposite system, which is of some use to Potsdam; incidentally, it strengthens those who are in favour of a policy of eastern adventure against the colonial school which is still hankering after Central Africa. Although it is difficult to gauge the weight of enemy parties, it would seem that the course of the war must have discredited the colonial school to a certain extent, and added to the prestige of the continentalists. The newspapers, and therefore the Government, are now desperately anxious to agree with Russia—on their own terms—and it is a peculiar misfortune for the enemy that at this very moment the bottom has fallen out of his elaborately-built Polish policy. Poland is proving indigestible just as the German was getting ready to swallow the neighbouring provinces.

The Greek Government has wisely introduced a Bill to impeach the Ministers of the late King who were so active in seconding his policy. At present the Bill only contemplates the trial of the Skouloudis and Lambros Cabinets, but it is believed that another Bill will be introduced to include the Gounaris Cabinet. M. Venizelos has silenced the opposition of M. Ralli by pointing out that they will be allowed time to prepare their defence, but they will not be permitted to evade the responsibility for the national disasters which their policy produced. The decision is just and, after the disclosures made since the abdication of King Constantine, inevitable.

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It was no crime, of course, for the Ministers in question to be Germanophil. They might have had legitimate reasons for holding that the interests of Greece coincided more nearly with those of Berlin than with those of the Allies. Their real crimes were that they went out of their way to help Germany, by deserting their ally to whom they had sworn, by ceding their territory to Bulgaria at Germany's behest, and by taking money for this shameful transaction. On the facts, so far as they are known, there can be no excuse for the Greek Ministers of King Constantine, and it will be interesting to see what kind of a defence they are able to allege in their favour. A further charge is that they plotted with the King to introduce an absolute monarchy, which, if proved, is a crime against the Greek Constitution.

As a contribution to the discussion on the possibility of detaching Bulgaria from the Central Alliance we publish on another page an article by M. Djuritch. The writer sets out to prove from the utterances of public men and from the Bulgarian Press the closeness of the ties binding Bulgaria to Germany and the satisfaction felt by the Bulgarians with conditions as they are. It is hardly to be expected that the official attitude of the country should be otherwise, and to propose coming to terms with an undefeated Bulgaria is merely to extend pacifist machinations to another sphere. Whether it is equally necessary that Germany as well as Bulgaria should no longer count as a "military power" before the latter may be prepared to listen to peace overtures is another question. On this point we should not be inclined to set much store on the stout words appearing in the Bulgarian Press. There can be little doubt, as is insisted elsewhere in regard to Turkey, that the only useful medium of communication at the present moment is to be found on the battle field. But as it is expected that Bulgaria will come to appreciate the fact that she is both in the Balkans and of the Balkans, and that therefore her true interests are really linked up with those of the neighbouring States, so sooner or later a stage must be reached when it will be worth the Allies' while to encourage the Bulgarians to look at things in a different light from that in which they are presented in their own Press. It need not be taken for granted that those who now direct the affairs of the nation will always be in power.

A terrible account has been published of the sufferings of the people of Montenegro under enemy rule. A sworn statement is published that "there are certainly two hundred people a day" dying of famine; that the soldiers treat the population badly, men being made to work on the roads, and if any of them stops work to rest or drink he is shot on the spot. Although the conditions in Cettigne are slightly better, the witness of these facts states his belief that altogether from ten to fifteen thousand people have died of starvation. It would have appeared that this was part of the German policy of frightfulness, but for the further statement that the Austrian army of occupation can get little to eat, and are also dying in numbers; they tell the people that the war cannot last more than a month or two longer, owing to famine. If this is correct, it seems that the much-trumpeted announcement of supplies from Roumania and Serbia for the support of the Austrian army must have been untrue, as was more than suspected at the time. Unfortunately there is no reason to hope that the conditions in Serbia or Roumania are much, if at all, better.

"Everywhere the people are too poor and badly nourished to try to revolt," says this witness. No doubt the aim of Austrian policy has been to produce this result, which is a legitimate proceeding according to the war theory of the Central Powers. To that extent it is admittedly successful, and no doubt, if it could be pursued to the end, which would mean the extirpation of most of the inhabitants, it would facilitate the task of those Austrian conquerors who desire to hold the country permanently. But those that survive this terrible experience, whether in Serbia or Montenegro, will never forget, nor will their children, the calculated policy of Vienna; and the bulk of the manhood of these countries being outside the Austrian grip, means that the policy of frightfulness will not only fail of its present effect, but will raise up undying enmity among the Serbian and Montenegrin armies. The treatment of their nationals will not lessen the intention of the Jugoslavs to see the thing through and to exact vengeance upon their oppressors. Nor will these facts be lost upon those who have insinuated that there is a possibility of compromise between the Jugoslav leaders and the Austrian throne.

Whatever feelings there may have been in that direction during the time of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and even so late as the present Emperor's apparent disposition in favour of trialism during the early weeks of his reign, will hardly survive the present methods. There were a few among the Jugoslavs who at one time believed a satisfactory compromise with Vienna might be a possible, although hardly a probable or, in the long run, a satisfactory solution of the problem. But the determined enmity of the German element in Austria, backed as it is by the whole of the Prussian Press, has sufficiently shown how hopeless these aspirations were. Real autonomy for the Slav nationalities within the Austrian Empire has been shown again and again to be impossible: the alternatives are clearly independence or servitude. The policy of terror and starvation which is now being pursued only points the moral of that conclusion.

The curtain has hardly been lifted over the scene of events in Palestine and the Salonika fronts. From the former we have had only a Turkish communiqué announcing an intense British artillery fire against Gaza; there has been no British announcement. From Salonika a slightly more detailed statement has been issued of a combined British, French and Serbian offensive, which was no doubt undertaken in order to relieve the pressure on the Roumanian front—in which the magnificent Italian effort against Trieste has also had an undoubted effect—but no further details have been issued. There is, however, a point beyond which military reticence becomes absurd, and this point appears to have been reached some time ago in Palestine.

The Stockholm Conference has been abandoned, or at least adjourned *sine die*. No other course had become possible, and although Mr. Ramsay Macdonald will still try to meet his German friends, the whole business of the Conference has now been hopelessly discredited. Some idea of the way in which the machinery was to be worked in the interests of Germany may be gathered from the fact that the two Serbian delegates, who were chosen by methods that have not been published, were to be accommodated with a passage through Germany and Austria—a courtesy which Germany would only extend to those who have given guarantees to work in her own interests. In addition, the two so-called representatives of Persia whose presence as delegates was announced a week or two ago are, we understand, gentlemen who were exiled from Persia some time back, and who had to leave their country in order to save their skins. Subject to this trifling disadvantage, which might perhaps have been rather a recommendation to some of the delegates at Stockholm, they were no doubt given equal facilities with the Serb renegades for their journey through Austria and Germany. But the intrigue, although

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cleverly planned, has fallen as flat as the Pope's peace note.

With the latest apologia of Lord Haldane—the fourth, by dead reckoning, since his spiritual home was transferred by circumstances over which he had no control from Germany to Queen Anne's Gate—THE NEAR EAST is not directly concerned. But it may be pointed out that the inspired chronicler (or his informant) was grossly misinformed as to the negotiations concerning the Baghdad Railway—the negotiations whose existence was denied in a recent statement in Parliament, to the edification of our jesting Pilates. But it is suggested, in these reminiscences and anecdotes, that Britain secured by negotiation from Germany in the Middle East as much as she has since obtained by fighting. This would seem to indicate that Lord Haldane brought back Baghdad in his pocket from Berlin. If he did, he evidently dropped it back into the German Ocean on his way to England, for no such suggestion has ever been made since in the accounts that have appeared from both English and German sources, and since those accounts agree in the main that England did most of the giving and Germany most of the taking, there would seem to be no reason for distrusting them. Lord Haldane's revised version will have to be corrected again. At present it is like some of the prophecies—full of revelations, but nobody can understand them.

The difficulties that have arisen in certain countries in regard to Indian indentured labour have gradually produced in India a strong body of opinion opposed to the whole system. It was in response to this feeling that the Government of India in 1913 appointed Commissioners to report on the conditions of life of Indian immigrants in various British colonies. Their investigations were restricted to British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, and Fiji, and in May, 1915, the results of their inquiries were published in two Blue Books. In the main the Commissioners pronounced in favour of a system of protected emigration, which would lead to the colonisation by poor but industrious Indians of lands offering prospects much more favourable than they could hope to realise at home. The fact that the Commission's recommendations had been accepted as a substitute for indentured labour was indicated by Lord Hardinge in March, 1916, shortly before he left India, when he announced that the Secretary of State had agreed to a policy of total abolition, but with the proviso that the system must be maintained until the new conditions had been worked out in conjunction with the Colonial Office and the Crown Colonies concerned.

This task has been performed by the Inter-Departmental Conference presided over by Lord Islington, which has now issued its proposals, the aim of which is to encourage the settlement of Indians, after a probationary period of employment, in the colonies in such a way that the interests of both the colony and the immigrant are promoted. The latter's conditions of life and his wages will be under Government supervision, but he remains a free agent. The intention, however, is that he should stay where he is, and while he can command assistance in returning to India, if he so wishes, special inducements will be offered him to remain in the colony. Further, he is to be encouraged to take with him his whole family. This scheme will for the present be restricted to the four colonies named. It clearly has nothing to do with the treatment of Indians in the Dominions; but it is not difficult to see that the scheme does just reach the fringe of the subject. Following upon the acceptance by the Imperial War Conference of the principle of reciprocity of treatment as between India and the Dominions, it constitutes a stepping-stone to the ultimate adjustment of a problem which has been a fruitful source of friction within the Empire.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Internal Reforms.

The sudden decision of the Government to carry out internal reforms was received on the whole with considerable enthusiasm, an impression emphasised by the fact that those whom the intended reforms did not attract had sufficient common sense and tact to keep their feelings private. Indeed, the abstention of the landed class from antagonistic criticism, both in the Press and in Parliament, would have deserved much credit had they not been equally sparing of approval. The Governmental Press interpreted this silence as a ready acceptance of the reforms, and in the enthusiasm of the moment volunteered observations which amount to a self-indictment of the old *régime*. So a leader in *l'Independance Roumaine* considers that, in different circumstances, it would have been natural for the reforms to meet with a certain opposition in Parliament, which contains so many landowners. For, "properly speaking, these two reforms (adult suffrage and expropriation) mean the renunciation by the propertied and governing classes of their privilege of riches and authority. The principle of power and the monopoly of property were until now only nominally the ownership of the whole people; to-day that fiction becomes reality."

In opening the new session of the Parliament M. Bratianu outlined the scope of the three reforms. Each Chamber then elected a commission which, working in common, proceeded to elaborate a draft embodying the various changes. It cannot be said that there was any actual opposition to the Government suggestions; criticism only concerned itself with the details of the reforms. The newly formed Labour party tabled a draft of its own which went beyond the limits adopted by the Government in their outline, and contained in addition a proposal for woman suffrage. During the discussion which followed several speakers insisted that the reforms ought to be introduced by a Cabinet reorganised on a non-party basis, but as the Liberals form the great majority of both Houses the suggestion found naturally only slight support. First the Chamber and then the Senate adopted, with but slight modifications, the official draft, and it now only remains for circumstances to allow the application of those praiseworthy measures. Expropriation, of course, cannot be proceeded with as long as a large portion of the country is in enemy occupation, and in the opinion of the majority of the Cabinet the purely political reforms should be made to coincide with the integration of the Roumanian nation.

Space does not allow me to comment on the various speeches delivered during the discussion of the reforms, but one I must mention on account of its bearing upon general Roumanian politics. The speech delivered by M. Take Jonescu in the Roumanian Chamber of Deputies was worthy of the war and of the time. He spoke out with such directness of argument, with such unhesitating sincerity, that the assembly was roused to a high pitch of enthusiasm and cheered loudly his eloquent utterances. Perhaps the most interesting part of his speech was that in which he disclosed the political alliance concluded between him and the late M. Filipescu in the autumn of 1914, a disclosure which throws light upon the activities of the interventionist party during the period of Roumanian neutrality, as well as upon the inception of the internal reforms which have been recently enacted.

After the Crown Council held at Sinaia on August 4, 1914, under the influence of King Carol, had decided upon neutrality, M. Jonescu and M. Filipescu, who had not been on speaking terms for several years back, met, and with the concurrence of a third personality, whose name has not been disclosed, agreed upon doing everything in their power in order to make Roumania side with the Allies. "It was the unique hour in a period of nineteen centuries," he said, "an hour which had never been before nor could ever be again, for never had it been possible to form a coalition of four Great Powers against Austria, the only circumstance in which we could hope to bring about, sword in hand, our national unity." They had not overlooked the fact that Roumanian intervention on the side of the democracies of the West, and the new conditions arising from the creation of a Great Roumania, would hasten by half a century the transference of power from the small ruling class to the broad mass of the people. Far from engendering hesitation, the knowledge of that fact led them to look into the future and consciously prepare the transference of the power which they were yet wielding. They agreed that six points required immediate reform:—

1. Reform of the Chamber of Deputies, based on universal franchise, by secret, equal, and direct vote.
2. Reform of the Senate, following broadly the organisation of the French Second Chamber.
3. A considerable transformation of rural ownership in favour of the broad masses of the peasantry.

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4. The complete emancipation of the Roumanian Jews, without restrictions, reservations, or ambiguous provisions.

5. Reform of the organisation of the Church, with a view to its separation from the State.

6. Reform of the administration for the purpose of excluding from it party influence and securing a greater stability in office for public servants. It was also contemplated to follow in a certain measure the English system of administrative decentralisation.

The influence of English organisation was also evident in M. Jonescu's remark that, while he considered Parliamentary franchise for women as premature for Roumania, he was prepared to support the admission of women in the bodies entrusted with the function of local government.

"And what will be the reward for all this?" M. Jonescu exclaimed. "Individual reward?—None. History will forget even the names of all of us. But history will not forget that, though crowded of necessity into a corner of the land, and stricken with unspeakable suffering, not only did we have the courage to believe in victory and to say: 'We will perish, but we will not surrender,' but that we also had the courage to commit in a way suicide, for the sake of future generations."

Local Conditions.

The deficiency of fuel has reached such a stage that the municipality of Jassy has been forced to discontinue the supply of electricity, for lighting and other purposes, except between the hours of 8.30 and 11.30 p.m. The authorities have also introduced the system of summer time on the English model.

The supply of food continues to be unsatisfactory. The bread is of poor quality, and sometimes no bread at all can be baked on account of lack of flour or of fuel. A certain amount of sugar was obtained from Russia, and during July it was possible to distribute about three-quarters of a pound per head to the population of Jassy. Even home-grown products are scarce and expensive. Here are some of the current market prices for vegetables:—Potatoes lei 1.75 (1s. 6d.) per kilogramme; marrows, cucumbers, and a bunch of onions, 1 leu (about 10d.) each.

Much distress is also felt on account of lack of footwear. The wholesale loss and killing of cattle during last winter's retreat has made the country completely dependent upon foreign supplies for leather; what can be obtained, however, hardly suffices for the adequate provisioning of the army.

Occupied Territory.

I mentioned in my last correspondence that M. Virgil Arion, an ex-Minister and ex-editor of the notorious pro-German paper *Moldova*, has been placed by the German authorities in occupied Roumania at the head of the Department of Education. I now learn that several other well-known Roumanians have accepted service under German rule, namely, M. Demeter Nenitzescu, also an ex-Minister; M. Gregory Antipa, some time Director of the State Fisheries; and M. Lupu Costache. It is not yet known what functions have been alloted to these gentlemen. Jassy strongly condemns their action, and one can well understand that feeling. But, feeling aside, once they had made up their minds to remain in occupied territory, was it not more correct for them to work than to await in idleness the end of the war, as well as more reasonable to agree to serve the population of Wallachia than let it be administered by some stiff-necked German official?

How the German military authorities treat the unfortunate province may be gathered from the following information, supplied by a Roumanian non-commissioned officer who succeeded in escaping into Moldavia. The whole of the available supply of maize has been requisitioned by the Germans, without payment or any form of acknowledgment. The native population receives daily 300 grammes (about 2-3rd lb.) of maize per head, but they have to pay for it according to prices fixed by the German authorities. Cattle, in so far as not needed for field work, have also been commandeered.

As to the spirit of German rule, the following official communication, taken from the *Gazeta Bucurestilor*, is very suggestive: "All Roumanians born between 1877 and 1901 shall present themselves at the school Dinicu Golescu, in order to receive identification cards and instructions concerning their obligation of presentation on demand. The persons falling within these categories will not be sent away from Bucharest provided that they follow in all detail the instructions which they will receive concerning their presentation. Those failing to answer this notice will be sentenced to a fine of 3,000 lei and six months' imprisonment. It will be the duty of the police, and its responsibility, to see that all concerned by this notice do not fail to attend, even those who are unable to read it; all the members of their families and their priests could eventually be held responsible for their non-presentation."

Meanwhile a new publication, the *Weekly Illustrated*, has been issued for the benefit of the population, its chief feature consisting of abusive caricatures of the leaders of the Roumanian Government—MM. Bratianu and Jonescu.

PERSIAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Meshed, May 14.

The Crops.

We had no snow last winter nor enough frost to produce a crop of ice. Now we have had no spring rains. The country is very dry, and the crops are suffering. The coming harvest is likely to be very poor. There is plenty of wheat in the storehouses of the rich men, but bread riots have been threatened. The Government seems to have taken the matter in hand, and arranged for a sufficient amount of wheat to be released to meet the immediate needs. The price of bread has been reduced, and for the present the people are more or less quiet, though apprehensive.

Symptoms of Unrest.

During the evening of May 1 the Musidig-e-dolleh, Chief of Police, was shot through the back as he was riding through the city. He fell from his horse, and died in a few minutes. It appears that two men were on the spot at the moment, and one of them has been arrested.

On May 3 a notice was posted in the shrine exhorting the people to be faithful in the way of God, and inciting them to a Holy Revolution. After quoting a passage from the Koran, the message, in a somewhat free translation, ran as follows:—

"Let it not remain secret that the deceivers of our country and people knew that this would be the fruit of a decade of shedding the blood of our young men of Persia; that wolves in sheep's clothing, men with the spirit of the devil, useless sons of Persia, who were sellers of our fatherland, untrue persons falsely professing to establish so-called constitutional government, keeping secret their lawlessness and brutal nature under the outward show of order, whose pretended justice is nothing else but using their country to the best advantage for themselves, would persuade us that they are genuine patriots. They do not realise that the nation, having by many sacrifices and the desolation of many thousands of households gained blessed freedom, will not quickly renounce it. They know that men who have strong determination will not be turned aside from their purpose by the mere changes of time and circumstance. The real patriots and revolutionaries who seek independence have not and will not show any weakness in their efforts to gain their objects. Instead of that, as long as they have not cleaned the soil of the fatherland from the pollution caused by the deceivers and the trickery of the cursed self-seekers, the sword of revenge will not be sheathed. The thing which during these last years has caused silence on the part of the zealous ones (this refers to the interference of foreigners) ought not to be any longer taken into consideration, but must now give place to the protection of the property and reputation of the Persian people. Our northern brothers, notwithstanding the difference of race and religion, have extended to us a fraternal hand, and will not refuse us help in rooting out tyranny and deception. We, the Society of Zealots, in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 (this doubtless refers to some agreement among themselves) having in secret called every man's attention to his shortcomings three times, exhort the rectifying thereof. In case of not heeding this warning, he will drink of the wine tasted by the Chief of Police."

Two days later, on May 5, another notice was posted in the shrine, a free translation of which runs as follows:—

"To the Governor-General and all the heads of Government Departments in this province of Khorasan: Since slave traffic among the savages of Africa has ceased, the wretched Persians are bought and sold from hand to hand. If the lesser appointments and Government positions continue to be sold to vulture-resembling and corpse-devouring people, you must expect to receive the fruits of your actions. Yes, O, democrats! these are not the times for silence and sluggishness. Constitute your assemblies, and watch the actions of the officials. Do not fear. Expose the truth of every matter and in regard to every person. The patriotic extremists, sacrificing themselves for our nation, will render you all possible help."

The above two documents bore identical seals, and appeared to emanate from the same source. Of course, they were promptly torn down, and public affairs seem to be moving on as usual.

Trade Conditions.

The condition of trade continues to be bad. There is plenty of money in the market. English exchange continues to hover around thirty krans to the pound sterling, and roubles are about one and a-half to one kran and seventy centimes to the rouble. High prices prevail, as they have

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been doing all through the war. Recently silver coins of the one and two-kran denominations have appeared in circulation that were "made in Germany" and put into circulation in the Hamadan and Kermanshah districts when the Germans were operating there. These coins are full weight and of approximate average fineness. They are slightly more in diameter and less in thickness than the corresponding coins minted in Persia. They are beautifully minted, and no one but an expert would detect them. They bear the Mohammedan date of 1330 A.H., which corresponds to 1912-1913 A.D.

M. Kornelis, the Belgian who has been until now the Chief of the Khorasan Customs Department, has been appointed Chief of the Khorasan Revenue Department. It is a most excellent appointment. M. Kornelis is highly esteemed by all who know him as a man of the very best qualities. The *Baha* and the *Chamman*, two Persian newspapers of democratic tendencies, have published articles protesting against the appointment, but I understand their objections to be not at all against M. Kornelis personally, but rather that they would have preferred to see a Persian appointed.

THE POSITION IN SYRIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Cairo, August.

A corner of the veil which enshrouds Syria has just been lifted by an intrepid Syrian who, a few weeks ago, contrived to leave that unhappy country. Although this informant has brought little intelligence that was not known before, the value of his information lies in its precision. Thus, we now know that official statistics confirm the appalling loss of life in the Lebanon, and put down the total at 150,000, of whom 10 per cent. died from disease and the remainder from starvation. Typhus fever appears to be still raging in Syria and the Lebanese littoral, and what is hardly credible is not so much the almost utter lack of sanitary precautions which has always characterized Turkish administration as the absence of all control on the part of the Germans. On the top of this there is a serious shortage of medicines and doctors.

The economic condition may be judged from the almost total exhaustion of imported articles. A pair of boots made of native leather, which swells on contact with water, cost the Syrian eight Turkish pounds. Leather could be imported from Austria, but, after the first trial consignment, which was at once requisitioned by the military authorities, the merchants stopped all further orders. Last year's silk crop was deficient. That of this year, however, is said to be better, and the bulk, if not all, of it has been bought by native merchants, who had all the cocoons turned into silk yarn in the native spinning factories in the hope of selling it at remunerative prices after the war. But the Government dashed all their hopes to the ground by forcing them to sell the silk bales at prices nominally normal, but which, owing to payment in paper money, were positively ruinous.

Paper Money.

In this connection it is important to give a brief history of the issue of paper currency by the Ottoman Government, and an indication of the causes that brought about the continuously heavy fall in its values. The first issue consisted of notes of high values, the lowest being £T5. Owing to the scarcity of coins of low value, these notes could be changed, in most cases, only at a premium, varying in amount with the quantity of small coins in circulation, and this state of things led the Government to make further issues of, first, £T1, then of half a lira, and finally it flooded the country with a whole series comprising all the values of the currency scale, even to the lowest coin of half a metalik (a quarter of a penny), and all this against hardly any gold reserve. The notes for the lower values are said to resemble postage stamps. The par value of the notes was maintained until the Government itself caused its depreciation by ordering the people to pay for the grain sold by the Government, one quarter in gold and the remainder in paper money. There could be no more glaring proof of the Government's lack of confidence in its own notes, and the panic was such that the depreciation continued progressively until it reached the low level of less than a quarter of the par value. At the time of our informant's departure the pound note was worth 23/24 piastres gold. This enormous depreciation explains the seemingly fabulous prices of all commodities in Syria.

Now the Young Turks, hoping to be still in power after the war, began to feel concerned about the maintenance of their future credit. How were they to redeem all this enormous unsecured issue of notes? Finally they decided in favour of the following expedient. A so-called National Bank, under the auspices of the Government, was founded with a capital of ten million Turkish pounds, of which ten per cent. was said to be guaranteed by the German and Austrian Governments. Of course, no one could have the least confidence in such an institution, founded under the auspices of a bankrupt Government; and as no spontaneous demand for shares was forthcoming, instructions were sent to the Governors with a view to their exercising pressure on merchants and all persons of some financial standing to acquire shares in the new bank, to the utmost limit of their means. Against payment of the value of the shares in notes the person was given a share warrant. If, as seems to be a foregone conclusion, the bank were to "go smash," if it ever materialised, these warrants would be worth the paper they are made of. Meanwhile, however, they would have been the means of enabling the Government to withdraw a large amount of their notes, and reduce by so much their liability. In cases where persons pleaded pecuniary inability, facility was accorded them of offering, instead of money, the equivalent in silk bales, or other easily convertible goods.

Commandeering.

The authorities, according to the informant, have seized the grain stocks of the country, in order to institute the system of distribution by tickets. With the exception of the Hauran and the Nusariyeh Mountains, and the region round Hama, where the people were able to defy the Government and compel it to pay for their grain in gold, the population had to give up their stocks at low prices fixed by the Government, and against payment in paper money. The Government, in its turn, resold this grain at higher prices, and required part payment in gold. But the Government did not stop at that, for in secret agreement with the agents in charge of the grain depots the governors exploited the helplessness of the population. These agents, by creating all sorts of difficulties, forced the holders of tickets to sell at ridiculous prices to persons who would know the ways and means for obtaining their acceptance.

Now that the Government has taken away all the gold it could from the population, it is requiring the payment of the military exemption tax in articles of foodstuffs tariffed at its will. Thanks to the tight blockade, it is running short of many articles of prime necessity, and when the extended military operations in Southern Palestine necessitated an unusual supply of sand bags, two and a-half million bags were allotted for requisitioning from the Syrian provinces. Of this quantity only 200,000 bags are said to have been collected. In its anxiety to get the balance, the Government notified the people that they were expected to offer, in the absence of canvas bags, any material, even silk curtains, if need be, by way of substitute.

The privileges of the Lebanon have been abolished. The late Turkish Mutessarif, Ali Munif Bey, has been succeeded by Ismail Hakki Bey, the former having taken the portfolio of the Ministry of Public Works. The Administrative Council, constituted by virtue of the Organic Law laid down by the representatives of the six protecting Powers, has been dissolved, and there has been instituted in its place a General Assembly, each of whose members is supposed to represent 10,000 voters. It need hardly be said that the election of the candidates was a farce, and it would be more correct to say that the members of this assembly are the chosen nominees of the Young Turks. Even in the exercise of tyranny the Young Turk will continue to give his work the semblance of constitutionalism.

Conscription has not been applied to the Lebanon yet. Many of the Druses of military age have gone over to the Hauran, where their brave coreligionists have held the Turks at bay, while in the northern part of the Lebanon those hardy sons of the mountain have, so far, defied Turkish authority, and being well armed are likely to hold their own till the end. As to the rest, they have mostly been disposed of by starvation. In these circumstances we need not wonder at the Turks making a show of generosity by keeping this last privilege of the Lebanese intact. The aged Maronite patriarch, once a great power in the Lebanon, has been shorn of all his authority, and is said to be utterly broken down. He is living in his winter residence at Diman, on the higher hills of Northern Lebanon, and, knowing that resistance is useless, he relegates his nominal authority to his episcopal council whenever his sanction is demanded by the Turkish Government in matters of detail.

THE SALONIKA FIRE.

Thanks to the devotion of the staff and the assistance of the military authorities, the office of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Salonika escaped the worst results of the recent terrible fire. The building took fire, and the upper part, which formed the manager's residence, was entirely destroyed; but the ground floor and offices were saved, together with all valuables and books, etc. It is hoped that the building can be sufficiently repaired for business in a few days.

The Ionian Bank and the National Bank of Greece were less fortunate, these buildings being entirely destroyed.

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ABYSSINIA.

(From a Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 3.

Correspondence recently received by the *Mokattam* throws some interesting light on the present situation, and recent political happenings of importance in Abyssinia, which, removed though it is from the main theatre of the war, has yet had its share of bloodshed and trouble, thanks to German intrigue. Although it is over nine months now since the young Negus Lij Yassu was dethroned, yet he has not ceased, from his fastness refuge, to intrigue, through the remnant of his party, and to trouble the minds of the simple and ignorant by all sorts of lying reports. His last stand was on the wild heights of the Mountain Mekdela, which is almost impregnable, as only one narrow track of less than three yards' width, with precipices of dizzy depth on either side, leads thereto. The strong force sent against him by the new Government, over six months ago, under the command of Ras Dasi, Governor of El Walaha Province, had to retire after six hours of fighting and fruitless attempts to storm that formidable natural fortress. Considerable reinforcements were then despatched under the command of Qubta Jorjis, the Minister of War himself, who was the moving spirit of the revolution. He posted his troops all round the mountain and closely besieged it. Faced by certain death, through hunger or a losing fight, the men of the runaway Negus began to flock in batches to the camp of the Minister, and these wholesale surrenders continued until, by the confession of the fugitives themselves, there remained with Yassu only a small following of about 500 men. The capture or surrender of Yassu is now daily expected.

Ras Abana has been appointed Governor of Al Walla Province in the place of El Negushi Mikhail, father of the dethroned Negus, who was taken prisoner when fighting against the new Government on behalf of his son.

Ras Seinem, Governor of El Tughra Province, arrived lately at the capital. He was the only Governor who had not yet been there after the revolution, to swear allegiance to the new Government in accordance with Abyssinian traditions.

Ras Abana has been appointed Governor of El Walla capital, after having remained there about six months on a political mission of importance. The Regent Ras Nafari has proceeded energetically with his work of reorganisation by discarding all those who are suspected of secretly working for the reinstatement of the old regime, and by appointing, on the other hand, men of merit and loyalty in the posts of the new Government. Practically the whole country now stands firmly behind him.

The late Government had prevented the completion of the railway to the capital, but immediately after the re-establishment of order the new Government ordered the resumption of the work, and trains are now arriving at the capital twice a week. The French company was further granted a large piece of ground for the erection of the station.

THE CAIRO RED CROSS LIBEL CASE.

In commenting upon the action for libel brought against Colonel Sir John Rogers, the local commissioner for the Red Cross Society, by Captain Yates, formerly of the medical staff of the Red Cross Hospital at Giya, our Cairo correspondent drew attention in our issue of August 24 to the fears expressed that there might be some question of the damages or costs of the action being defrayed out of Red Cross funds. It did not seem likely that such a course would be adopted, but to allay any possible misapprehension on the subject we are authorised by the Chairman of the British Red Cross Society to state that no part of the damages awarded against Sir John Rogers or of the costs in the case will be borne by the society.

A Cairo telegram states that the Holy Carpet will leave for Mecca to-morrow.

A first contingent of Jugoslav volunteers from the United States has reached Corfu.

Twenty Serbian boys from various Oxford schools, with thirty boys from Cheltenham College, have formed an agricultural camp at Calne. They will remain in camp three weeks. Some of the Serbian forestry students from Oxford are working under Sir Wilhelm Schlich in the Forest of Dean.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

WOMEN'S WAR WORK.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me a short space in the columns of your valuable paper to say a word in praise of the good work of the women doctors and nurses in the present war?

Although by now these services are well known and valued by the Military Medical Board, it is only right that the public should know more of them, and that just appreciation, by some special attention, should be made of these services. It was a happy inspiration on the part of that distinguished but sorely pressed medical department to invite medical women to take part in its arduous work, since the admittance of women to the work of the Royal Army Medical Corps set free a number of men, medical practitioners, to work in more distant parts where their help was urgently needed.

Malta owes much to Lord Methuen for having given a cordial welcome to the medical women who came to work in the numerous well organised hospitals in the island. I feel sure his Excellency could testify, from information gained in his daily visits to the wards, how well cared for the patients have been by the women doctors and nurses, both inside as well as outside the purely medical and nursing spheres.

Women doctors are keen workers and enjoy the confidence of their colleagues. The hospitals have done excellent work this winter, and women doctors have taken part in the work of all departments. It is inspiring to see how they place duty above all other considerations, and act upon its dictates regardless of risks, danger and fatigue.

Fanny Blunt.

Malta, August, 1917.

AUSTRIAN RULE IN MONTENEGRO.

Mr. Alex Devine, the Headmaster of Clayesmore School, Winchester, who during his holidays acts on the Continent as Commissioner on behalf of the Montenegro Red Cross and Relief Fund of London, has received the following statement, duly sworn and attested before the American Consul at Bordeaux by a Montenegrin, who, as an American subject, was able to pass out of this country before war was declared by the United States:—

I, Sabonovic John, American citizen of Montenegrin origin, was born in Montenegro March 13, 1886, Grahovo, Montenegro, and I went to the U.S. 1906, where I stayed until 1914, when I returned to Montenegro in April to get my wife at Cettigne, staying there for three years until 2 May, 1917. During this time I visited Grahovo on 26 April, 1917, when I saw 182 persons, women, children, etc., die in twelve days because of lack of food, there being no food in the country whatever, except a mixture of grass and millet, and not enough of that. The people have eaten up all the dogs, etc., they can find; Nicksich city is like this, also Drobnjoci, Piva, and Kolasin, and all the people are in the same condition, rich as well as poor, as money will not buy food. I believe there are certainly 200 people a day dying of famine in the country. The Austrian authorities allow each person in Cettigne to buy ten "dek" of corn meal a day (a handful about), so the situation there is a little better than in the rest of the country, where no such food can be bought. I believe that there are but two battalions of Austrian soldiers, one in Cettigne and the other spread around the country, in all Montenegro, and about 20,000 in Albania, Scutari, and Droc, which are all I know of. The soldiers treat the population badly, making all the men work on the roads, and if from fatigue or thirst a man stops work to rest or drink he is shot on the spot. Work is about ten or twelve hours a day, and pay of 2 kronen paper a day, equal to 300 paper and 100 silver kronen. A person in 1916 (there is no food now) would buy something to sell, food, etc., and soldiers would take it without money. They treat the people better in Cettigne than other places, but everywhere the people are too poor and badly nourished to try to revolt. The Austrian soldiers in the country are perhaps more badly nourished than the people, and I have seen in the same villages above mentioned, myself, from March until April 2, 1917, 200 soldiers, Austrians, die of starvation in Cettigne alone. The men on the front are a little better than those in the interior, but there they are also dying of starvation, as from time to time soldiers return from the front in starved condition.

The Governor of Montenegro is Von Webber, who stays at Cettigne in the King's house, is a civilian, and does not try to misuse the people, the reason the condition of the population in the capital is better than that in the rest of the country, perhaps. I believe that from 10,000 to 15,000 persons have died of starvation in Montenegro. I am sure that the Austrians can get no food, as they are dying, and also the soldiers talk to the population and tell them that they know the war cannot last more than a month or two more, as they themselves can get nothing to eat. All the country is in the same impoverished, starving, and subject condition, the only city a little better than the others being Cettigne, above stated.

I hereby certify that the above statements are all true and correct to my best knowledge, and that I actually saw and know the things which I have related above.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The word Republic is being bandied about with wonderful freedom in Greece these days. Perhaps it is inevitable that it should be so. But few people, I fancy, who have the interests of Greece at heart will have the least hesitation in hoping that M. Venizelos will succeed in re-establishing the monarchical principle on a firm basis. Of course Pope's lines hold good:

> For forms of government let fools contest;
> Whate'er is best administer'd is best.

And we may feel sure that Greece would fare as well, if not better, with M. Venizelos as President of the Republic. Looking further ahead, however, one seems to see troublesome days in store for the country in the periods between the appearances of strong men to direct its destinies. So far Tricoupis and Venizelos are the only men who have stood out in their generations, and at that rate the supply is clearly not equal to the demand.

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One's ideas may be old-fashioned, but until Greek politics have steadied down a bit and evolved parties based on political principles in the place of groups attached to this or that politician, it would appear that the presence of a king on the throne must exercise a steadying effect. Probably no nation is more politically inclined, so to speak, than the Greeks, and it can only be a matter of time before conditions adjust themselves to the true interests of the country. M. Venizelos has given things a satisfactory start in the right direction; but it remains to be seen to what extent they will survive him without experiencing any setback when his strong hand and wise judgment are removed.

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I am indebted to a friend for the loan of "Bradshaw's Overland Guide to India, Egypt, and China," for the year 1857—a most interesting and entertaining volume. Perhaps the first thing that strikes one about it is its wonderful aptitude for calling a spade a spade. Nowadays guide-books are written more or less after the manner of shop catalogues: just as every article in the latter is represented as a gem of utility, workmanship, and cheapness so the traveller is encouraged to believe that everything, more or less, in the country he is to visit will be found to be all that can be desired. Not so our author of 1857. "We then enter that miserable hole," is the introduction to Suez, and after this uncompromising exordium, it is hardly necessary to be told that the one and only hotel is badly conducted. Constantinople fares no better: "the streets are miserably narrow and filthy in the extreme," and then follows an enumeration of all the worst features that a disgruntled foreigner would be inclined to seize upon. Still less complimentary is our guide to the people of these unattractive places. In Constantinople, where "nothing is more annoying than the continual dread of fires," the visitor, if he should be obliged to remove his traps, is to avoid confiding them to a certain nationality, because they are "the most arrant rogues in existence," his boatmen in Egypt will be "unscrupulous rascals," while the prospect of what the traveller will endure at the hands of those "plagues," the "lazy Arabs or Egyptians," who will demand backshish, is painted in sufficiently lurid colours to keep all but the stout-hearted away from Egypt.

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Nor when India is reached does the author allow himself to become more imperially minded. He is still on the look-out for the things that annoy rather than please, and a formidable cross-head, "NUISANCES," inevitably arrests attention. A full quotation must be permitted:—

"Should he find, on taking possession of his residence, that there exist any NUISANCES next to or in the immediate vicinity of his compound, such as a small hut on the ground adjoining, in the front or rear of the premises which he occupies, it will be perfectly useless for him to call the sepoy (policeman), attempt to complain to the owner of the property, or to offer to rent the same. All his endeavours will prove abortive; the most effectual, safest, easiest and most economical plan will be to purchase a small pig, price 5 rupees, or 10s., have a hole made in the hut, either at the side or back, and send the unclean animal into the premises, at the appearance or sound of which the whole of the inmates will abandon it *instanter*, as it is against their creed to remain in any place which a pig has crossed or inhabited."

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The explanation of the author's outlook on life and travel is found when we come to read the very elaborate instructions to those who intend to take up their residence in India. All through the book there are minute injunctions in regard to what must or must not be done in order to preserve the traveller's health; but in the chapter devoted to India rules are given for every hour of the day, every season of the year, and every condition of existence. When, finally, we read that "the mind should in India be kept constantly employed in fresh scenes and actions; for inactivity produces *ennui*, irritability, spleen, and a host of other complaints," one is tempted to add, "*crede experto*." The author has evidently returned with an Indian liver, and views his former experiences with a jaundiced eye—a confirmed valetudinarian. It is of interest, however, to let him recall the days of sixty years ago, when M. Lesseps was "engaged in forming a canal across this isthmus . . . but the British Government have most strongly opposed this undertaking." The Empire has progressed since then. We quickly learned to appreciate the advantages of the Suez Canal, and to accept our responsibilities in India in a different spirit from that displayed in the recommendation to drive pigs into native dwellings that might happen to be an eyesore to the new arrival.

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The statement that an iron box containing £4,500 in silver, destined for the relief of the Serbian Army, fell into the sea at Durazzo when being landed, and that a diver was sent down but failed to recover it, suggests the endless possibilities awaiting an energetic Deep Sea Recovery Association at the end of the war. A few years ago they were still recovering Spanish doubloons in the harbour of Tobermory, and if the Durazzo box was lost in the process of being conveyed ashore it will hardly be in very deep water. Its recovery, given time and patience, therefore, ought not to be a very formidable matter. In regard to the oceans as a whole the loss of shipping during this war has been on such a terrific scale that it can hardly fail to give an impetus to inventions to perfect deep-sea research. One can almost imagine on certain trade routes experienced divers setting up records for the number of vessels inspected in a morning's operations. Are we destined to see a great revival of treasure hunting? If so, the credulous public may have to be safeguarded from an industry which lends itself admirably to wild-cat exploits.

CORSAIR.

The Serbian Government has thanked M. Venizelos for the resolution voted by the Greek Chamber affirming the determination of Greece to observe the engagements of the Greco-Serbian treaty.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917.	1917.		1335.	5677.
September.	August		Dulkaada.	Ellul.
7	25	Friday	20	20
8	26	Saturday.....	21	21
9	27	Sunday	22	22
10	28	Monday	23	23
11	29	Tuesday	24	24
12	30	Wednesday	25	25
13	31	Thursday	26	26

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, was received in audience by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on September 5, and presented his Letter of Credence as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from Greece, and also handed to the King an autograph letter from King Alexander.

M. Venizelos has left Athens for Ipati to take the waters.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, has left Nice for Rome.

M. Venizelos has submitted to the Greek Chamber a preventive Press Censorship Bill.

Colonel Kotchsis, Greek Military Attaché, arrived in London on September 4 from Jassy.

M. Pavlé Karovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has arrived in London from Paris.

It is announced that the Sultan of Egypt has presented one of the finest sites in Cairo for a cathedral.

M. George Roussos, recently appointed Greek Minister to the United States, has arrived at an Atlantic port.

Professor Moskovlyevitch has arrived in London from Corfu on his way to Petrograd on a special mission.

M. Vesnitch, the Serbian Minister, and Mme. Vesnitch have returned to the Legation in Paris from Villiers.

Sunday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Prince George of Serbia, who was born on September 9, 1887.

Major-General Beadon and Surgeon-General Birrell gave evidence before the Dardanelles Commissioners on August 31.

M. Justin Godard, French Under-Secretary for War, and M. de Billy, the newly-appointed Minister to Greece, have arrived at Athens.

Madame Lahovary, the wife of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, arrived in London on September 2, on a visit to her daughters.

Djemal Pasha, the Turkish Minister of Marine, is reported to have arrived at Berlin on his way to inspect the German Fleet and naval works.

M. Eulambios, who has been appointed an Attaché to the Royal Greek Legation, has arrived in London from Athens, and entered on his duties.

According to a message received in Paris from Rabat, El Mokri, who has been appointed Grand Vizier, arrived at Rabat on August 30 from Fez.

An engagement is announced between Lieut. J. J. Devrack, I.A.R., attached Indian Cavalry, and Miss Diana Wentworth, of Stenor Farm House, Henley-on-Thames.

Prince Ypsilanti, Master of the Horse to ex-King Constantine, who is alleged to have taken a prominent part in the events of last December in Athens, has been provisionally released.

Captain Charles Moxon Quiller Orchardson, attached Imperial Camel Corps, of Stratford Studios, Kensington, who died from wounds on April 26, left estate of the gross value of £1,302.

According to the *Augsburger Postzeitung* the railway from Belgrade to Constantinople is being operated by German railwaymen, while German soldiers form a guard at every station.

It is stated that a special tribunal will be proposed for the trial of M. Skouloudis and M. Lambros and other members of the Cabinets which served German interests to the detriment of Greece.

According to a message from Switzerland, the Hungarian Minister of Education, has issued an order that in all Roumanian public schools in Transylvania the language of instruction must in future be Magyar.

Mrs. Summers, wife of Lt.-Commander H. C. Summers, gave birth to a son at Paignton on September 2. Lt.-Commander Summers was for many years instructor of the Black Sea lifesaving station on the Asiatic coast.

The Greek Parliament has sanctioned the prosecution of M. Canakaris-Roufos for declaring, it is alleged, that Captain Astley Shute, of the Passport Control Commission, came to Athens to assassinate King Constantine.

Mr. Thomas H. Mawson, of the School of Civic Design, Liverpool University, who had in hand at the outbreak of the war a commission for the replanning of Athens, has received a cable from M. Venizelos inviting him to undertake the replanning of Salonika.

Persons resident outside Greece who have claims for compensation for loss in connection with the events of December 1 and 2, 1916, in Athens, should present them to the Secretary-General of the Mixed Indemnities Commission at Athens before November 14.

Captain W. H. Lang, Indian Cavalry, has been promoted Brevet-Major, and has also been awarded the Croix de Guerre. Major Lang is the son of Lady Hamilton Lang and the late Sir B. Hamilton Lang, who was in Egypt for many years as British Controller of the Davia Sanieh.

General Georgesco, the representative of the Roumanian Military Mission attached to the British Headquarters, entertained at luncheon on August 30 the Portuguese Minister, the Roumanian Minister, and General Dessino, the chief of the Russian Military Mission attached to the British Headquarters.

Captain Wedgwood Benn, M.P., who has for some weeks been in hospital in Rome, suffering from malaria, is now convalescent. In addition to receiving the D.S.O. and being twice mentioned in despatches, Captain Benn has just been cited in the French Orders of the Division de Syrie for gallantry.

It is reported that Herr von Henting, who returned to Germany some three months ago, has received the Chevalier's Cross with swords of the Order of the House of Hohenzollern for services during his two years' political mission in Asia, in the course of which he visited Persia, Afghanistan, Turkestan, and China

The death has occurred at a French Red Cross ambulance of Sister Fanny Kessissoglu. She had worked indefatigably with the French unit of the Secours aux Blessés all through the Balkan campaign, and again joined her unit, doing duty at different points on the French front with the greatest courage and devotion.

M. Ribot, the French Prime Minister, in a telegram to the Roumanian Prime Minister, M. Bratiano, on the occasion of the anniversary of Roumania's entry into the war, says that France salutes in the Roumanian nation a brave sister who is at this moment in the midst of difficulties displaying qualities more than heroic, and which are the pledge of victory.

The Greek Minister, M. Gennadius, has conveyed to the Lord Mayor the lively gratitude of the Hellenic Government for his prompt initiative in appealing for succour on behalf of the victims of the great fire at Salonika. The Mansion House Fund for the relief of the sufferers is now well over £3,500. M. Gennadius has contributed £25 to the fund. Other subscriptions include £250 from Alderman Sir Marcus Samuel, £105 from Mr. J. A. Mango, £105 from Sir John R. Ellerman, £105 from Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Calvocoressi, and £100 from the Anglo-Greek Magnesite Company, Limited.

Reuter's Agency is informed by the Anglo-Hellenic League that telegrams from Salonika show that the situation created by the great fire is now well in hand. The relief of the sufferers has been organised by M. Voutzinas, Prefect of Serres, who began by dividing the town into eighteen districts, each of which is under the supervision of a local committee. No fewer than 80,000 rations of bread are distributed daily. The bread is supplied by the Greek Government and distributed with the assistance of a large number of motor lorries which have been lent for the purpose by the British military authorities. The Greek authorities are also undertaking the supply of timber necessary for the construction of huts and other temporary shelters.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. A. J. Fisher, of the Ministry of Education, Cairo, was gazetted Lieutenant in the Hants R.G.A. on September 28, with seniority as from June 1, 1916, and to remain seconded for duty with the regular R.G.A.

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OBITUARY.

Colonel Frederick Vincent Eyre, R.A., Bengal, who died on Sunday at Rockville, Lansdown, Bath, in his eighty-second year, was the eldest son of General Sir Vincent Eyre, C.B., K.C.S.I., and was a descendant of Colonel Thomas Eyre, who served at Marston Moor, and who, according to tradition, engaged Cromwell in an encounter and died from the wounds he received.

Captain Jack Humphrey Miller, Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, attached Egyptian Army, who died on August 25 while on leave, was the son of the late Mr. Miller, of Thistleton, Lancashire, and of Mrs. W. P. Miller, of Merlewood, Grange-over-Sands. He was thirty-four years of age, and received his captaincy in October, 1914.

Miss Agnes de Selincourt, Principal of Westfield College, London University, who has died as the result of a cycling accident, was the first Principal of the Lady Muir Memorial College for Indian Women at Allahabad. She held this post for about ten years, and then the effect of a tropical climate on her health compelled her to return home, and in 1912 she left India. The following year she was appointed Principal of Westfield College.

The death has taken place at Tarbert of Mr. Alexander Bremner, who was for a number of years engaged in the development of Indian railways. His first employment in India was in Kathiawar in the 'eighties, and he subsequently worked on the Delhi-Umballa-Kalka line, and later as a district engineer of the G.I.P. Railway. Last year he retired owing to failing health. Mr. Bremner came of a family of engineers. Mr. J. R. Bell, who laid the line of the Ruk Sibi Railway from south of Sukkur to the Bolan Pass in 1879-80—an extraordinary feat in those days—was his cousin, and both Mr. Bremner and his cousin were grandsons of the Scottish engineer, James Bremner, who in 1847 contrived to float the Great Britain off the Dundrum coast. Mr. Bremner leaves a widow and two daughters.

Captain Gerald Patrick Manson, M.C., Somerset Light Infantry, who was killed on August 24, was the second son of the late Mr. J. Manson, Indian Public Works Department. He was born in 1896, and educated at Clifton College and St. Paul's School. Obtaining his commission in September, 1914, he went with his regiment to the front in May, 1915, and was wounded on July 19, 1915. He was gazetted captain in the following September, and mentioned in despatches on April 30, 1916. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry on August 18, 1916, when he was severely wounded. Captain Manson's elder brother, Second-Lieutenant C. C. E. Manson, Gurkha Rifles, who had also been awarded the Military Cross, was killed in action in the Dardanelles on December 4, 1915.

Captain David Arthur, M.C., I.M.S., the youngest son of the late Provost Arthur, of Airdrie, and of Mrs. Arthur, 2, St. Stephen's Avenue, West Ealing, died on July 31, as a prisoner of war, at Entelli, in Turkey in Asia. Educated at Airdrie Academy and Glasgow University, he entered the Indian Medical Service in 1909. He was on leave when war broke out, and at once returned to India. He saw service with the original Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force, was present at the landing at Muhammorah, and took part in the early fighting on the Karun River and the battle of Kurna, when he was twice mentioned in despatches. He accompanied General Townshend's force up the Tigris, was wounded at the battle of Ctesiphon, when he was awarded the Military Cross, and went through the siege of Kut.

Mr. William Henry Arthur St. John Leeds, I.C.S., retired, has died suddenly at his residence in Cranley Gardens. The son of the late Mr. Henry Leeds, and grandson of the late Sir Joseph Edward Leeds, of Croxton Hall, Cambridgeshire, he was educated at Cheltenham College and New College, Oxford, and entered the I.C.S. in 1885, and served in Bengal as Assistant Magistrate and Collector. He was transferred to Burma in 1888 as Assistant Commissioner, officiated as Director of Land Records and Agriculture in 1890-91, was promoted Deputy Commissioner in 1896, and afterwards officiated as Commissioner of Arakan, and was Commissioner of Meiktila, Upper Burma. He was President of the Rangoon Municipality from 1899 to 1904. Mr. Leeds, who retired in 1911, married Edith Mabel, daughter of Major-General Jackson Muspratt Muspratt-Williams, of Fernihurst, Cheltenham.

Brigadier-General Malcolm Peake, C.M.G., R.A., who was killed on August 27, was the youngest son of Mr. Frederic Peake, of Burrough-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire. He was born in 1865, and he was educated at Charterhouse and the Royal Military Academy, from which he passed into the Royal Artillery at the end of 1884. For ten years, from 1895 to 1905, he was attached to the Egyptian Army, and served with the Dongola Expedition in 1896, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the 4th Class Medjidieh and the Egyptian medal with two clasps. In the Nile Expedition of the following year he was in command of a battery of Egyptian Artillery, and was again mentioned in despatches, and added a clasp to his medal. In the expedition of 1898 he took part in two important cavalry reconnaissances and commanded a battery of artillery at the battles of Atbara and Khartoum. He was again mentioned in despatches, received the brevet of major, and gained two further clasps. In the operations in 1899 he commanded the artillery and received the 4th class of the Osmanieh and a sixth clasp to the medal. From 1914 to 1916 he was A.A.G. at the War Office.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

BOYLE.—On August 22, at Gibraltar, the wife of Lieut. G. T. Boyle, Cheshire Regiment—a son.

MANWARING.—On August 28, at Stoney Stanton Rectory, Leicestershire, the wife of Hugh Manwaring, of Baghdad—a son.

SUMMERS.—On September 2, to Lieut.-Commander H. C. Summers and Mrs. Summers, 3, Avenue Crescent, Paignton—a son.

MARRIAGE.

LEAF—KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH.—On August 22, at St. Bartholomew's, Barbon, by the Rev. F. Meyrick Jones and the Rev. James Harrison, Charles Symonds Leaf, Lieut., The Buffs, attached to M.G.S., only son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Leaf, of Heatherside, Camberley, to the Hon. Catherine Blanche Kay-Shuttleworth, youngest daughter of Lord and Lady Shuttleworth of Gawthorpe.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

ARTHUR.—On the 31st July, while prisoner of war at Entelli, Asia Minor, Captain David Arthur, M.C., M.B., B.Sc., I.M.S., youngest son of the late Provost Arthur of Airdrie, and of Mrs. Arthur, 2, St. Stephen's Avenue, West Ealing.

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THE CHOICE BEFORE TURKEY.

Indications are not wanting that the Turks are beginning to see things in a different light from that in which they saw them two or more years ago. Even if we do not accept the report that Turkish censors are making up for arrears of pay by the sale of foreign newspapers at fabulous prices, it is not difficult to imagine that the thinking section of the population has by now found some means of keeping itself informed of the general situation abroad and of the real military position of the Central Alliance. Switzerland would seem to be combining the rôles of a business and a holiday centre for the enemy States, and however intent the emissaries may be on their Governments' affairs, they can hardly fail to be brought into contact with views which hitherto have found few opportunities for expression in their own countries. In regard to the Turks, it is an axiom that they are entirely under military domination, and one that is probably even more effective than the German, inasmuch as it combines the thoroughness of the German system, of which it is actually a part, with all the cruder terrorism of the Committee régime. Consequently there can be no question of a practical change in the attitude of Turkey towards the war, until the Prusso-Committee domination has been shattered, or at least is tottering to its fall. Military operations, therefore, remain the only medium by which the Allied Powers can hope to make their voice heard in that country; but that is no reason why they should not prepare the way, as far as they are able, for a readier understanding, when the time comes, of the full meaning of the war and of the completeness of the Turko-German defeat. In the discussion that has taken place on the subject of a separate peace for Turkey or Bulgaria, a point that is often ignored on both sides is that, while the attitude of those in power must be determined by the fact that they stand to lose all by the collapse of their plans, each country as a whole might in given circumstances be convinced that it stands to gain in the long run even at the cost of present sacrifices; but it is not likely to adopt this view until it has adequate evidence of the failure of the Government's military policy. Diplomacy must necessarily play second fiddle to the Army, but is not called upon to remain silent.

The one thing that the Turks know already is what an alliance with Germany means. Here again it is well not to allow the wish to be father to the thought. For the Committee of Union and Progress, the advantages gained personally from the German protectorate probably outweigh all the inconveniences; it is also conceivable that for the Turks as a whole the glamour of Gallipoli and the misrepresentations that disguised the military failures in other directions left a self-satisfaction which was for a long time proof against suffering and privation. But if there has not yet been any marked revulsion of feeling, the ground must have been steadily prepared, as the war becomes more and more protracted, for a modification of views. Even a recognition of the efficacy of German supervision will hardly suffice to reconcile the individual Turk to the fact, and he must have ample occasion to appreciate by now the nature of the hold which the Germans have secured upon the country. German officers command the Turkish army, a German is Generalissimo, and a German military mission controls the whole military system of Turkey, and may be regarded as responsible for the steady extension of the age limits within which the male population is being called up for service. In the same way the navy and the air services are directed from Berlin, while German assessors sit in every Turkish Ministry. A German protectorate could not be more strictly controlled in Germany's interests. For the time being military exigencies can be pleaded as an excuse for the complete disappearance of Turkish independence; but even if the war ended in a victory for the Central Alliance, there could be no abatement of German control. Economic exigencies after the war are likely to prove no less compelling than military needs during it. All that has happened in Turkey had been planned beforehand in Germany; the incidence of the war has merely enabled what was to be attained slowly as the result of economic penetration to be carried into effect all at once. "All economic measures we may take in Turkey," wrote Dr. Wiedenfeld, "are only a means to an end, not an end in themselves," and previously he had declared that while "the means will still be economic, the goal will be of a political order." If Germany retains a free hand to mould the destinies of the Near East, Turkey will be even more necessary to her after the war than she is now, for without complete control of Turkish administration and Turkish production there can be no hope of the country being able to meet German requirements.

The choice, therefore, before Turkey is as clear-cut to-day as it will be when the victory of the Allies has been won. She must either retain her present territory with all the burdens, administrative and military, that it entails, merely to become a German province, or she must accept the Allies' terms, be content to lose the regions she has never known how to govern to her own satisfaction or theirs, and become within legitimate limits what the Young Turks have mapped out for the country—a purely Ottoman State. The dilemma is not a happy one for any people, but Turkey cannot find a means of escape by postponing it. Her experiences during the last two years may prove to have reconciled her to the inevitable more than appears on the surface. The glamour of empire began to pass from her at the time of the Italian war, and the process has continued without interruption ever since. With the defection of the Arabs the last stage was reached, and the Turkish Government showed that it accepted the eclipse of its power by proceeding to massacre as many as it conveniently could of the alien population still within its jurisdiction. For the Ottoman people of the present generation empire spells little more than national disgrace and individual suffering. The attempt to govern other nationalities has meant for them merely an incentive to and a cloak for bad government at home. If they can be brought to realise that the future now opening out to them entails relief from military burdens, freedom to live their own life and prospects of abundant prosperity, the passing of empire will be accompanied by no vain regrets. The task of the Allies, therefore, is to demolish the claims of the Turco-German régime to invincibility and to secure a hearing for the correct interpretation of their war aims. But the military success must be achieved first. Those who have consistently maintained that the East is a short cut to victory in the West derive what consolation they can from the reflection that after two years there are signs of their views gaining acceptance in authoritative quarters.

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BULGARIA AND THE CENTRAL POWERS.*

The question of the possibility of detaching Bulgaria from the Central Powers has already been discussed in England. Some people—a small number, I believe—seem to imagine that Bulgarian intervention could have been avoided and that, in any case, it is not yet too late to bring Bulgaria on the Allied side. Later, I should like to discuss at length the possibility or the impossibility of such an idea, but here I wish only to put forward by quotations from Bulgarian official statements and writings the Bulgarian idea on this point. This will show better than argument what the British people may expect from her.

It is not in the interest of either Germany or Bulgaria, nor have they the right, to-day, to discuss the principle of nationality. Their present conquests can be maintained only if every nation in opposition thereto is crushed. Bulgaria fully realises this. Bulgarian public opinion became very agitated during the last German political crisis, because the smallest prospect of a settlement towards democratic government endangers Bulgarian conquests. Luckily, from her point of view, the idea of democratic government disappeared completely, and the principle of crushing nations remains.

When the new German Chancellor, therefore, telegraphed to the Bulgarian Premier and assured him of the ultimate victory of the Central Powers and of his loyalty to the contracts passed between them, the Bulgarian Premier was pleased to reply that the blood they had shed in common sealed once and for all those treaties, which were inviolable, and that Bulgaria looked forward to a victorious peace when she would have a brilliant future on the side of a mighty Germany. The *Kölnische Zeitung* (July 23, 1917) comments on this exchange of telegrams, and asserts that since it took place the Bulgarians once more breathe freely, and are convinced, more than ever, of the success of the Central Powers. This assertion sums up the whole attitude of the Bulgarian Press.

But this military supremacy of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria must endure also in times of peace. These States must retain what they have won, and they must be in direct touch with one another. This is possible only if the nations whose armies they have defeated are dominated after the war by German-Bulgarian *Kultur* and by German-Bulgarian economic supremacy. They have founded, therefore, German-Bulgarian and Austro-Hungarian-Bulgarian *Kultur-Gesellschaften* and societies for the furtherance of mutual economic interests.

According to Professors Miletich and Daniloff (*Narodni Prava*, June 10, 1917), the purpose of the recently-formed *Kultur* Society for the furtherance of relations between Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria is, that the people who excelled together in war should know each other in peace, and thus by closer contact learn to esteem each other highly. According to this society, this must be attained by *Kultur* relations, voyages, exhibitions, and more especially by courses of languages.

The German-Bulgarian *Kultur* Society, too, has as its object the development of *Kultur* relations between Germany and Bulgaria. The German Minister in Sofia, Count Oberndorff, who is also honorary president of this society, said, in a speech delivered by him at a dinner given in the German Legation to celebrate its inauguration, that the friendship between Germany and Bulgaria, sealed with their common blood, must seek its foundation in times of peace in German *Kultur*, so that the two nations may enjoy in contentment their mutual intellectual and material riches. The president of the society, K. H. Kalcheff, replied that the chief result of the German-Bulgarian Alliance must be the development of *Kultur* and of intellectual relations between Germany and Bulgaria (*Narodni Prava*, August 1, 1917).

For their future economic relations Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Bulgaria are no less anxious, and the Hungarian-Bulgarian Economic Society is at present busily engaged in organizing courses in the Bulgarian and Hungarian languages.

Bulgarian economists point out that it is to the economic advantage of their country to form a part of the economic organization of Central Europe. This is very significant, because even in Germany such an idea has not been so fully admitted (see the discussion between Naumann and Prince Lichnowsky in the *Berliner Tageblatt*).

In a recent book published in Bulgarian ("Our Economic Bonds with the Central Powers," Sofia, 1917) the author, Dr. A. Stoyanoff, points out where Bulgaria's interest lies. He wishes to see a Central Europe economically united, formed out of the States at present constituting the Central Alliance, and spreading from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf.

This Bulgarian writer desires a *Great Central Europe* for two reasons; (1) Because Bulgaria should not merely for the time being and for military reasons be allied with Germany, but should establish with her permanent economic relations; and (2) Because this great Central Europe would be capable of offering economic resistance to the Allied Powers, to *France, England, Russia, and the United States*, whom Dr. Stoyanoff terms the *Imperialistic Powers*.

Encouraged by such ideas, it is natural that the Bulgarian Press, referring to the Allied Balkan Conference and forgetting that though represented in Berlin, Bulgaria is certainly not represented in Paris, should say:—

(1) That Bulgaria must know the result of the Balkan Conference in Paris, because the Balkan question is purely a Bulgarian one; and

(2) That Serbia entered into the war in order to dominate Bulgarian territory and to seize Austrian countries! (*Narodni Pravá*, July 19, 1917).

In conclusion, how does Bulgaria regard the idea of her detachment from the Central Powers, as formulated by some English writers?

To take the most important and striking example, let us consider what the Bulgarian paper *Mir*, of July 4, has to say in reply to Mr. Noel Buxton's article in the *Nineteenth Century*, entitled "A New Departure in Balkan Diplomacy." The *Mir* emphasizes one point, namely, that Bulgaria does not admit the accusation that she has been guilty of any treason towards the Entente (consequently she should be regarded as an enemy pure and simple), and all Mr. Buxton's arguments are answered thus: "Against these accusations some brave foreigners, mostly Englishmen, have taken up our defence. It is our duty to collect all these impartial acknowledgments, because one day they will be very useful to us."

This is clear. As long as Germany is a great military Power, Bulgaria wishes to be allied with her politically and economically, and to be associated with her *Kultur*. If the tide of fortune changed she would turn to "brave foreigners" because "their defence may be useful" to her. Therefore, to offer to Bulgaria a policy of detachment as long as Germany is a military power, is to offer her nineteen shillings to the pound.

G. Djuritch.

* Reference is made to this article in Notes of the Week.

DEPORTED SERBIANS.

A *communiqué* issued by the Serbian Press Bureau says:—The *Journal de Genève* publishes a telegram from Vienna, dated August 19, contradicting a communication from the Serbian Premier with reference to the deportation *en masse* of Serbian women and children. According to this telegram, the only women and children deported have been a very small number who voluntarily consented to accompany the heads of their families. The real state of affairs is that Serbian women and children are interned in the prison camps of Aschas, Braunau, Neszider, Nagymegyer, Heinrichsgrdünn, and Szegled, and number in some cases hundreds. According to a document of the Austrian Red Cross, dated October 28 last, nearly a thousand Serbian children were interned at Braunau in Austria. The Austrians have constantly refused to furnish exact lists of interned women and children. That is the best proof that the number is greater than the Austrians dare to admit to the civilised world.

MAILS LOST AT SEA.

The Secretary to the Post Office states that parcels for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force posted in this country, which reached the Army Parcel Office between 6 p.m. on July 24 and 6 p.m. on July 31, have been lost through enemy action.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GALLIPOLI AGAIN.*

Amid the flood of literature which the astonishing national adventure of Gallipoli has called forth, "The Immortal Gamble"—its very name is an inspiration—and "The Pals at Suvla Bay" are books which each have a lasting value of their own. "The Immortal Gamble" describes the part played in it by H.M.S. Cornwallis, which, after many providential escapes, was finally torpedoed January 9, 1917, after it left these fated shores. The ship was in the neighbourhood of the Dardanelles ten months from the first tragic purely naval attack till after the evacuation of Suvla Bay: "On forty days the enemy had fired at her, and she herself had fired five hundred 12-in. shells and six thousand 6-in. shells." The outlook is naval, and what the authors have to say is a real contribution to history. Its style is so racy that even those familiar with the bare facts will find their interest sustained throughout, and no boy can find a work of imaginary naval adventure to compare with this. It is right that the naval share in the great landing—"in all the history of our Empire there has been no feat as April 25, 1915, witnessed"—should be given in detail, and the chapter on that and the "Sidelights" giving the reports of individual midshipmen and engineers makes one realize, as the writers remark, "those compensations which, hidden though they may be in a welter of blood and tears, are never absent." "The beauty of the courage displayed shines too steadily throughout for any blows of fortune to repel us." "The Gallipoli campaign left the wisest speechless," yet no Englishman can read such a record without pride and thankfulness for such a fresh exhibition of those qualities which have made England great. Whoever failed, it was not the rank and file or the junior officers. The writers consider that the moral effects, which were used as an argument against our withdrawal—and what a miracle that was this book shows—were very much over-estimated. "Rubbish!" they write. "The Turks knew—none so well—we were the better men, and that it was merely a question of effort renewed again and again to carry the job."

"The Pals of Suvla Bay" is a book primarily for a special circle. Its preparation has been a labour of love; the publishers have given their services gratuitously, as have the contributors, and the entire proceeds of its sale will be handed over to the "Royal Dublin Fusiliers Prisoners of War Fund." The book is a record of D Company of the 7th Royal Dublin Fusiliers, and narrates how this famous "football" company, "composed almost entirely of Dublin gentlemen," was raised; how it was trained in Ireland and at Basingstoke, and how magnificently it acquitted itself at Suvla Bay. "In my opinion," writes Lieut.-General Sir B. T. Mahon in the "Foreword," "D Company was unexcelled in the British Army for bravery, dash, discipline, and sense of duty." After Suvla, what with war losses and the transference of most of its remaining members into other battalions with commissioned rank, the original company ceased to exist. Written as it is from the military and the land aspect, this book is a complement to the naval "Immortal Gamble." It contains a detailed and graphic description of certain military operations around Suvla Bay, less well known to the general reader than the earlier operations at Hellas. There are extracts from the letters of men in the trenches which will appeal on account of their vivid realism and literary power.

Both books are profusely illustrated with reproductions from original photographs and excellent sketch maps. "The Pals," besides an almost complete series of portraits of members of the company, has eight beautiful coloured pictures of the scenery around Suvla Bay, by Lieutenant Drummond Fish, the well-known artist, himself a member of the company. He writes thus of the scenery:—"The colours were the most wonderful thing about Gallipoli. There were mornings when the hills were as rosy as peaches—times when the sea looked like the tail of some gigantic peacock and the sands looked like great carpets of glittering cloth of gold—the place was an inspiration in itself, and if beauty could have stopped a war, that scenery would have done it." It is a new aspect of this land of tragedy.

We cannot but quote the weighty and reasonable words which conclude the narrative of "The Immortal Gamble":

"Reasons how and why we failed stand outside the scope of our account. We can only say, as is known to all the world, that the enterprise was undertaken without due regard to the difficulties in the way, that the warnings of neutrals were ignored and the known defensive fighting powers of the Turks minimized. The expedition was a gamble, a gamble undertaken with insufficient forces—and when such forces did arrive they were always just too late. Just as every defeat is a victory, so every failure is a step to success, and the Saga of the Straits will be sung by our people long years after all who gave it orchestration are dead and turned to dust. It will be chanted in notes of triumph; the master-spirit of heroism displayed will uplift it above all thought of disappointment. No greater feat of arms has been writ in our history; no more wonderful story of indomitable courage—

"More active-valiant, or more valiant young,
More daring, or more bold, is now alive,
To grace this latter age with noble deeds."

* "The Immortal Gamble." By A. T. Stewart and C. J. Peskall. (London: A. and C. Black, Ltd. 6s. net). "The Pals at Suvla Bay." By Henry Hanna, K.C. (Dublin: E. Ponsonby, Ltd.).

IN GREEK SEAS.*

The author of these sixteen poems anticipates and disarms criticism by explaining that "things of the spirit cannot be stifled even by war." The fact that these poems are remote from the tragedy of the times will doubtless be a commendation to many. The more ambitious pieces are those entitled "In Greek Seas" and the "Tomb of Columbus," each of which is illustrated by a beautiful photograph. A chord of melancholy sentiment runs through all the poems, which will doubtless appeal to the "few chance readers" to whom they are submitted. The lines addressed to a child—Helen—appeal most to us.

ROUMANIAN SONGS AND BALLADS.†

This little volume, dedicated to "The Genius of the Brave Roumanian Race," contains a series of translations in verse made by the Rev. R. Stewart Patterson, late Chaplain to H.B.M. Legation at Bucharest, with a preface of commendation by Mme. Take Jonescu. To those who love folk-lore this collection of some of the characteristic tales of a land peculiarly rich in this direction will be a delight. We are introduced to the brave Boyard, to the Shepherd and his sheep, to the gipsy Zurai and his tragedy, and to the three brigand chiefs, Groza, Folga, and Kara-'Katutch, all characteristic types of the land. The "Cuckoo and the Dove," the "Brother of the Lord," and the incomplete and ancient song, "Miorita," all, too, have a special charm and interest. It is a collection well worth publishing, and should be widely read.

BOOK NOTES.

Messrs. George Allen and Unwin have just published a volume entitled "After-War Problems," by the late Earl of Cromer, Viscount Haldane, and others, priced at 7s. 6d. net.

"The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans," by Dr. R. W. Seton-Walton, will shortly be published by Messrs. Constable. The work will be largely in the nature of an historical guide to affairs in the Near East.

Mr. Donald A. Mackenzie is the author of a book dealing with "Myths of Crete and Pre-Hellenic Europe," issued by the Gresham Publishing Company at the price of 10s. net. The work contains an account of the Cretan civilization as revealed by recent discoveries at Knossos and elsewhere.

The publishers of the *Malta Chronicle* at Valetta have just issued in book form a series of sonnets, mainly reprinted from that newspaper, entitled "Memories of Malta," and priced at 1s.

Mr. John Murray has just published "Six Years of Politics—1910-1916," by Mr. D. M. Mason, containing speeches on finance, foreign affairs, and home rule. Among the subjects dealt with are "The Massacre in the Oasis of Tripoli," and "The Integrity of Persia." The price of the book is 3s. 6d. net.

The Cambridge University Press have just published a handbook providing a comprehensive view of the great religions of the world. The volume, entitled "The Religions of the World," by Mr. George A. Barton, includes a description of the main religious elements in Egypt and Babylon and India, and chapters are also devoted to the religions of Greece and Rome.

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton will shortly publish "The Great Crime and Its Moral," by Mr. J. S. Wilmore. The book constitutes the essential links in the chain of evidence regarding the origin of the war.

Messrs. Hutchinson have nearly ready an anonymous account of the Mesopotamian campaign, entitled "On the Road to Kut."

Messrs. Allen and Unwin will be publishing shortly a volume of Serbian national ballads and folk-songs entitled "Serbian Songs and Poems: Chords of a Yugo-Slav Harp,"

* "In Greek Seas and other Poems of Travel." By Oswald H. Hardy. (London: John Lane. 3s. 6d. net.)

† "Roumanian Songs and Ballads." By R. Stewart Patterson. (London: John Long, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

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by Mr. J. W. Wiles. The author was English Lecturer in the University of Belgrade, and gathered the material for the volume while working for the Serbian Relief Fund.

Among Messrs. Macmillan and Co.'s latest books is included "Main Currents of European History, 1815-1915," by Dr. Hearnshaw, Professor of History in King's College, University of London.

"The Land of Two Rivers," by Edwyn Bevan, will be published in the autumn by Mr. Arnold. The author traces the history of Mesopotamia from its earliest days till it fell under the rule of the Ottoman Turk.

Mr. Heinemann is shortly issuing a historical romance of the East by Mrs. Flora A. Steel, entitled "Mistress of Men." a tale of the seventeenth century.

The Anglo-Hellenic League has published in pamphlet form the report of the annual general meeting held on July 5, including the addresses delivered by the Hon. W. Pember Reeves, Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P., Mr. Hugh Law, M.P., and Dr. R. M. Burrows. Under the title "The Abdication of King Constantine" another pamphlet contains five articles written by Dr. R. M. Burrows.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Les Etats-Unis Contre L'Allemagne. By Gabriel Alphaud. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 6 frs.)

Russia and Europe. By Gregor Alepinsky. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net.)

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Morocco Under the French.

Economic conditions in Morocco are summarised by Mr. Ralph Richardson in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* in the course of a review of a new French work, "Le Maroc," by Victor Piquet (Librairie Armand Colin, Paris, 1917; 6 frs.). He writes:—

"While wheat is an important cereal in Morocco, barley is the one most developed at present. Maize demands abundant irrigation, but on the moist Atlantic coast it can be cultivated without it. Maize and sorghum seem capable of great development. Oats were formerly unknown to the natives of North Africa, but have been introduced successfully during the French Protectorate. Kitchen gardens are also much neglected by the natives, who have prejudices against eating vegetables, some declaring that potatoes give them the itch. They confine themselves to growing plants to make dried vegetables, and the chick, or dwarf pea, is one of the most remunerative of these plants. The vine would do well, but is not developed, as the Mohammedan law interdicts wine. Henna is one of the important resources of Morocco. Cotton was once largely grown, and its cultivation, as well as that of the sugar-cane, might be resuscitated. . . .

Turning next to the *industrial possibilities* of Morocco, we find that each of its towns has acquired a great reputation in certain specialities. Thus, at Fez are manufactured the most beautiful stuffs, embroidery, the finest goldsmith's work, and pottery. Marakesh and Tetuan are the great markets for leather and arms. At Rabat and Safi carpets, coarse stuffs, and coverings are woven. At the present day there are silk and cotton manufactories at Fez, besides pottery of a very particular kind, generally coloured blue. Although Fez is not the chief market for leather in Morocco, it has not less than three thousand tanners. Several local industries, especially weaving, will disappear in competition with European importations. For a long time past, cotton goods imported from England have competed with those manufactured in Morocco. Local metallurgical industries will likewise suffer, but leather manufactures will continue to prosper, as well as those of rugs and carpets. Embroidery and pottery will also hold their own. While the fisheries of Morocco will develop as its ports are improved, very little yet is known of the mineral wealth of the country. . . .

"The *Commerce* of Morocco was in full force, and showed magnificent progress when the European war began. It is satisfactory to add that, after a short crisis, the economic activity revived, and that 1915 was almost a normal year. The imports of Morocco in 1915 amounted in value to 143,751,000 francs, and the exports to 48,680.000 francs. The total was 192 million francs, against 126 millions in 1914 and 180 millions in 1913.

Championing Essad Pasha.

In the August issue of the *Contemporary Review* "O. de L." couches a lance for Essad Pasha. After reviewing the course of events in connection with Albania since the outbreak of the war, he inquires how it came about that the Serbian Army ever came out of the Albanian fastnesses alive. For centuries the two races, he points out, have robbed and butchered one another wherever they have been in contact; three years before, in the Balkan War, Serbian troops had marched cross Albania, burning and slaying; and now the wheel had gone full turn. The Serbians in their headlong flight were at the mercy of the Albanians.

By what miracle, then, were the hands of the highlander held in those days of November, 1915? There were doubtless more restraining forces than one. In the north, for instance, the Archbishop of Scutari, one of the most far-seeing politicians in the Balkans, held back the Catholic tribes of his diocese: and the Abbott of the Mirdites contained Mirdita. But neither prelate could influence the Moslems. There was one man alone whose hand could reach, and whose name could awe, the fierce tribes of Central Albania. That was the chieftain of Tirana, whose palace is at Durazzo, Essad Toptan Pasha, and everyone waited breathlessly to see what he would do.

It is true that the Italians were at this time in force at Durazzo, and could at any time have seized Essad and held him on board an Italian warship, or shipped him across the Adriatic. But this would not have held the tribesmen's hands. It is true also that Essad had the best of reasons for not falling into the Austrian's hand. But there are no offences which Austria will not forgive, at a price, and Essad's friendship was worth buying. He might have continued to protest friendship for the Allies, and at the same time secretly have made his peace with the General of the advancing Austrian army. He might have issued stringent orders to his gendarmes to protect and assist the retreating Serbians, and at the same time have caused to be whispered a word in the bazaars at Elbassan and Berat, which would not have allowed a man of them to escape alive. For either policy he could have found precedents in his own past career, and it was certainly not love of Serbians which was likely to deter him. But he did neither of these things. Except in the South, where his writ does not run, the Serbians passed the mountains unmolested. And in the hour of our discomfiture, when Serb and Italian, French and English, were all preparing for the retreat from Durazzo, the Pasha continued to support the Alliance, and left the town with us when we left.

"O. de L.'s" conclusion is as follows:—

"Apart from all considerations of gratitude or loyalty to a faithful and unfortunate ally, a fundamental political blunder will be made by the Western Powers if the claims of Essad are left out of account. Rich or poor, in power or in exile, so long as the Toptani chieftain lives he is bound to be a factor of the first importance in the politics of his native land."

The River of Gaza.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Dispatch* with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force gives an interesting account of the Wadi Guzzeh. He says, *inter alia*:—

The river of Gaza runs in curious and devious windings from its source above the Byzantine ruins of Khalassa to the sea, and all the way it is full of history. It has been at all periods the defensive line between Syria and Egypt, along which the armies of the Pharaohs faced the hordes of the Hittites, Assyrians met Egyptians, Selucid conquerors countered the Ptolemies, and Crusaders fought with Saracens, and now for nearly six months Britons and Turks have fought each other here. The relics of war are imprinted on its banks Tracing its career backwards, at its mouth we find large deep caves now inhabited by owls, but once the "dug-outs" of warriors. Then passing Om Djerrar, the Gerar of the Bible, where Abraham and Isaac dwelt, we come to the fastness of Tel-el-Djemmi. It is a towering earthwork where man's hand has improved on nature. Our amateur antiquaries declare it to be a Crusader's bastion, because the skeleton of a man was found there with crossed knees. At Shellal, a few miles beyond, our amateur archæologists—to wit, a squadron of Anzac cavalry—lighted on a splendid mosaic pavement, with a design and an inscription which proclaimed it Byzantine of the early centuries of the Christian era. The pavement was lying half exposed in one of the Turkish prepared positions, and is to find its way to one of the museums of the Dominions. Beyond Shellal, again, rises another of those dominating mounds, Tel-el-Fara, which is likewise ascribed to the Crusaders, and provides a providential place for an observation post. Thence the Wadi runs eastwards, almost at right angles to its original

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course, and is known now as the Wadi Shanag, and later as the Wadi Khalasra after the ancient stronghold at the meeting of its sources.

A Palestine Discovery.

A very interesting article, by Mr. W. T. Massey in the *Daily Telegraph*, describes the discovery by the Australian troops in Southern Palestine of the remains of an ancient Christian Church. This is, as it happens, the third memorial of the ancient Greek Christianity which has been brought to light on the army's journey from the Suez Canal to Palestine. The honour of the discovery belongs to Captain Jordan, who saw the edge of a mosaic floor on a high mound at Shellal. The story of the removal of the mosaic is given by Mr. Massey, as told to him by the Rev. Maitland Woods:—

"A number of engineers, under Major C. E. Wilson, R.E., assisted me in the removal," the chaplain said. "First, a trench was dug all round the floor, so that we could work only stooping as low as our knees. Then, after carefully cleaning the portion to be first removed, hot glue was poured over it, and linen canvas spread over the glue. When the glue was cold a razor blade was inserted between the mosaic along a line previously agreed upon, the blade was worked gently to and fro until a very small chisel could be inserted. This slow and laborious method was persevered in until the portion was isolated, and then three layers of (a) rubble, (b) grey cement, and (c) white thin plaster, immediately under the mosaic stones were all carefully withdrawn from the part to be removed, which then was like a drum head. As the substrata were taken away boards were placed underneath the mosaic, and were built up with flat stones, these 'piers' taking the weight and preventing fractures. The inscription was the most ambitious removal so far as size was concerned. We worked from six a.m. till two p.m. on a floor of earth burning with intense heat from the sun without a single stop. But the result was worthy of the effort, as, although the inscription contains 8,000 small pieces of mosaic, we did not lose one stone. The box in which it was to be placed had been specially made by the engineers. In it was mixed a bath, two inches deep, of plaster of Paris, and when this was at the setting point the fragile mosaic was freed from the ground, was slowly pushed into the sticky substance, and coaxed down absolutely level. In two hours' time the canvas and glue were washed off, and the mosaic padded with tibbin (the finely-cut straw used for camel feed) was sealed in its case. This process was carried out with each separate piece. The work took fourteen days, and when we were half through I was told I could have no more plaster of Paris, as there was no more available. This was a terrible blow to me, but young Coveney, an engineer officer, said he knew where there was an excellent pocket of clay a mile down the wadi, and Egyptian labourers were set to tread it and mix it with tibbin, and the rest of the mosaic was slid into boxes filled with a 'float' of this mixture, which has now set admirably."

KING FERDINAND OF ROUMANIA.

Telegram to King George.

The following telegram has been received by the King from the King of Roumania:—

"Your Majesty's message has reached me at a moment when the Russo-Roumanian front has been withstanding the enemy's savage attacks for two weeks of uninterrupted fighting. Coming at a moment of such grave trial for me and for my country it has touched me deeply, for in such a time as this there is nothing more comforting than to feel the solidarity which knits all the Allies so closely together. In its struggles by the side of its Russian brothers-in-arms, my army, reformed in spite of all the adversities which surround it, has shown itself worthy of all the hopes founded on its patriotism and valour by its victorious resistance to the enemy's violent and reiterated onslaughts, and in its struggle it has displayed all its force, sustained by the unbreakable faith that is in us all, that by its courage it will contribute to the final victory in which Roumania has the right to expect the re-establishment of all her rights and compensation for all her losses; she is certain she will find in the bonds of solidarity that unite us the sure guarantee for the realisation of her claims. It is with a feeling of profound admiration, accompanied with our best wishes, that the Russo-Roumanian Army and I are following the magnificent efforts of the brave British Army which, co-operating with the valiant French troops, is covering itself with glory for the good of the common cause.—FERDINAND."

CONDITIONS IN SERBIA.

A member of the Szegedin Chamber of Commerce, in the Magyar paper *Szegedi Naplo* of August 2, gives the following description of conditions in Serbia:—

"I have traversed Serbia, which the Allies have in 1915 divided into two parts, assigning the Western to Austria-Hungary and the Eastern and Southern to the Bulgars. The Germans, who bore the greatest share in the conquest of Serbia, take no part in the administration; they hold the line from Belgrade to Gevgeli because the greater part of the army on the Salonika front is German. Traces of the war are everywhere in evidence. Several towns, and especially Belgrade, have suffered heavily. The industrial quarter of Belgrade has been almost entirely demolished by bombardment during the siege of Belgrade, and in some parts of the town traces of the fighting are still visible. Few civilians are to be seen at the stations, practically only soldiers of the various allied nationalities: Austro-Hungarians, Germans, Bulgars, and Turks. This year's harvest, it is added, promises excellently. The plum crop is exceedingly good.

The Serbian Press Bureau in London draws attention to the deplorable condition of the people in Serbia, who have been deprived by the enemy of the whole of this year's harvest. Most families have only one loaf of bread per week, and meat, lard, butter, and milk are practically unobtainable. Children are dying by thousands. Twenty-five thousand Serbian families have appealed to the Serbian Red Cross Society in Geneva for help. The interned Serbians, as well as prsoners of war in Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria are dying from hunger and disease. Private information states that 80,000 of them have died in Austria-Hungary alone.

The death has occurred at Bridgwater of Colour-Sergeant Robert Cross, aged eighty-five, who held the Crimean, Turkish, long service, good conduct, and meritorious service medals.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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An interesting situation has arisen with regard to the Greek currant crop. Great Britain is the principal purchaser of this crop, without which there would, under present circumstances be a serious shortage of this commodity. Unfortunately war conditions have conduced to the raising of prices to an absurd level, with the result that a ton of currants now costs more than three times what it did before the war. The question is fully discussed in an article in this issue, in which it is pointed out that the time has come for the Government to pay attention to the problem, and that the most likely way of keeping down prices would be for the Government to treat currants as it has treated sugar. The one certain thing is that the Government is alone able to deal with the situation, for two of the main factors in the rise in prices are the increased freightage and insurance. Both these causes are well within the powers of the Government to remedy.

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If there is one question that is of absorbing interest to the business world in general at the present time it is the probable state of things that will obtain with regard to trade after the war. Ever since 1914 the subject has been discussed in the Press with a greater or lesser degree of knowledge, and a variety of opinions have been set forward, ranging from the optimism which expects a period of unexampled prosperity to the pessimism which fears that it will be impossible to make up the lost ground. One of the latest, and in my view the most logical, of these expositions appears in the current issue of the *Round Table*, a quarterly review whose articles on economic subjects are obtaining for it a constantly enlarged audience in business circles. It is the writer's opinion that the conditions which he expects to obtain after the war—such as high prices, an abundance of currency, an extraordinary demand for commodities, and an increased labour force—point to a period of unusual industrial and commercial activity. But this is not unqualified, for the writer instances three contingencies—one certain and two merely possible—which may have a retarding effect.

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Shortage of transport is naturally the certain factor in the writer's calculation, and the other contingencies, with which I do not propose to deal at the moment, are the question of credit and the labour situation. There is no escaping the question of transport, which must inevitably react unfavourably on any trade revival for some time after the war. In the first place peace will almost certainly find the shipping resources of the world seriously impaired, and the shortage then existing will not be made good in a day. Meanwhile severe demands will still be made on the available shipping for the processes connected with demobilisation. On the other hand the end of the struggle will mean increased facilities for the construction of new shipping, so that the shortage ought to be made good fairly quickly. The transport difficulty, however, is not only one of shipping, for, as the writer of the article very aptly points out, "the railroads of the world will certainly be in bad condition, with their roadbed and equipment deteriorated and their rolling stock worn out and short in quantity." Here, too, reconstruction will have to play its part before there can be a return to the normal state of things.

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An interesting sidelight on the vital importance of the transport question is given by Mr. G. H. Selous, the Acting British Vice-Consul at Larache, in a report which will be found elsewhere in this issue. What he has to say is also, incidentally, a most crushing condemnation of the lackadaisical methods of British traders before the war. Germany, as my readers know, managed to establish herself very securely in the Morocco market, very largely owing to the fact that British traders were handicapped by the lack of adequate shipping facilities. The fact that British steamship companies lacked enterprise to establish a satisfactory service between the United Kingdom and Morocco was taken full advantage of by the Germans. The Oldenburg line arranged a frequent service of steamships, and this and their remarkable commercial intelligence system gave them the desired increase of trade. Here, if anywhere, was a case where Germany's methods might have been followed with advantage.

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As to the future of the trade of the United Kingdom with Morocco, Mr. Selous lays stress on the fact that it will be dependent on the transport question, which means, of course, that it will be difficult, if not impossible, to make up the leeway until some time after the war. It is the more regrettable since Morocco presents one of the most promising markets for British goods, and under auspicious circumstances it would probably not be a very difficult matter almost wholly to replace enemy trade there. It is a most hopeful sign that the principal British articles in that market fully hold their own, though here, as in India, and indeed in every country that has been the scene of German competition, the need is for goods of a cheaper quality.

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The announcement that the Egyptian Government has decided to restrict the acreage under cotton in the coming season was not unexpected. It had, indeed, been foreseen for some time that the economic circumstances of the country brought about by the war would necessitate this step, and only last week some such action was foreshadowed by our Cairo Correspondent. The crux of the position is, of course, Egypt's food supply. This question was discussed fully by our Cairo Correspondent in a recent letter, in which he pointed out that Egypt has always been self-supporting in all cereals except wheat, which she has annually imported in the form of flour to the extent of 160,000 tons. Naturally the war has exercised a constantly increasing effect on this import of flour, and at the present time, owing principally to scarcity of freights, importation is at a standstill. At the same time, the presence of troops in the country means that a larger population has to be considered. The Egyptian Government has, therefore, been faced with a problem to which, failing the provision of increased tonnage, there could be only one solution.

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Hardly a week passes without some fresh and even more curious instance of Germany's trade methods coming to light. The latest is furnished by the British Empire Producers' Organisation, which publishes in its monthly *Empire Trade Notes* a pretty example of the way in which the Germans contrived to act as middlemen between two parts of the British Empire. There is an immense demand in India for glass bangles, specially for those of blue glass, the colouring of which is obtained from cobalt, and the cobalt for this purpose comes from Canada. But instead of this commodity being shipped direct or through Great Britain, it was actually purchased by Germany, and re-exported to India. So that Germany was able to derive a profit from introducing the producer in Canada to the consumer in India. When war broke out the Indian bangle manufacturer was in ignorance that the cobalt was mined outside Germany, and was in doubt as to his supplies, and it is only comparatively recently that he has understood that Canada is the source of his supplies!

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During the past few months much has been heard of profiteering, and there has been a good deal said of the petty transactions of small tradesmen, as well as of the larger deals of the wholesalers and retailers. But beyond that, presumably on the principle "the higher you go the fewer," there has been little or no criticism, though some assert that the Government itself is a great offender as far as profiteering is concerned. In the leather trade, for instance, there is a great shortage of light leather for civilian use. The Government is represented as meeting this by selling the lighter part of the hides used for the manufacture of army boots at prices which are abnormally high owing to the fact that imports and the sale of imported stocks in the country are vetoed.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commercial Intelligence.

The New Scheme for the Promotion of British Trade.

Before the war came to invest with new interest many questions hitherto regarded with apathy, or, at best, merely from an academic standpoint, criticism of our Consular Service and of our system of commercial intelligence in general, whether emanating from within or without the service, failed to carry sufficient force to win conviction and consequent reform. Commissions were appointed, held their meetings, and passed away, leaving things much as they were. The last of these, set up as lately as 1912 as a result of renewed evidence of discontent within the service, made various recommendations which had not been carried into effect at the time when the Central Powers united to disturb the harmony of Europe. Whether anything would have been done but for the war is a delicate point and one which, happily, need not concern us. No one, however, looking back on the deplorable history of the service can very well be in doubt as to what would have happened. Fortunately, the evidence brought to light by the war of the amazing thoroughness of Germany's trade methods, which placed her at an immense advantage with regard to her competitors, made it quite clear that if we were to hold our own in the struggle for commercial supremacy in the future very drastic reforms would be required. In this connection it is worth recalling the evidence given in these columns of the extraordinary activities of a German Consul in Morocco, whose office files were to all intents and purposes a complete index of trade information in his district. Obviously, a British commercial traveller, lacking anything like the inside knowledge that his German rivals would have free access to in this instance, would be at a hopeless disadvantage. And this illuminating example is merely typical of the state of things that obtained before the war.

The Present System.

To do the Government justice it must be admitted that it was readily recognized that this kind of thing could not be allowed to continue, and that changes must be introduced which would make it possible for British commerce to compete with its rivals on equal terms after the war. But owing to the complex nature of our system of commercial intelligence any steps that might be taken to reorganize it were of necessity bound to be slow, for the system as it stands at present concerns not one but two departments. Commercial Attachés and Consuls are under the control and administration of the Foreign Office, but the commercial intelligence they provide is dealt with by the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade, which also receives the reports of the Trade Commissioners and Trade Correspondents within the Empire. This duality of control has been the inevitable cause of much inconvenience, and, unfortunately, it is impossible to remove it altogether, even by the creation of a separate department, for the Foreign Office in the nature of things must be concerned with the Commercial Attachés and with the Consular Service in anything that raises a question of international relations. The problem before the authorities, then, has been, in short, to formulate a scheme of reform, which, while leaving to the Foreign Office its necessary authority, would be most efficacious as regards the procuring of commercial intelligence.

The New Department.

The Government's solution of the problem, announced in a memorandum issued last week in the form of a White Paper (some extracts from which are given on page 379) takes the form of the creation of a new department represented in Parliament by an Under-Secretary, jointly responsible to the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade. The scheme is indirectly the outcome of the work of the Committee appointed last January to deal with the question. This Committee, while agreeing that the Foreign Office should continue to control the Commercial Attachés, and that this and the Consular Services should be enlarged and improved (towards which end we are glad to note that substantial progress has been made), altogether failed to attain agreement on the other main issue as to whether the work of collating and distributing commercial intelligence should be dealt with by a special department to be created at the Foreign Office or as now by the Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade. The two Departments concerned gave the matter further consideration in the light of the Committee's reports, and as a result we have the present scheme, which is in its essence a compromise between the school of thought that would have handed over the whole question to the Foreign Office and the school that would have left it to the Board of Trade.

Relations with other Departments.

The most important and at the same time the most controversial question with regard to the new department will be its relations with the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade. While the Department will have its own official head appointed by these Departments it will be linked to each of them by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary, who "will be responsible to the President of the Board of Trade for all matters within the competence of that Department, and responsible to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for all matters concerning the Foreign Office." This in itself, it is to be feared, perpetuates the old difficulty of the overlapping of functions, and this fear is not dispelled by the definition of the concerns of each Department "By matters concerning the Foreign Office," we are told, "is meant all questions concerning the direction and organisation of the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services, and the commercial work of officers of these Services, and of the Diplomatic Service, so far as these matters are not dealt with by the Consular or other Departments of the Foreign Office, and also matters concerning the *personnel* of the Foreign Office and of the above Services who may be temporarily attached to the Department, and any matters arising out of the work of the Department involving questions of foreign policy. All instructions issued to Commercial Attaché or other Diplomatic or Consular officers will be issued in the name of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. On all other matters the responsibility will lie with the Board of Trade." In the past there has unquestionably been a certain amount of friction between the two Departments owing to a divergence of views as to their respective functions, and it is this which conduced to the growth of the Foreign Trade Department of the Foreign Office and the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade. These two sub-Departments, it may be added, were largely concerned with the same questions, a significant comment on our pre-war trade organisation. By combining the functions of these sub-Departments it may be hoped that much of the friction which has occurred will henceforth be obviated, but this will largely depend on the spirit which inspires the new department, and in particular on the view taken of their respective functions by the officials of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office.

A Promising Departure.

While a mere definite cleavage with the old traditions would in our view have been preferable in some respects to the new arrangement, the main point is that the Government's decision marks a decisive break with the old *laissez faire* policy. Recognition is at last given to the fact that it is as much the business of the Government to concern itself with measures for promoting foreign trade as it is its duty to prevent the outbreak of sickness at home, for instance. Once admit the principle and the rest will follow in due course. It is important to note that the present change involves no more drastic measures than are entailed in the alteration of an organisation, and it would be unwise, therefore, to indulge in any premature hopes because the Government is merging two sub-Departments into one, for that is really what it amounts to. And in this connection the fact must not be overlooked that the chief criticism of our commercial intelligence system has been that it has failed to give British representatives abroad assistance on a par with that obtainable from the consular services of other countries. Organisation at home is, however, the obvious prelude to reform abroad. The establishment of the Department of Commercial Intelligence is, therefore, a step in the right direction, and we welcome the Government's decision as a sign of its intention to do everything in its power to promote the future of British trade.

The Consular Service.

With the all-important question of the reform of the Consular Service we need not concern ourselves at present. There will be time enough for that when we know the nature of the measures which are now under consideration in this connection. In the meantime it must suffice to say that we hope reform, when it comes, will be Wentworthian in character. Anything short of the most thorough reorganisation will fail in its object, for it is not as if there were shortcomings in one direction only. The whole fabric of the service needs strengthening, if not actually rebuilding. Recruitment must be placed on a sounder basis, a career in the service must be made more attractive, there must be fewer of those sudden changes by which a consul is transferred from a sphere where his knowledge is of use to one in which all he knows is of little value, and there must be an end of the strange divisions in the service which make it impossible, for instance, to transfer a consul from Sofia to Bucharest. There are other points that require attention; these must, however, suffice to show the needs of the service. We have expressed the hope that the reform will be thorough. We add the wish that it may be also speedy.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

Since the outbreak of the war, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, applications have been received at the Department of Commercial Intelligence from a large number of firms in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad, who wish to get into communication with British manufacturers or producers of various classes of goods which have previously been obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Applications have been recorded (adds the "Journal") for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (amongst other) articles; British manufacturers or producers of these articles now in a position to supply are invited to make application for the names of the inquirers:—Advertising novelties; combs, amber, for export; cryolite; eucalyptus, red gum; heavy steel spoons, electro-tanned; machinery, etc.—machine for making firelighters, machinery for making textile name tabs, machines for waterproofing paper by coating with pitch and canvas; needles, suitable for the Moroccan market; olive oil foots (30 tons); red sulphide of arsenic; synthetic essential oil of mustard; thimbles, nickel, for Italy.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent telegraphs that according to the *Frankfurter Zeitung* the German military authorities have seized the entire Roumanian vintage for army purposes. The paper is delighted, and says that by this measure a great proportion of the German vintage is secured for the civilian population at home.

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GREEK CURRANTS.

The Greek currant has been harvested. For some weeks dark patches of currants drying on the ground will have been a common sight all along the shores of the Gulf of Corinth; but it is with the subsequent history of this fruit that the British public is mainly interested. Of the annual export of Greek currants to the amount of about 125,000 tons Great Britain normally takes 65,000 tons, America being Greece's second best customer with a modest 25,000 tons. The currants, collected from the individual growers, are packed and consigned to Greek merchants in England, and from them find their way through brokers to the retail trade. Wholesale prices before the war ranged between £25 and £40 a ton at this end, and the consumer was content so long as the retail price was somewhere between 4d. and 6d. a pound. The war has, of course, changed all that. At every stage of the currant's existence, prenatal included, prices have advanced. The grower pays more for his fertilisers, and must get more for his produce; each intermediary has to incur a larger outlay and expects a bigger return upon it. Freights have soared from 15s. or £1 5s. a ton to £17. In the end, helped by the shortage of supplies reaching this country, the market price in England reached £140 per ton. At this stage, not unnaturally, the currant problem calls for Government attention. Apart from the price, there is the difficulty experienced by importers in securing tonnage for their consignments, and unless the Government intervenes there is a strong probability of a currant famine in Great Britain. Usually the first shipments arrive towards the middle of September.

Several courses are open to the Government. It may stand aside and benevolently place the necessary tonnage (if it is to be found) at the disposal of the importers. In this case, provided enemy submarines are looking the other way, a supply of currants will duly reach the country and prices will remain where they are at present. Another course would be to treat currants as sugar has been treated. The Government would enter the market as purchasers and distribute the stocks secured to the retailers. Some intermediary would be necessary, but it would be possible to eliminate at least one middleman and the consumer would benefit accordingly. Again, the Government undertake to find the tonnage and leave the existing machinery to function as before, but exercise a more rigorous control over the profits of all concerned.

The whole question is of particular interest both to the people of the country as a whole, to whom currants are, if not actually an essential, at least an important food stuff, and to the merchants who are concerned in a trade the annual value of which may be reckoned at present prices at anything between £3,000,000 and £5,000,000. With a view to keeping down prices it might be thought that the second course mentioned above would commend itself to the Government. It is the one, however, which would cause considerable consternation to the "Trade." Unless gross profiteering in the past can be proved, the Government will hardly be anxious to penalise those who have played a recognised and legitimate part in the supply of foodstuffs to the nation. Moreover the currants have to be obtained in Greece, and the services of someone with knowledge of the trade will have to be secured for that purpose. It is urged, probably not without reason, that if the Government buyers are outside the trade, they will not prove as efficient as those who have devoted their whole lives to the enterprise; whereas, if they are taken from the trade by private arrangement then one or more firms stand to be benefited at the expense of others. In these circumstances the plan which seems to have secured the approval of the London Dried Fruit Importers or the Currant Importers Association is that either a committee of recognised merchants should act for the whole trade in such a way that profits should be divided, or that one or more of their number should be appointed as the Food Controller's Buyers and should call for offers on the f.o.b. basis through the usual channels hitherto employed and under the usual trade conditions. In the latter case, it is held, merchants deprived of any outlet in this country other than through Government channels will compete for orders and will quote prices as low as the markets abroad will allow.

For the sake of the consumer it is to be hoped that a satisfactory settlement will shortly be reached. If the plan that commends itself to the merchants were adopted, the Government would have to safeguard itself against rings, and would still be expected to help in the matter of tonnage.. Its powers should be adequate to keep a check on profits and to ensure that a supply of currants will be available at a reasonable price. There can be no question that Government intervention is necessary, for without it the trade may be unable to import any supplies at all. In these circumstances there seems no reason why a reasonable spirit should not prevail all round, and that every intermediary should not make up his mind that profits will have to be cut to a narrow margin compared with those of more halcyon days.

PROSPECTS OF TUNISIAN OLIVE CROP.

No official estimate of the Tunisian olive crop for the 1917-18 season, says the United States Consul at Tunis (Mr. Edwin C. Kemp), in a report dated July 3, has yet been issued, but the following notice is translated from the *Dépêche Sfaxienne*, published at Sfax, the centre of the Tunisian olive district:—"Opinions are not in accord upon this subject, which is natural, as conditions vary with localities. Some orchards are suffering from dropping fruits, and others, better situated, promise a fine crop. Regarding the crop *en bloc*, however, it is quite certain that the result will be much inferior to the preceding crop. One can, nevertheless, and for the present at least, count on a production of more than a third of that of last year."

The crop of 1916-17 was an exceptionally good one. Official figures showing the amount have not yet been published. Exportation has been prohibited to countries other than France, and to France only in specified quantities, with stocks equal to a quarter of the amount exported held at the disposition of the Tunisian Government.

In view of the scarcity of flour on the Russian South-Western front it is reported that the corn in the provinces adjoining the South-Western and Rumanian fronts is to be requisitioned.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The Egyptian Restriction.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The conditions prevailing in the market during the past week have not been favourable to a large turnover. When prices fall in the raw material there is always nervousness on the part of buyers of yarn and cloth in placing orders. Bearish sentiment has again been prominent. At the beginning of next week the curtailment of production scheme of the Control Board will be put into operation, and while some saving of supplies in raw cotton may be anticipated, there seems to be no fear on the part of buyers of any shortage of yarn and cloth. There has been considerable discussion with regard to the report that it is the intention of the Egyptian Government to restrict the area under cotton next season by one-third. Although at a time like the moment foodstuffs must be given first place, such action is being strongly criticised in Lancashire. The report appears to have very little effect upon prices, and the market, especially in Alexandria, has been very unsettled. Users of Egyptian yarns have again purchased from hand to mouth, the bulk of the demand having run on the finer numbers and specialities. Piece goods are wanted in Egypt, but there is much uncertainty as to the future, and it is useless to place orders with manufacturers here if goods cannot be shipped. Not much has been done in sized materials, but steady buying continues to take place in fancies. Rather more testing of prices has been reported in cloth for India, but definite offers from abroad remain very poor. Some special transactions have been put through for China in a well-known make of shirtings. An encouraging business continues to be put through for Java and Singapore. Makers of heavy goods remain busy on Government contracts. American yarns have been easier and very irregular in quotation. A little more business has been done in twists, but medium wefts remain in plentiful supply. Comparatively few of the offers put forward in shipping counts have been at all practicable.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Austrian Firms Amalgamating.

According to reports from France, a movement is afoot in Vienna for an amalgamation of the whole of the motor-manufacturing concerns of Austria, in order to prepare the industry in that country for the fight with foreign competition. Steps have already been taken in this direction, notably the effort—almost accomplished—to amalgamate the Austrian Daimler Co. and the Austrian Fiat Co. It is definitely asserted that after the conclusion of hostilities the Austrian Daimler Co. will confine its energies to the construction in large quantities of commercial motors.

Trade after the War.

In view of the apparent disinclination of British engineers and manufacturers to prepare themselves in a practical way for the forthcoming trade-war, or at least to follow the example of their Continental and American competitors by keeping in touch, during the war, with their clients and foreign markets generally, one is inclined to draw the conclusion that opinions, such as those recently expressed by Sir Joseph Compton-Rickett, M.P., have, sometimes, a misleading influence. Sir Joseph said that "after the war we are in for plenty of trade, high prices, and good wages"; and he added that if this were not so, or something like it, he would be willing to forfeit his reputation as a trade authority. He went on to state that British engineering firms were the first engineers in the world, the cheapest producers of certain specific descriptions of engineer-work entailing a constant and enormous yearly outlay in orders, and that he saw no limits to the expansion of some new branches of engineering in the near future. Engineers were very much interested in this view, and it is not improbable that the allusion to the "good old times," and the ultra-optimistic attitude towards the near future has induced many of them to be content with the expectation of "plenty of trade" coming with little or no effort on their part.

Mr. Lloyd George's View.

Whilst Sir J. Compton-Rickett's opinion may be taken as encouraging a *laissez faire* attitude, Mr. Lloyd George's opinion is different, and his advice very clear and convincing. In addressing a deputation of the Labour Party, it will be remembered that he said: "The country will be prepared for bigger things immediately after the war than it will be when it begins to resume the normal clash of selfish interests. Therefore, you are doing well in giving your time and thought to considering, and considering deeply, and considering on a bold scale, on a daring scale, what you are going to do after the war. I believe the settlement after the war will succeed in proportion to its audacity. The readier we are to cut away from the past the better are we likely to succeed." This is the advice of a practical, clear-sighted man, which should be taken not only by engineers but the leaders of every branch of British industry. The belief in Germany of an approaching cessation of hostilities last year resulted in the launching by an engineering firm, as by countless other firms in Germany, of a great advertisement campaign. The effect of all this publicity and the continued manufacture of goods for export, which in some cases has been going on in Germany at an increasing rate ever since the war began, will be that engineering—an industry in which Germany has made considerable progress and profit—will be specially open to attack. British firms must, therefore, take adequate steps well in advance of the coming peace. The idea of faint-hearted manufacturers that the present is not the time for spending money in advertising their goods is a suicidal policy.

Agricultural Motors in Morocco.

It is evident that in spite of the existing difficulties through the war, Morocco is anxious to develop her agricultural resources. The Automobile Club of Morocco has decided to hold in the latter part of this month agricultural motor trials, which will be open to all manufacturers of the Allied countries. Particulars can be obtained from the Ministry of the Board of Agriculture in London. In view of the new market thus opened, the trials will be followed with great interest.

Heavy British Ploughs.

We had often occasion in previous notes to allude to the mistake of sending to the Near East ploughs whose weight makes them unsuitable for work with the available horses or oxen. This drawback, coupled with the disinclination of the makers to design a lighter pattern, helped the Austro-Hungarian and German firms to supplant the British in the supply of agricultural implements by introducing light and suitable ploughs.

It is said that there is a great similarity between the soil and farming methods of New Zealand and those of the Near East, and it is evident that the same reason that affected the sale of the British plough in the markets of the latter is responsible for similar results in New Zealand. Mr. R. W. Dalton, H.M. Trade Commissioner in New Zealand, says that a farmer once told him that "he had an English plough which had not been used for twenty-five years. When he asked him what was the matter with it, he replied that there was nothing the matter with the plough; in fact, it was probably the finest plough that had ever been produced, but no four horses in the Dominion could pull it." And Mr. Dalton, in his report, observes that, generally speaking, British machinery was too heavy for New Zealand farming. The same thing we have often said in these columns with regard to the Near East, and we may mention here that whenever a description of a new light machine or plough appeared in these columns, readers from various parts in the Near East wrote to us asking where it could be obtained.

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GOVERNMENT AND TRADE.

The New Scheme.

The War Cabinet has sanctioned a new scheme for the supervision of commercial intelligence, and a memorandum describing the plan was issued last week. The scheme, which provides, *inter alia*, for the creation of an enlarged commercial intelligence department, is the subject of an article on page 376. Below are given some extracts from the memorandum :—

An enlarged Commercial Intelligence Department will be created on a scale adequate to meet the reasonable requirements of British trade after the war. Parliamentary control over the Department will be exercised through a new Parliamentary Secretary, who will occupy the position both of Additional Parliamentary Secretary at the Board of Trade, and also additional Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs. This Parliamentary Secretary will be responsible to the President of the Board of Trade for all matters within the competence of that Department, and responsible to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for all matters concerning the Foreign Office. By matters concerning the Foreign Office is meant all questions concerning the direction and organisation of the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services and the commercial work of officers of these services, and of the Diplomatic Service, so far as these matters are not dealt with by the Consular or other departments of the Foreign Office, and also matters concerning the *personnel* of the Foreign Office and of the above services who may be temporarily attached to the Department, and any matters arising out of the work of the department involving questions of foreign policy. All instructions issued to Commercial Attachés or other Diplomatic or Consular Officers will be issued in the name of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. On all other matters the responsibility will lie with the Board of Trade.

The Commercial Intelligence Department will eventually comprise the existing Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Trade Department of the Foreign Office; and will take over such of the staff and records of the War Trade Intelligence and Statistical Departments as may be available and required.

The official head of the department will be an officer appointed jointly by the President of the Board of Trade and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, working under the new Parliamentary Secretary. The appointment and control of the Trade Commissioners within the Empire will, as at present, rest with the Board of Trade, and the appointment and control of the Commercial Attachés and Consular Service with the Foreign Office, but the work of the new department will comprise all matters dealing with commercial intelligence, and, so far as is necessary for that purpose, it will give directions to the oversea services and make the necessary arrangements for keeping them in close touch with the commercial classes in this country.

There will be a constant interchange of staff between the department and both the Foreign Office and the Board of Trade, so that members of those departments may be thoroughly acquainted with the work. Opportunity will be given to diplomats and consuls in training to serve for a period in the department. It will also draw *personnel* from the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services, and from men of outside business experience. In the same way officers of the Trade Commissioner Service will be trained in the department and will be attached to it from time to time.

The Department will be assisted by an Advisory Committee of business men, and it is hoped that it will be possible to arrange for a sub-committee of this committee to meet at frequent intervals in order to advise the department on its current work.

It is believed that these proposals afford a satisfactory solution of a problem which for some years past has been urged on the attention of H.M. Government by the commercial and industrial community. Their criticisms have been especially directed against the duality of the existing systems under which, while the direction of the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services rests with the Foreign Office, the utilisation of the fruits of their commercial work lies with the Board of Trade. Under the new scheme the direction of the commercial work of the foreign services and the distribution of the intelligence collected by them will be dealt with by a single department, and as the same department will also direct the Trade Commissioner Service within the Empire, uniformity of policy will be secured in respect of overseas trade as a whole.

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The Bank, through its Branches and Correspondents in Morocco, is fully equipped for all kinds of Banking business with that country and business between Morocco and Egypt is facilitated through its Correspondents in Egypt.

MOROCCO TRADE.

Need for Adequate Shipping Facilities after the War.

The Acting British Vice-Consul at Larache (Mr. G. H. Selous), writing under date July 16, remarks that prior to the war British trade with Morocco was seriously hampered by the inadequate shipping facilities between the United Kingdom and Morocco. This handicap was taken full advantage of by Germany, the increase of whose trade with Morocco in recent years was in great part due to the very frequent, punctual, and regular steamship service between the ports of Hamburg, Rotterdam, and Antwerp, and Morocco, which was instituted by the Oldenburg Portugiesische Dampfschiff Gesellschaft of Hamburg. If the United Kingdom is to maintain and increase its trade with Morocco, a frequent and efficient steamer service between the two countries must be established by a company which will make a point of studying and, if possible, satisfying suggestions and requests put forward by the merchants of various Moroccan ports. The methods of the Oldenburg Line might well be studied, imitated, and, if and when necessary, improved upon.

Enemy Trade to be Captured.

The staple British articles for the Moroccan market, such as candles, tea, common soap, woollen cloth, cotton goods, brass candlesticks, kettles, samovars, and teapots, electro-plated goods, galvanised iron buckets and kettles, etc., have always held their own, but attention should be given to the production of a cheaper and inferior quality woollen cloth to compete with the cheap article introduced in recent years from Austria and Germany. Foreign competition in candles must also be kept in view. The trade in lines more particularly Austrian and German, such as glassware, china and earthenware, beads, locks, bolts, padlocks, pocket knives, etc., should be carefully studied on the spot.

RAPID SHIPBUILDING.

Two supplements have been published by Lloyd's Register of Shipping showing the number of new vessels inserted in the Register from June 8 to July 17. From this it appears that over 100 new steamers were added to the Register, of which sixty-three are British. Most of the vessels were of large tonnage, and the rate of building is understood to be rapidly increasing.

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CHEESE PRODUCTION IN EASTERN GREECE.

An Unfavourable Outlook.

For the following particulars we are indebted to a report submitted by the United States Consul-General at Athens (Mr. Alexander W. Weddell):—

Estimates for the cheese output of 1916-17 are not favourable so far as the Athens consular district is concerned. It is feared in some circles that the production will not exceed half of that of the preceding year. This 50 per cent. loss is attributed to the scarcity of salt (essential to the production of Greek "Feta" cheese in brine), and to the fact that, owing to the blockade and the scarcity of meat throughout this district, shepherds disposed of their flocks for slaughtering instead of retaining them and making cheese during the lambing season. The growing popularity and rise in price of giaourt or yiarouti (goats' or sheep's milk coagulated by a process almost identical with that employed in making the better known "Lait Caillé") has also diverted a large quantity of raw milk that would otherwise have been consumed in the production of cheese.

Estimates, in pounds, for last year's cheese output in the various centres of production are:—Epirus, macaroni and sliced cheese, 1,410,750 lbs. Attica, sliced cheese, 1.692,900 lbs.; macaroni cheese, 496,584 lbs.; Casseri cheese, 423.225 lbs. Tripoli, sliced cheese, 705,375 lbs.; macaroni cheese, 1.241,460 lbs. Eastern Thessaly, sliced cheese, 282,150 lbs.; Casseri cheese, 705,375 lbs. Argolis, macaroni cheese, 310,365 lbs.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

War profits in Greece are to be subject to a tax of 30 per cent.

The Egyptian Government has granted £10,000 for investigations concerning the oilfields on the Red Sea coast.

The Serbian Press Bureau has issued a statement announcing that the removal of this year's grain harvest and other agricultural products from Serbia has begun, and that considerable consignments have already been sent to Vienna.

The Amsterdam correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Djavid Bey, Turkish Minister of Finance, arrived in Berlin on August 30 in order to discuss pending matters with German statesmen.

The Russian Minister of Finance has agreed to the establishment of Russo-Armenian banks, founded by a group of Armenian capitalists and another group at Bokhara, including local co-operative associations.

In Egypt since 1913 it is stated that buffaloes have decreased by twenty-four per cent., cows and oxen by twenty-eight per cent., and donkeys by thirty per cent. There has been a corresponding decrease in the number of horses and mules.

According to a Sofia message to the *Vossische Zeitung* a steamship company has been founded under the name of the Bielomorski Lloyd with a capital of £400,000, towards which not only Bulgarian but also German and Austro-Hungarian financiers have contributed.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue,
London, Thursday.

There is very little to report this week, our market has been exceedingly quiet and business has been on a very small scale. The reaction referred to last week has made further slight progress on selling by profit snatchers.

In Government stocks both Egyptian Unifieds at 83⅜ and 3½ per cent. Pref. at 72½ are somewhat lower. In Bank shares Nationals are down a further ⅛ at 16 and Agriculturals are ⅝ lower at 6⅛. Anglo-Egyptians on the other hand are ⅛ up at 13⅛.

In Land shares Aboukirs have dropped 6d. to 19s. 6d., Delta Lands and New Egyptians are each 3d. lower at 13s. 9d., and 13s. 3d. respectively, and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have reacted 3/32 to 1/32.

Amongst Miscellaneous shares Egyptian Markets are 6d. easier at 27s., and Salts and Sodas are 10½d. down at 1 9/32; Alexandria Waters are, however, exceptionally a firmer spot, being 5/16 higher at 12¾.

In Greek securities, apart from a transaction in Monopoly at 54½, there has been practically nothing doing, but Rentes are rather quieter at 44½.

Oil Shares.

Wednesday's prices show some fluctuations. Anglo-Egyptians (B) closed 2s. up at 21s., while Roumanian Consols showed a trifling decline to 12s. 3d.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included:—Turkish Unified, 61.15, against 60.80; Credit Foncier Egyptien, 760, unchanged; Suez Canal Shares, 4,600, unchanged.

SILVER IN INDIA.

Reuter's Simla correspondent, in a message dated September 5, says:—The Government has issued an order prohibiting the export of silver coin or bullion out of India. Imports of silver are also prohibited. Up to this point the Government has permitted imports, but has acquired all the silver imported.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN OILFIELDS.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for the week, 749 tons (last week, 22 tons). Hurgada production for the week, 8,137 tons (last week, 2,029 tons).

THE SUBMARINE WAR.

The following is the Admiralty return of arrivals, sailings, losses, and unsuccessful attacks for the week ended September 2:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,384
Sailings	2,432

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons gross or over	*20
Under 1,600 tons gross	†5
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	‡9
British fishing vessels sunk	0

* Including two sunk during week ended August 26.

† Including one sunk during week ended August 26.

‡ Including two attacked during week ended August 19 and three during week ended August 26.

The receipts of the Suez Canal for August 30 and 31, and September 1 and 2 were 720,000 francs, against 780,000 francs.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Aug. 31.	1917. Week Aug. 30.
Cattle markets	533	271
General markets	383	406
Receipts (£)	916	677
Total for year	35,578	40,879

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Aug. 31.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	83⅞
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	72⅛
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	60
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	60
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	54½	54
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	45	44½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	60	60
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	75⅜	79⅜
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6 3/32	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7 1/32	7 1/32
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13	13⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	16⅛	16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	20/-	19/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅛	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12½	12½
Do. Pref.	4½	4 3/32	4 3/32
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/-	13/9
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	7/6	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅛	33/-	33/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/6	13/3
Sidi Salem Co.	1⅛	8½	16/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2	2
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/3	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 7/16	12⅞
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/6	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	26/6	26/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	34/-	34/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to June 30, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to July 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, June 1917		2,594,547	800,000
Do. do. do. 1916		2,868,243	1,859,000
Estimated Receipts for 6 months (Law of Control)		14,450,000	5,350,000
Actual do. do., 1917		15,002,668	5,752,000
Do. do. do., 1916		17,017,169	13,884,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 6 months	1917	+ 552,668	+ 402,000
	1916	+ 2,567,169	+ 8,534,000

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold both from Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average ate.

Messrs. Wm. Duff and Son, Ltd., will shortly be losing the services of their shipping manager, Mr. A. Palmer Surgey, who, after thirty-eight years in their employ, is retiring upon a well-earned pension. Mr. Surgey, who was well known in the Far Eastern, Australian, Indian, and South African trades, will be greatly missed by the various shipowners and shipbrokers with whom he has had such close business relations for so many years past.

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THE ADRIATIC TREATY.

THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 332.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

While fighting has continued on the Roumanian front, and the Roumanian Army has maintained its resistance to the Germans, the whole interest of the situation in the Eastern theatre has shifted to the internal conflict which has at length broken out in Russia. For some time past it has been evident that M. Kerensky has not been able to control the situation so completely as was anticipated at one time. He has apparently been afraid of the Soviet, and unable to abolish the pernicious committee system which has helped to ruin the Russian Army. General Korniloff's plain speech at the Moscow Conference has been followed by plainer action; indeed, nothing else was possible to a strong man, since the Soviet would not accept his assurances that Russia was in danger, and even the fall of Riga failed to bring that body to their senses.

The position makes it, of course, impossible to judge events clearly from a distance, since M. Kerensky has seized the cables to isolate General Korniloff from the outer world, and there is evidence of ruthless censoring. But from the scanty evidence that has been allowed to pass, it is clear that there is a certain indecision on the part of M. Kerensky, as though he was not altogether sure of his ground; and it requires no evidence but common sense to be sure that General Korniloff would not have taken his stand unless he were convinced that he had a good chance of success. Since his only hope lies in the support of the army, he has presumably satisfied himself that the army will follow him rather than M. Kerensky or the Socialists; and since General Korniloff, if he gains control, will at once restore discipline and prepare for an offensive, he must be convinced that the army is sound at heart. Evidently he has faith that, if the fatuous council and committee system can be abolished, the Russian Army can be made a fighting weapon once more.

Meantime the Germans, with some sagacity, have not pressed forward, as it obviously suits their book for Russian to fight Russian, while the Teuton hopes to pick up the pieces afterwards. But these events hold the future of Russia as a political country. If civil war broke out and were prolonged, the weakness of the existing Government, or rather Governments, would be even greater than at present, and this would supply an irresistible argument to the Ukraine and Lithuanian separatists. (Undoubtedly Germany is actively intriguing with the Finns for the same purpose, and after the revelations of pro-German activity in Sweden this week, it would not be the least surprising to learn that Germany had offered Sweden the reversion of Finland.) But the destiny of Russia, and consequently of the whole Near East, remains extremely uncertain.

This week, for instance, the report has come that Germany will hand over nine-tenths of Poland to Austria, which will then construct an autonomous Polish State, including Galicia; by this means the Polish deputies would be excluded from the Reichsrath, and the German deputies would obtain the majority. It is a new trialism of the north, as distinguished from the late Archduke's trialism of the Southern Slavs. Superficially it looks a plausible solution, but so does every Polish solution until it is tried, when it has a habit of breaking down utterly. Meanwhile the Poles in Lithuania have put forward a demand for their incorporation with Poland—a demand which is as likely to be heard in Germany as a sneeze in a typhoon.

Germany has again been scattering her peace terms about the world. The *Daily Chronicle* reports from New York that she is willing to give up Serbia and Roumania on condition that Britain buys the German colonies from her; Belgium is to be evacuated, but Alsace-Lorraine is to be independent. This is a more excellent song than the other, but the words do not altogether fit the music. Even if they were genuine, which is by no means certain, there is nothing about compensation to Serbia and Belgium.

It is at least conceivable, however, that they are Austrian rather than German suggestions. They would avoid the break-up of Austria, which is the real fear of Vienna, and apparently of the Vatican, too, which, apart from its desire to resume the temporal power—a hopeless dream—may yet hope to enlarge its spiritual dominions eastwards. They terminate at present in Austria and Poland, but the disaster which has overtaken Slavdom this year may probably react on the Orthodox Church, and Rome may hope to resume her influence over the schismatic East. There have been significant whispers that Rome may yet aspire to add this enormous congregation to her flock. It must be remembered that some of the Southern Slavs are Catholics, that the Uniat Church of the Ruthenians owes allegiance to the Vatican, and that any agitation of the Ukraine question must therefore interest the latter. To a

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political-minded Cardinal, or to an ambitious Pope, the prize is well worth striving for; while the religious feelings of the Slavs would probably make them more favourable to the doctrine of temporal power than England or France.

There is some evidence to show that the Papal Note, which fell so exceedingly flat in the West, and was not altogether well received in Germany, is still relied on in Austria. Its definiteness as regards Poland, coupled with its indefiniteness concerning the Near East, have both found an echo in Austrian circles. The Catholic movement in favour of peace in Germany is to some extent associated with the position of Austria as the one devoted friend of the Papacy, and the Catholic Press of both countries has been inclined to discuss peace from a somewhat different angle than the purely Prussian writers. A Hungarian Bishop, too, has joined the fray, and while he condemns Stockholm, he has made it clear that he is by no means opposed to a general settlement by the Governments. The German Government, it is understood, intends merely to reply sympathetically in general terms to the Papal Note—it could, of course, hardly do otherwise—but it may be presumed that Austria, in conjunction with the Vatican, will continue to pursue its aims. At no point are the two opposed, and the temporal aims of Vienna can now easily be combined with the spiritual ambitions of Rome in a manner that would have been impossible before the Russian revolution and the general shifting of the position in the Near East. In any event, it is demonstrated that the Vatican must be as opposed to Jugoslav ideals as Austria itself.

For reasons which are elaborated elsewhere, it is to be hoped that there will be a genuine attempt on the part of both Italians and Serbians to make the best of the agreement which is meant to decide the future of Dalmatia. It will be easy enough to stir up bad blood on both sides. The Jugoslavs can lay stress on the intolerable position of their compatriots who are to be excluded from Dalmatia proper and placed under Italian jurisdiction. The Italian extremists can point to the precarious nature of their tenure, unless they are given a "strategic" frontier. But if both parties make up their minds that it is in the interests of each to live amicably side by side, and to promote the closest intercourse between them for their joint economic development, all difficulties will be smoothed over. Italy should desire only to control the ceded coast line; she can have no object in alienating her non-Italian subjects by harsh measures. The Jugoslavs, on the other hand, will always have a congenial place of refuge close at hand, if they should find Italian jurisdiction at any time irksome. The readiness which both sides display in loyally accepting the position will be an earnest of the statesmanship which they may be expected to bring to bear on the problems of the future.

The contemplated visit of M. Venizelos to this country during the autumn will be very heartily welcomed. M. Venizelos is, of course, not a stranger to London, but since his last visit he has become transformed from a mere name to a familiar headline to the man in the street. It may be taken for granted that M. Venizelos will also make a stay in Paris on his way to or from London, and it would perhaps be well, if he were to include Rome on his journey, perfect accord between Italian and Greek aims being yet to seek.

The veil has not been lifted from the military operations in the Near East. From Palestine a two-line communiqué announces that there is nothing to report; a brief message from Salonika tells of an advance by the Allies of some miles, but nothing more. The advance in the latter case is no doubt to assist in relieving the pressure on Roumania, and Italian progress on the Isonzo has likewise assisted to that end by engaging Austrian troops that would otherwise have been employed in the Galician or Roumanian terrain. But the real position continues as obscure as ever. From Mesopotamia also the lack of news is not altogether compensated by the spread of rumours, some of the less incredible of which find their way into print.

The German expansionists are steadily turning their faces from west to east. Even Count Reventlow, the foremost of that school, admits that if part of Russia and most of the Balkans can be secured for German influence the Belgian question is not immediately of primary importance—that little matter and the final downfall of England may be left to the next war, for which Germany will begin to prepare as soon as this is over. While the chief fire-eater speaks in this wise, the milder-mannered journalists and professors who are trying to steer the ship of State in the desired direction are also enlarging at some length on the same subject. The accepted view now appears to be that England shall be let off with a warning not to do it again upon entering into recognisances not to abandon free trade, that France shall be cajoled by the heavy German wooer, and that the *Drang nach Osten* is the pure milk of the Prussian word.

There is no lack of definiteness in the discussions. Starting with the theory that the only way to pay for the cost of the war is to form State monopolies, it is assumed that the whole Ottoman Empire shall in effect become a State monopoly of Germany, the Balkan route being secured, and the Turkish Government's consent having been already obtained through advances to finance the war. It must be noticed that the only real opponents of this view in Germany are those who still cling to a belief in sea-power as the final word in *Machtpolitik*, but that view appears to be continuously less popular outside of Bremen and Hamburg, for the obvious reason that the German fleet has not fulfilled the *rôle* accorded to it by popular expectation three years ago.

Some further particulars have been published of the policy of terrorism pursued by the Austrian and Bulgarian Governments in Serbia. Scores of persons are still put to death without trial, but the latest development of the system is to hold the executions in public, when photographs are taken of the wretched victims, and these are then circulated by the thousand among the Serbs as an indication of their fate if they refuse to take the oath of allegiance to the Austrian Emperor. Several of these photographs have been found on Austrian and German officers who have recently been taken prisoners on the Salonika front, and others are now in possession of the Czechs in Paris. We need not record our conviction that this is precisely the worst way possible for Austria to set about the work of encouraging the Southern Slavs to reconcile themselves to incorporation within the Empire. Whatever hope there might have been—and it was always a frail one—that the Archduke Franz Ferdinand's policy of trialism would reconcile the Southern Slavs to their position as subjects of Vienna has now finally evaporated.

It may be taken, perhaps, that this method has been adopted by the German elements in Austria as a sign of their power to control the young Emperor. He began his reign with the apparent desire, sincere or assumed, to conciliate the non-German elements. As a Parliamentary policy it failed hopelessly; the whole German Press was mobilised to defeat it, and the German Austrians utterly refused to admit it as a conceivable method of statecraft in any shape or form. The Emperor obviously was not strong enough, or too infirm of purpose, to carry out his ideas against this solid block of opinion, backed as it evidently was by the protests of Prussia, which has no belief in the reconciliation of Slavdom; and the Germans thereupon have instituted a reign of terror, in order to make the milder policy impossible for ever.

It is quite conceivable that the Germans themselves will soon institute a similar policy in Poland. After the occupation of that country they assumed the mask of conciliation, and founded the Polish army in order to strengthen their own military resources—the Polish army

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being, of course, looked upon as a branch of the German Army for the period of the war. In order to give this policy a chance of success, they had to pretend to encourage Polish nationalism, a rather dangerous game to play. The Poles, not being a stupid people, realised that they were being fooled, and the national army has broken down. In these circumstances the Germans will probably proclaim that conciliation has failed, and that the more congenial frightfulness must be resumed.

The suggestion that Bulgaria might be persuaded to conclude a separate peace continues to be hotly contested in many quarters. There can be little doubt that the present régime in Sofia is not likely to allow it to be thought in Germany that such an eventuality is possible. For this reason the marshalling of formidable evidence to prove how hopelessly and whole-heartedly the Bulgaria of the Press and the Radoslavoff Government is committed to the Central Alliance is for the most part beside the mark. In the current issue of the *Fortnightly Review* there is a strong indictment of Bulgaria and all her ways, the truth of which cannot be gainsaid. But towards the end of the article, of which an extract is given on another page, the author, Mr. Crawfurd Price, touches the key of the situation, but has failed to make use of it in what he has previously written. The ideal solution in the Balkans, he states, implies federation; and he adds: "But we shall make no progress towards that goal until Bulgaria has been punished for her misdeeds and so reduced that she will be compelled to jettison the lust after hegemony and seek salvation in friendship with her neighbours."

It is correct to say that military defeat must precede a settlement. That part can be left to the soldiers; politicians and publicists should busy themselves with subsequent solutions of the problem. Federation is not merely the ideal, it is the only practical solution, and should not be lost sight of in any denunciation of Bulgaria's conduct. The Allies' task in the Balkans will only be half done, if they do not pave the way for ultimate federation. It is obvious that, if matters are left to themselves, Bulgaria will remain in Germany's clutches, and there will be deep-seated bitterness in the Balkans. The Allies have to change all that. What is wanted is not insistence upon Bulgaria's villainy—that leaps to the eye. A more valuable contribution to Near Eastern politics would be a practical suggestion as to how Bulgaria can be brought to change her whole outlook on Near Eastern affairs. This work has to be done at one time or another.

The anniversary of Roumania's declaration of war was marked in this country by the formation of the Anglo-Roumanian Society. In our issue of August 31 were set forth the objects of the society and a list of those who had consented to become vice-presidents or to constitute the provisional executive committee. It is now announced that Lord Hugh Cecil will be the first president of the society, and that M. Misu, the Roumanian Minister to the Court of St. James's, has consented to be the honorary president. There is plenty of work ahead of an organisation formed for the purpose of making Roumania better known in this country and in educating the British industrial and commercial world to a fuller understanding of her economic potentialities. Roumania is a great granary and a rich oilfield, but her industries are relatively in their infancy, and she relies largely on imports for many of the everyday necessaries of life. Hitherto the Central Powers have supplied the bulk of these. No doubt they will be ready to continue to do so after the war, but they will find the Roumanians less eager to do business than they were formerly. The latter, however, must have their requirements satisfied from some source, and there must be no hiatus at the end of the war. In no country, unless it be Serbia, will organisation and co-ordination of effort be more required to make good the ravages of war than in Roumania, for the distance from her sources of supplies will make the problem more difficult than in the case of Belgium.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 10.*

The Anniversary of the War.

Special meetings of the British community were held here and in Alexandria on the occasion of the third anniversary of the war. The meeting in Cairo took place at the Anzac Hostel under the presidency of Mr. W. E. Kingsford, chairman of the local committee of the British Chamber of Commerce. Bishop MacInnes, Colonel E. S. Herbert, representing the High Commissioner, and Sir William Willcocks were among those who were seated on the platform. After a stirring letter from Sir Reginald Wingate had been read to the meeting by the President, and received with much applause, the resolution "To continue to a victorious end the struggle in maintenance of those ideals of liberty and justice which are the common and sacred cause of the Allies" was proposed by Bishop MacInnes and seconded by Sir William Willcocks. The singing of the National Anthem brought the proceedings to a close. A similar meeting took place at the Savoy Palace Hotel in Alexandria, under the charmanship of Mr. D. Cameron, British Consul-General, who was supported on the platform by Sir Alexander Baird, Mr. H. Farnall, Judge Cator and Judge Grain, and Messrs. Percy Carver, President of the British Chamber of Commerce, K. P. Birley, Moss, Hopkinson Pasha, and Dr. Granville. Mr. Cameron opened the proceedings with a very eloquent address, and was followed by Mr. Percy Carver, who read a similar letter to that to which reference was made above, from the High Commissioner. Mr. H. Farnall delivered one of his characteristically scholarly speeches, and Sir Alexander Baird made a few witty remarks, after which the meeting passed a resolution in the same terms as that voted in Cairo. In the morning representatives of the French colony paid a graceful tribute to the memory of those of their Allies who had given their lives for the common cause by proceeding to the British Cemetery and laying wreaths on the graves of the British soldiers buried there during the past three years.

The Philippides Case.

Philippides Bey, the head of the Cairo Secret Police, who was recently sentenced to five years' imprisonment for accepting bribes, appealed to the Cassation Court for the quashing of his sentence on the grounds that certain evidence was illegally admitted and that the offences of which he was accused were not offences under the penal code. His appeal was heard last week, and the Cassation Court, under the presidency of Mr. H. W. Halton, rejected it.

The Fuel Question.

As I have already pointed out on previous occasions, the fuel question is threatening to become a very serious one for the country. Egypt produces no coal, grows very few trees and those not for timber, and her oilfields are as yet not sufficiently productive to meet local requirements. Consequently the country has to rely entirely on imports for her industrial, agricultural and household needs in the matter of fuel. Imports have fallen off very considerably—no timber can be obtained from Syria and Asia Minor so long as those regions are in the hands of the enemy; petroleum imports have fallen by over one half, whilst coal barely sufficient for eighteen months' normal requirements has been brought in since the outbreak of war, and there is little prospect of any substantial addition to the present stock being obtainable in the near future. The Government has a good stock of coal, as also has the railway administration. The former brought in its coal to meet the demand which it was thought would be made by cultivators to drive the water lifting pumps, but which owing to the very good flood was not realised. The Government must, however, exercise extreme care in the manner in which it disposes of this stock, for, as mentioned, it cannot expect to obtain further supplies on any adequate scale. The railways, on their side, have had to curtail their services in part with a view to economising the consumption of coal, and further retrenchments will possibly have to be made. The other large consumers in the country are the tramway, electric, light and gas companies, which are faced with a very serious prospect if they continue their services on the present scale. Indeed, economy of the strictest nature must be the order of the day, and the Government, fully alive to the danger which lurks ahead, has appointed a special committee to study the matter and report on the steps that should be taken to reduce consumption and on the substitutes that it might be possible to employ. As regards reduction of consumption, it has been decided to forbid the use of all luminous trade signs, to close all shops at 7 p.m., all restaurants at 10 p.m., and all places of amusement at 11 p.m., and to reduce street lighting by one quarter. This

* Delayed in transmission.

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should certainly bring about a marked reduction in consumption, and should enable the country to tide over the coming winter, but in the meantime some substitute must be found for the fuel which is required by the people either in their own houses or in connection with the cultivation of their land. It was understood that Mr. J. F. Wells, the well-known engineer, was carrying out experiments with cotton sticks, with a view to producing some combustible that would take the place of coal, and that he had obtained very satisfactory results. If those results are really practicable from a commercial point of view they should prove invaluable to Egypt, but, of course, the great obstacle to the carrying out of the process on any scale calculated to afford relief in the matter of fuel requirements will be the impossibility of getting the necessary machinery. At any rate, the special committee studying this very important question has a very hard task before it, and its recommendations will be awaited with great interest.

The Red Cross.

It was recently announced that Lieut.-Colonel L. L. P. Phillips, Commandant of the Red Cross Hospital, had been appointed to act as Commissioner in Cairo during the absence on leave of Sir John Rogers. The appointment gave rise to a certain amount of comment, coming as it did immediately after the recent libel action, in the course of which the Commissioner and the Commandant of the Red Cross Hospital figured rather prominently. It has now been decided that Mr. H. W. Halton, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, shall officiate for Sir John Rogers, and that Lieut.-Colonel Phillips will remain Commandant of the Red Cross Hospital. This decision has given general satisfaction.

CAIRO, August 17.

Continuing their inspection of the institutions of Alexandria, the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate this past week visited the Cotton Market at Minet el Bassel and the presses of the Société Générale de Pressage et des Dépôts, one of the largest establishments of the kind in this country. Their Excellencies were conducted over the pressing factory by Mr. Percy Carver, chairman of the company, and over the Cotton Market by Mr. C. Choremi, president of the Alexandria General Produce Association. They spent a very interesting morning and expressed themselves as greatly pleased with all they had seen.

A Successful Charity Kermesse.

A most successful Kermesse was held on Friday last at the Jardin Rosette, Alexandria, in aid of the United Services Welfare Fund. There were side shows of every description, including merry-go-rounds, roulette tables, an auction, a shooting gallery, and a concert given by the Lena Ashwell Y.M.C.A. Concert Party. The Jardin was crowded from the time the doors opened until late into the evening, and everyone seemed to be thoroughly enjoying him or her self. The committee responsible for the organisation are heartily to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which everything was arranged, and also on the financial success which their efforts met with. It is understood that the net results of the Kermesse will run into four figures, which will be a very welcome addition to the resources of the United Services Welfare Fund, which has done, and is still doing, so much good work amongst the troops out here.

The Financial Adviser.

It is understood that the Hon. Ronald Lindsay, who has been acting as Financial Adviser since Lord Edward Cecil went home last spring and obtained a post on the War Office staff, has resigned in order to return to the Foreign Office, from which he was seconded five years ago, when he was appointed Under-Secretary of State for Finance. It is not known who will succeed to the Financial Advisership if Lord Edward does not return, but there is every reason to believe that Mr. E. M. Dowson, who has been acting Under-Secretary, will be confirmed in the post in due course. Mr. Lindsay's departure from Egypt, which will take place early in the new year, will cause much regret, for he has made many friends in this country and has displayed marked ability in the execution of the varied duties which have fallen to him during his service with the Egyptian Government.

The Red Cross Libel Action.

It is officially announced that the costs and damages in the Yeates-Rogers libel action will not be defrayed out of British Red Cross funds. This matter was referred to in recent correspondence from here, in which it was pointed out that the ambiguous reply made by Sir John Rogers to a question on this point put to him by counsel for Captain Yeates had aroused considerable apprehension that the expenses in question would come out of the Society's funds. The declaration now made by the Commissioner has given great satisfaction, as might well be expected in the circumstances.

[A similar announcement appeared in THE NEAR EAST of last week.]

The Question of Cotton Seed.

Somewhat of a bombshell was sprung on the commercial community on Monday morning by the publication of a proclamation by General Allenby closing the Alexandria Merchandise Bourse for dealings in cotton seed futures for the new crop, ordering existing positions in those futures to be liquidated at the closing prices of the preceding Saturday, and prohibiting purchases of new crop seed, except that contained in unginned cotton, of which it forms a part, without a licence granted by the G.O.C.-in-C., or unless such purchases are made in virtue of such proclamations as may be issued for dealings in sowing seed or for providing for the requirements of local industries.

From the preamble of the proclamation and a notice issued simultaneously it is understood that the British Government intends to purchase all the seed from the new crop available for export. The action taken by General Allenby is to enable this intention to be carried out, and the closing of the future Bourse is a natural consequence of the fixing of the price by the British Government on the basis of £T100 per ardeb. A scheme for the execution of this purchase is being drafted, and, pending its adoption, arrangements have been made with the firm of Carver Brothers and Co., Limited, to receive seed from any holders who may wish to dispose of it immediately on its arrival at Alexandria instead of waiting for the purchase scheme to be put into effect, and the National Bank of Egypt has agreed to make advances without interest to the owners of any seed received by Messrs. Carver.

No reason has been given for this step by the British Government, but there is little doubt that it has been compelled to take this action by the speculation which has been going on of late, and which has forced prices up beyond their proper level. At the same time the purchase in this manner of the entire crop means that the Egyptian cultivator will be assured throughout the season of a steady and reasonable price, instead of being made to suffer the wide fluctuations which the accumulation of stock in Alexandria due to the difficulty in obtaining sufficient shipping for the regular removal of the seed as it arrived from the interior could not fail to produce. It will be interesting to see how the local trade takes the new situation created by this proclamation, but, if it is wise, it will bow to the inevitable, and, indeed, be very thankful that the difficulties which lay before it in regard to the removal of the new crop seed have been settled for it under such favourable terms.

NOTES FROM ROUMANIA.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Roumania and the War.

For the first time since the autumn of 1916 the public has been allowed to know certain facts referring to the circumstances in which Roumania joined the war. The revelations were made by M. Ion Gradishteanu, an ex-Minister, who began a remarkable speech delivered before the Senate by declaring that Roumania's participation in the war on the side of the Allies was imperative. But that, if anything, rendered more heavy the guilt of those by whose fault the country had to enter the fray insufficiently prepared and organized. True enough, there had been circumstances over which Roumania had no control, and others which must be imputed to all who have governed Roumania during the last fifty years. But there have been failings, the responsibility of which falls upon those entrusted with the organization of the army. M. Gradishteanu went on to give several instances. When a change of government took place in 1914 the first action of the new Secretary for War was to postpone all contracts which were under consideration. Three batteries of howitzers ordered in France were ready and awaited delivery, which the authorities failed to take in time, with the result that the howitzers remained in France. Opportunities of acquiring a number of heavy guns, as well as 100,000 rifles of the type used in the Roumanian Army, were lost in October, 1914. The suggestion that the heavy guns, immobilized in the various forts should be made available for service in the field could not be carried out on account of the procrastination of the War Office. The question of transport was, of course, a serious difficulty, especially after the Salonika line was cut; but, continued M. Gradishteanu, "had our external policy been less hesitating and more definite, I have no doubt but that we should have been able to secure at least some of the necessary material. But that policy, intended to mislead our enemies, roused doubts in the minds of our friends, and became an obstacle to the satisfaction of our needs." The speaker then condemned in strong words the much too "neutral" attitude which the old Liberal Government maintained towards German propagandist activity in Roumania, during the first

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two years of war, and its persistent refusal to allow non-Liberals a share in the government of the country.

The Cabinet Crisis.

It was only in December, 1916, after the disaster which befel the Roumanian armies, that four members of the Conservative Party were given a place in the Cabinet. Disposing of a majority both in the Cabinet and in Parliament, the Liberals continued however to assume the sole direction of affairs, and M. Take Jonescu and his followers found themselves co-responsible for a policy, the settlement of which they were in no way able to influence. There was a considerable difference of opinion between the Liberals and the Conservative members of the Government concerning the application of the proposed internal reforms, and agreement was equally absent with regard to foreign policy. The situation came to a head when M. Bratianu induced the Senate to accord him a vote of confidence for his past, present, and future policy; notwithstanding the difficult circumstances in which the country found itself, the Conservative Ministers considered it impossible to continue in office, unless the Cabinet was re-organized in such a way as to give equal share to Liberals and Conservatives, while at the same time admitting the representation of those who stood outside these two main parties. They wanted, in short, a national ministry. After the resignation of the Conservative Ministers the controversy became a public one, through M. Bratianu declaring, in a speech to his supporters that, as many important elements of the Conservative Party no longer belonged to it, that party no longer maintained its original importance. He was referring to those Conservatives who, like MM. Carp and Marghiloman, had remained in occupied territory. M. Jonescu took up the challenge and retorted by pointing out that the gentleman in question had not left, but had been excluded from the Conservative Party, and that the force of an organization depended primarily, not upon the number, but upon the faith and agreement of its members. "The advancement or retrogression of a party," he wrote, "cannot be measured by the number of those who leave it, but by the moral value of those who remain. In excluding those gentlemen—for they did not leave of their own will, but were ejected—the Conservative Party did an act which, far from lowering it, raised it to a level it had never reached before."

It seemed as if all agreement between the two groups was out of the question when the Russian disaster in Galicia occurred, and Liberals and Conservatives hastened to make up their private quarrels in order to ward off with united effort the new dangers threatening the unfortunate country. A sort of compromise was arrived at, which took into consideration certain wishes of the Conservatives. The new office of Vice-President of the Council was created for M. Take Jonescu; two more of his followers, MM. Titulescu and Delavrancea, were admitted in the Cabinet, while the Ministry of War was entrusted to a non-party man, General Jancovescu. The late Secretary of State for War, M. Vintila Bratianu, has been given care of a newly created department—the Ministry of War Material. The following is a complete list of the new Government:—

LIBERALS.

M. ION BRATIANU	President of the Council, and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
M. AL. CONSTANTINESCU...	Interior and Supply.
M. VINTILA BRATIANU.....	War Material.
M. G. MARZESCU	Agriculture.
M. I. DUCA	Education and Public Worship.
M. M. PHEREKYDE.....	Without portfolio.
M. E. COSTINESCU	

CONSERVATIVES.

M. TAKE JONESCU	Vice-President of the Council, without portfolio.
M. U. TITULESCU	Finance.
M. B. DELAVRANCEA	Industry and Commerce.
M. DEM. GRECEANU.....	Public Works.
M. M. CANTACUZINO.....	Justice.

NON-PARTY.

General JANCOVESCU	War.

Only two members of the previous Cabinet have not been included in the new formation—M. Victor Antonescu, Justice, Liberal, and Dr. Istrati, Industry and Commerce, Conservative. This reconstruction of the Government should be regarded only as a temporary solution of the crisis, which any development of importance in either internal or external affairs will render again acute.

Few Words that Tell a Tale.

A brief order of the day of the Russian Command in Moldavia announces that six companies of the —th Regiment of Fusiliers refused to appoint representatives to the Disciplinary Courts and generally disobeyed orders; further, that six companies of the —th Turkestan Regiment refused to build roads.

The Jassy Civil Tribunal publishes in the *Monitorul Oficial* the following announcement:—

"M. C. Talpanescu, lately domiciled in the Roumanian railway carriages in the station of Jassy, and whose present domicile is unknown, is to appear on September 20, 1917, at 11 a.m., before the 2nd Section of this Tribunal, etc."

The same official publication supplies a list of the members of Parliament who have remained in occupied territory:—

MM. V. Antonescu, C. Arion, P. Carp, Gr. Coanda, A. Cristof, A. Cristopol, Em. Culoglu, N. Fleva, T. Frumusanu, C. Garlesteanu, V. Gussi, D. Iarca, P. Ioanitescu, A. Noica, V. Oroveanu, D. Patrascanu, E. Petrescu, I. Procupiu, P. Radulascu, C. Stere, I. Simionescu, G. Stirbey, C. Tiuleanu, C. Iarca, S. Filipescu, G. Popa.

SYRIAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, August 14.

Appointments.

The following information, apparently culled from certain copies of Syrian papers, of which the perusal is occasionally allowed to the local Press, supplements my last notes on Syria, and constitutes, in certain cases, an amplification of some of the items of news contained therein. Thus Ismail Hakki Bey, whose nomination as Governor of the Lebanon I have already reported, is said to have assumed office in May last. Another interesting appointment is that of Hashem Muhyeddine as Mutessarif of Hauran; his predecessor had been dismissed after the disturbances already reported.

The German Consul at Alexandretta has been appointed Consul-General at Damascus, in succession to the late Consul-General, who died recently.

Cigarettes and Sand Bags.

A committee composed of Moslems, Christians and Druses was lately formed at Damascus with the object of collecting presents of cigarettes from Damascus and sweetmeats from Beyrout for the Ottoman Army at Gaza. Fifty thousand boxes were presented to the men and two thousand boxes to the officers, together with a considerable quantity of sweetmeats for which the Beyrout confectioners are renowned. The latter gift must have been quite a luxury, in view of the enormously high price of sugar. The president of the committee is the only member of his family (the leading Moslem family in Damascus) who has supported the Unionists throughout; it is significant that other members have suffered various penalties, including death or exile, for their staunch Liberal principles. He was presented by Jemal Pasha with a sword, while the other members of the committee received each a military medal.

References have previously been made to the efforts of the Turkish military authorities to procure sandbags. This is the *communiqué* on the subject issued by the High Command of the Ottoman Army in Syria and at the Gaza front:—

"The strong defences of Gaza require a supply of one and a half million bags to be filled with sand, so as to withstand the action of the big guns that the enemy is incessantly using against us. The future of Syria and of the Hejaz (*sic*) depends on the measure of resistance of the Gaza defences. We, therefore, require the different National Defence Committees in Syria to do their utmost to this end; and we urge the Valis and Mutessarifs to manifest such patriotic zeal as will cause the bones of the men of the great French Revolution to shake in their graves. It is the duty of all Ottomans—men, women, old men and children—to hasten in the making of such bags, as they constitute the best present that the children of the fatherland can offer to the army on the Palestine front."

General News.

The Turkish Government at the beginning of May last made another large issue of notes of the following values: 100, 25, 10, and 2 piastres.

Rice is said to have been sown in large quantities last year, and the present crop is reported to be good. It has been decided to increase further the rice acreage in Syria.

Three members—two Christians and one Druse—have been representing the Lebanon in the Ottoman Parliament during its last sessions, and they are said to have returned from the capital at the end of May last. Thus the Young Turks would seem to have realised at last their ambition to have every part of the Empire sharing in the blessings of the Constitution.

Azmy Bey, Vali of Beyrout, has been granted the honorary rank of captain in the Cavalry Corps in recognition of the energy he has displayed in connection with military matters. Enver Pasha visited Beyrout on the 3rd of Ramadan. In spite of the rupture of relations between Turkey and the

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United States of America, the Syrian Protestant College of Beyrout is still open, and the fact that the total number of students has been maintained up to the average in normal times, viz., about 700 students, reflects great credit on the president. If, as it is hoped, the college continues to afford not only security, but also the sure means of subsistence, it will not be a matter for surprise if the total number of students rises still higher next year.

Vandalism.

The following extract from the diary of an Arab officer in the Turkish Army in Palestine is illustrative of the brutality and contempt with which German officers have been treating the Turks, as well as of the same brutal disregard for artistic and historical remains that characterised their invasion of Belgium and France. In El Arish there is an ancient fortress built in the time of Sultan Selim, which has since withstood the vicissitudes of time and the ravages of successive wars. When the Turkish Army came to El Arish at the beginning of the war a German officer, Laufer Bey by name, was in command of the garrison, and it occurred to him to have this ancient fortress pulled down and to build with its stones a comfortable house for himself and the other Germans who were with him. He accordingly wrote to Jerusalem asking for some men and an officer of the fortification section to be sent to him for the alleged purpose of demolishing the fortress and building with its material new fortifications. When the men had demolished the greater part of the fortress, as well as a neighbouring tomb held in deep veneration by the inhabitants of El Arish, and offered to start building the new fortifications, Laufer Bey told them that these were no longer necessary, and he ordered them to remove the stones to the side of a sandy hill overlooking Wady-el-Arish. There he gathered together a few men, ex-masons, from the camp, and ordered them to build a private house with an oven attached thereto. When the officer in charge of the men sent from Jerusalem with the explosives and implements for demolishing the fortress protested, saying that he had come for the purpose of pulling down the old fortress and building with its material new fortifications, and not of building private houses and ovens, the German officer flew into a rage and heaped insults on the officer who dared use such frank language; he then ordered that he should be imprisoned and sent back by the first opportunity to Jerusalem under escort, to be tried for insubordination. When far more precious monuments, like those of Louvain and Rheims, have been mercilessly mutilated and destroyed, the German soul can hardly be expected to be moved by sentimental and artistic scruples before an old remain such as this in the far confines of the Sinaitic desert.

The diary also records another incident illustrative of the brutality of the Germans in their treatment of sick soldiers, but cases of this sort are of such frequent occurrence that it is not worth while reproducing them in detail.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

The kindlier disposition of the average Briton prompts him to avoid the blunt directness of speech which characterizes Teuton diplomacy. Hence, the mild use of a couple of letters such as N.Q. conveys all that seems required in regard to anyone who falls short of a certain social standard. So far as the people in this country have given Sven Hedin a thought during the war, they have probably dismissed him as the N.Q. he is, unless special attention to his lapses has made them go still further and dub him N.E.T.—to indicate that N.Q. is too good for him, as he is "not even that." In any case, they have felt pretty certain that there was only one Sven Hedin in Sweden, and that there was no need to saddle a whole nation with the shortcomings of a particularly aggressive self-advertiser. Now, however, comes this distinct shock to find that Sven Hedin has been a model knight of chivalry compared with the members of the Swedish Government and some of their representatives abroad. At least, he played his game openly. He owed all his achievements and his international reputation to Great Britain; but there was no obligation not to love the Germans more. All that Britons are likely to complain of is, that having received so many favours at our hands, he did not moderate his denunciations in the earlier stages of the war—in his own interests, of course.

***

The action of the Swedish Government in accepting officially the rôle of messenger for Germany occupies a special niche of its own in the history of this war's villainies. One point that cannot be overlooked is the extent of the practice. The British Government found that something of the sort was going on at the beginning of the war; now we learn that the system is still in full vogue in America. Nothing is more calculated to put a permanent extinguisher on Anglo-Swedish relations. Unless the Swedish nation takes prompt steps to remove the stain upon its escutcheon by removing those who were responsible for putting it there. On the other hand, there may be difficulties in bringing home to the Swedes the full enormity of their Government's offence. They happen to be useful to both groups of belligerents, and probably must remain so; but in this instance there is no reason why the episode should not join the by no means small category of matter which will come up for settlement after the war. Sven Hedin ought not to be the only Swede to find himself *ausser Dienst* when Germany makes peace.

***

In an article in the *Windsor Magazine* the story is told of a Serbian soldier in Macedonia coming up to his captain, holding a big Bulgarian by the crook of the elbow. "Both men were grinning. 'This is Stefan,' said the Serbian. 'He captured me in the last war.' Then, Balkan fashion, the Serb and Bulgarian kissed each other on both cheeks and patted each other on the back, and acted as though this reunion was one of the joyful incidents of two particularly sunny lives. The captain gave them bread and cheese. . . . That afternoon they sat on a mud-bank gossiping. When the day's catch of prisoners started down the road that night, the Serbian secured an assignment as guard. The two good enemies marched side by side, chatting like two bearded children."

***

On a par with this is an incident of the Boer war, which, I hope, I have not already mentioned in these pages. A driving column was coming back to the main camp, and the soldiers of the latter had lined up to see it return with its quota of prisoners. As the latter passed, a Tommy rushed forward and shook one of the Boers warmly by the hand, much to the latter's embarrassment. Asked whether he knew the fellow, Tommy replied: "Know him? Of course I do; why the blighter's wearing my trousers." Enquiry elicited the fact that Tommy had recently been taken prisoner, and, as the custom then was, having been stripped of everything he had on except his shirt, was left to find his way back to the nearest camp. But he bore his captor not the least ill-will.

***

A good deal of sympathy will be felt in these days of allotments with the gardener who complained that it was no use killing caterpillars, as forty others turned up to the funeral of each one. I should like to know whether migrations of these pests on a large scale ever take place in this country. I recall one in Greece many years ago. The "army" was between fifty and sixty yards wide and nearly the same in depth. It marched unconcernedly over or through everything. The British School at Athens happened to be on the line of advance, and carried traces of the invasion for months later. The library in particular suffered, as the window was open at the time. Caterpillars covered the walls and the floor; they found their way among the books, in hundreds of cases never to emerge again of their own volition, as the chrysalis stage overtook them at that point. For the rest, like Gammer Gurton's man who had nought, they got up the chimney-top and got down on the other side, advancing steadily in a straight line until fate, in a natural or unnatural form, overtook them. Altogether, it was a squashy, uncanny sight; but not to compare with a swarm of locusts, which in Africa may be hundreds of yards wide and a hundred yards in depth. On the wing they are a veritable cloud; in the hopping stage, if a train should encounter them up the slightest "bank," it is sure to be brought to a standstill.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE FOREIGN LEGION*.

France's world-famous Foreign Legion dates from 1831, when the conquest of Algeria made serious inroads upon her man-power, depleted as it had been by twenty years of incessant warfare. It originated in the theory that most of life's failures arise from unchecked exuberance of nature, which the pruning-knife of discipline may render capable of splendid achievements. The Minister of War announced that he would accept able-bodied natives of every country, except France, as members of a "Foreign Legion," consisting of two regiments and four battalions, with a total strength of 5,000 men. No questions were to be asked regarding a postulant's previous career; the age limit was elastic; and the term of service five years. Adventurous spirits flocked to the recruiting headquarters at Toulon. Their pay and uniform were those of line regiments, a blue cummerbund being their only distinctive mark. The deeds of the Foreign Legion soon proved its founder's consummate knowledge of human nature. It won undying glory in Northern Africa, the Crimea and Mexico. It was the terror of machine-made Teutons during the disastrous war of 1870-1. It afterwards helped France to build up empires in Central Africa and Indo-China, which counter-balanced the loss of territory during her struggle with Prussia. Many German ne'er-do-wells enrolled themselves under its banners; and Bismarck set his reptile Press at work to stem the exodus. When the history of the last fifty years is dispassionately written it will prove that nearly every cause of strained foreign relations and domestic unrest was "Made in Germany." The Legion throve apace, despite slanderous lies spawned by incapacity to understand the psychology of other nations. In 1884 it was reorganised into eight battalions, comprising as many thousand officers and men. In 1914 Germany's brutal aggression gave a mighty stimulus to recruitment; and on August 28 of that terrible year the Foreign Legion, 20,000 strong, paraded on the Esplanade of the Invalides amid frantic cheering from a vast concourse of spectators.

M. Albert Erlande has given us a most vivid account of its exploits during the war now raging. It is evidently autobiographical, although, in order to avoid the perpetual recurrence of the personal pronoun, he has fathered his own experiences on a mythical Briton, yclept Richard Grant. After enlistment at Marseilles, he was despatched to Avignon, where a motley crowd of fellow-recruits were subjected in the gloomy Palace of the Popes to intensive training for the ordeal that awaited them. In spite of the incessant drilling which the process involved, our author acquired a peace of mind unknown in his previous career. The change of mood was thus explained by a non-commissioned officer named "Charles":—

> You're thinking, as a soldier thinks. Now a soldier has definite duties to fulfil; and while performing them his intelligence, however acute it may be, is no longer racked by agonizing uncertainty. He has no longer to decide for himself; he renders implicit obedience to orders in the conviction that he can do no more. The despair and moral cowardice which tortured you as a civilian have given place to a novel sentiment—hatred of the invader. In me it was suddenly awakened when I heard that the Huns had shelled Reims Cathedral. On that evening I heard the soil of France cry aloud!

M. Erlande found himself a private in Company D1 of Battalion D, which included sombre Spaniards; Russians given to sweet, plaintive song; Scandinavians, whose steel-blue eyes seemed still to reflect the stern atmosphere of the North; eager Italians, whose fathers had fought under Garibaldi. It is a fact that fifty-two languages are spoken in the Legion, and that every grade of society is represented, from the aristocracies of birth and wealth down to human derelicts who have plumbed its very depths. One may well ask how so heterogeneous a crew could possibly be welded into a compact and co-ordinated entity. The secret lies in that intangible but all-powerful force known as *esprit de corps*. Recruits heard their commandant and officers constantly referring to the Legion as a thing apart, to the rationale of its severe but fatherly discipline, to its customs, the growth of eighty-five strenuous years. They saw in its distinctive girdle and in its band of trumpets, drums, and fifes concrete evidence that the Legion was a *corps d'élite*, and gave it mystical devotion.

Such apparently trivial details engender *esprit de corps*, which is not founded on a sense of duty, nor yet on fear of punishment, but results from an appeal to the individual's *amour propre*. It is a body of traditions more efficacious than the most inflexible rules, a tacit convention, a moral uniform. It links men so differently constituted as Latins, Scandinavians and Slavs in the ties of brotherhood; and after a month's training it makes efficient soldiers of young fellows who had never handled a rifle.

In these evolutionary processes the personal equation played an overwhelming part, and Battalion D was fortunate in possessing a great soldier as its commandant. Maurice Muller's relentless energy and perfect self-control won every man's respect. Awe-inspiring was the impression he gave, seated on his snow-white Arab charger, and directing the manœuvres of parade. He had every quality fitting him to command so exceptional a corps; he could make Russians, Spaniards, and Italians understand him perfectly. The battalion was his very own. Men styled it "Muller's." All the subordinate officers were worthy to serve under that born leader of men; their corps was a great family, consisting of father, elder brethren and children.

Towards the end of August it received a baptism of fire in Champagne, and endured all the horrors of trench warfare during the winter that followed. But perpetual shelling to which no adequate return could be made, excessive spells of duty, viscous mud and vermin were powerless to subdue the men's cheerful stoicism. The return of spring brought a change of scene. The Legion was transferred to the Aisne, and served as a forlorn hope in that mighty thrust which is known as the Battle of Arras (May 9, 1915). Battalion D penetrated far into the enemy's second line, where it was literally cut to pieces by a converging fire, losing three-fourths of its strength. Colonel Muller and nearly all his officers died like heroes. Although it was reorganised with fresh drafts, it never recovered from the blow.

M. Erlande's fascinating story proves the Foreign Legion to be a powerful influence making for brotherhood and social regeneration. One is inclined to ask whether the idea which underlies it might not be profitably copied in this country.

F. H. S.

* "En Campagne Avec la Légion Etrangere," par Albert Erlande, Paris, Payot et Cie., 1917. 3f. 50.

BOOK NOTES.

"The Devout Russian: A Book of Spiritual Wisdom from the Writings of the Græco-Slavonic Fathers and Modern Russian Authors," by Mrs. Rosa Newmarch, is included among Messrs Herbert Jenkins' forthcoming publications.

Mr. John Lane will shortly publish "At the Serbian Front in Macedonia," by Mr. E. P. Stebbing. The author saw much of the recent fighting, and concludes his narrative with an account of the Allies' operations on the western wing from July to November, 1916.

Mr. Walter A. Hawley has just written an illustrated book of travel and description entitled "Asia Minor," the early publication of which is announced by Mr. John Lane.

"Recollections of a Rebel Reefer," by Colonel J. Morris Morgan, contains the record of an adventurous career, including experiences as a Confederate blockade-runner and as a soldier of fortune in the Khedive's army. This book will be published during the autumn by Messrs. Constable.

The same publishers also announce Sir Edwin Pears's biography of "Abdul Hamid."

Mr. John Murray's list of forthcoming books includes a story of the Egyptian Sudan entitled "Hawk of the Desert," by Miss G. E. Mitton.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Nelson's History of the War, Vol. XII.: From the Opening of the Roumanian Campaign to the Change of Government in Britain. By John Buchan. (London: T. Nelson and Sons, Limited. 1s. 3d. net.)

British Foreign Policy in Europe to the end of the Nineteenth Century. By H. E. Egerton, M.A. (London: Macmillan and Co., Limited.) 6s. net.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. September.	1917. September.		1335. Dulkaada.	5677. Ellul.
14	1	Friday	27	27
15	2	Saturday.....	28	28
16	3	Sunday	29	29
				5678. Tishri.
17	4	Monday	30 Dulheggia.	1
18	5	Tuesday	1	2
19	6	Wednesday	2	3
20	7	Thursda.	3	4

The Earl of Cromer arrived in town on September 16 from Scotland.

The Dean of Rochester has returned to the Deanery after a few weeks' rest.

M. Comsa, a Roumanian delegate of the prisoners of war in Berne, has arrived in London.

His Highness the Sultan of Egypt has given a donation of £1,000 to the Cairo Cathedral Fund.

General Rudeano, the Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission in France, has arrived in London.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has left London for the Continent.

Professor Stanvic Stanvicvitch and Professor Lozanitch, of the University of Belgrade, have left London for Paris.

A hostel has been opened in Norwood for twenty-seven Serbian boys, who are being educated at the Strand School.

M. Blondel, formerly French Minister in Bucharest, and Mme. Blondel arrived in London yesterday from Roumania.

Essad Pasha, Commander of the First Turkish Army, is stated by the German Press to have arrived in Berlin with his staff.

M. Victor Antonesco, formerly Roumanian Minister of Justice, and Mme. Antonesco arrived in London on September 11 from Jassy.

Arrangements made by the Banque Franco-Serbe to open a branch in Salonika have had to be suspended in consequence of the fire.

King Nicholas of Montenegro has conferred the Obilitch Medal in gold upon General Pétain for his successes before Verdun.

According to the Athens correspondent of the *Matin*, M. Venizelos will visit Paris and London after the close of the Parliamentary session.

Lady Muriel Paget, says Reuter's Petrograd correspondent, is now convalescent after a slight attack of typhoid fever. Her condition is satisfactory.

The appointment is now gazetted of Earl Granville to be His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the King of the Hellenes.

Pilgrims bearing the Holy Carpet left Cairo for Mecca on September 8. The King of the Heja has guaranteed safe conduct from Jedda to Mecca and back, as he did last year.

M. Pasitch, the Serbian Premier, who has been visiting Rome, has had an interview with Baron Sonnino, and has also been received by Signor Bosselli, the Premier. He has since arrived at Corfu.

Greek recruits of the classes which have been called up presented themselves on September 9. The number of absences was far below the average in peace time, and the recruits displayed great enthusiasm.

M. Demetrius Frangoudis, of l'Union Foncière d'Egypte, who recently arrived in England from Alexandria, has left London *en route* to New York.

A trustworthy correspondent who has recently left Syria confirms the report that the Turks are slowly exterminating the inhabitants by privations or famine. He estimates that practically half the population of the Lebanon has died of starvation. It was quite a common sight, he says, in Beyrout and the surrounding country to see the bodies of poor people who had died of starvation left lying on the ground for days.

Lord Hugh Cecil has accepted the office of President of the Anglo-Roumanian Society, and his Excellency the Roumanian Minister has consented to become the Honorary President.

Mr. Samuel Maurice Johnson, of Broad Oak, Cambridge Park, Twickenham, Middlesex, formerly managing director of the Muir Mills Company, of Cawnpore, who died on July 9, has left property of the value of £26,949.

Captain Frederico Antonio Ferreira de Sinias, Military Attaché to the Portuguese Legation in London, entertained at luncheon, on September 6, Major Arion, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, Captain T. W. Fernandes, and other officers.

The death in action is reported of Second Lieutenant Lord Basil Blackwood, Grenadier Guards, who was reported missing from July 3. Born in 1870, he was the third son of the first Marquess of Dufferin, Governor-General in turn of Canada and India, and Ambassador in Paris.

News has been received through Reuter's agent at Adis Abeba of the death of the ex-Emperor of Abyssinia, Lij Yassu. A fierce battle had taken place near Dessie, and it is believed that the ex-Emperor succumbed to wounds received while escaping, his army having been completely routed.

An Athens telegram states that the forest of Pentelicus has again caught fire. Fanned by a strong wind the fire assumed large proportions, and it is estimated that 8,000 pine trees have been destroyed. Four flocks of sheep are missing, and it is feared there has been some loss of life. The fire appears now to have spent itself.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place in the autumn at Quetta, between Captain Aubrey Francis Vincent Jarrett, M.C., Royal Artillery, youngest son of Colonel H. S. Jarrett, C.I.E., late Indian Cavalry, of East Grinstead, Sussex, and Dorothea Mary, second daughter of Colonel G. P. Campbell, Royal Engineers.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between the Rev. A. H. Longley, Delta Chaplain, Egypt, son of the Rev. J. Longley, Tydd St. Mary Rectory, Wisbech, and Margaret Lauder Lilian Muirhead, daughter of the late John Muirhead, and niece of Alexander Muirhead, D.Sc., F.R.S., The Lodge, Shortlands, Kent.

It is notified in an Army Order, issued on September 11, that the special outfit allowance of £5 10s. granted to officers proceeding to the Mediterranean (including Egypt, Salonika, Corfu) and North China is suspended in the cases of officers embarking for, or granted commissions while serving at, those stations on and after October 15, 1917.

King Alexander of Greece, in receiving the Grand Parliamentary Committee charged to hand to him the response of the Chamber to the Speech from the Throne, said that the Chamber would find in him not only the faithful guardian of the Constitution and national traditions, but also a sincere collaborator in all decisions tending to the realisation of the national aims.

Information which has reached the Imperial Merchant Service Guild indicates that the Germans are transferring a large number of merchant captains and officers taken captive by U-boats from ordinary internment camps to officers' internment camps. A merchant captain at Salzerbad, Austria, and two others, interned at the Magnesie Camp, Turkey, write to say that all in these camps are well.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund announces that its contribution of £10,000 to the British Red Cross Society for the current week is for further hospital work in Mesopotamia. The Farmers' Fund—besides having presented six motor-launches and one steam-tug—is now responsible for the upkeep of about fifty launches at work on the Tigris, and three repair shops and slipways at Basrah, Amarah, and Baghdad.

The needs of the British Red Cross Society are now greater than ever, and to enable the Farmers' Fund to continue its steady flow of contributions to this society, it is necessary that each district shall hold its agricultural jumble sale every six months or so, and in cases where one has not been recently held, it is earnestly hoped that a sale will be arranged for this autumn.

Some ninety Jews from Jerusalem, says the Basle correspondent of the *Jewish Chronicle*, have recently arrived in Switzerland. They left Palestine with the intention of proceeding to America, and have been obliged to stay some days in Berne in order that their passports might be put *en règle*. Their journey from Palestine was a long one. In Berne they were very cordially received by the Jewish community. The travellers are mostly women and children, but there are also among them some old and young men. All are American citizens, and they were neither interned nor expelled by the Turkish authorities. Only the frightful distress in Jerusalem and dread of the coming winter impelled them to leave their beloved homeland. The emigrants state that of the 65,000 Jews formerly resident in Jerusalem only about 24,000 now remain there. They also state that there were no progroms in Palestine and that no inimical acts were directed against the Jews as such.

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The Secretary of the War Office makes the following announcement:—

The public are notified that the following are the latest dates on which parcels above the postal limits of weight should be despatched to troops serving abroad (other than in France) in order to secure delivery by Christmas:—India, September 20; Mesopotamia, October 10; South and East Africa, October 25; Salonika, November 1; Egypt, November 1; Malta, November 20; Gibraltar, December 1. Such parcels, which must not be under 11 lb. or over 56 lb. in weight, should be sent to the Military Forwarding Officer, Avonmouth Docks.

The *Giornale d'Italia*, says the Rome correspondent of *The Times*, in a message dated August 29, publishes an interview with the Serbian General Vasitch, who has arrived from Macedonia to present the Gold Medal for Military Valour to the King of Italy on behalf of the Serbian Crown Prince. The General expressed his satisfaction at the cordial relations which existed between the Serbian and Italian troops in Macedonia, and said that Italo-Serbian friendship, strengthened on the battlefield, would after the war facilitate commercial relations between the two nations. The Adriatic only apparently divided Serbia and Italy; their hands would meet across the water.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Kaimakam D. C. Percy-Smith Bey, D.S.O., has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

M. Petros Calogeropoulos, the son of the former President of the Greek Government, has been appointed Persian Consul in Alexandria.

M. Evangelos Hatzioannou, formerly Mayor of Larnaca and Deputy of Cyprus, has been appointed Greek Consul-General at Adis Abeba.

Mr. Monteith Smith, of the Public Security Department, has been appointed Assistant Director-General for that Department in succession to Abdulla Sfer Pasha, recently placed on pension.

OBITUARY.

QUEEN ELEONORE OF BULGARIA.

Queen Eleonore of Bulgaria, whose death is reported to have taken place on September 12, was the elder daughter of Prince Henry IV. of Reuss-Köstritz, and was connected with the Imperial House of Russia. She was born at Trebschen on August 22, 1860, and a part of her early life was spent in Petrograd on visits to her relatives.

She took a keen interest in sanitary science, and while in Russia attended the hospitals, and obtained her certificate as a qualified nurse. In the Russo-Japanese war she went to Manchuria in a hospital train equipped by the Grand Duchess Vladimir. During the campaign she served for a time with a field ambulance.

Princess Eleonore married on February 28, 1908, as his second wife, Prince Ferdinand. Report had it that the Pope had refused his dispefisation for the marriage to take place according to the Roman Catholic rite on the ground that the Prince was excommunicated on account of the schismatical baptism of his son. A dispensation was, however, granted by the Archbishop of Bulgaria, and the marriage was celebrated with the Roman Catholic rite at Coburg, and with the Protestant rite at Osterstein, Gera.

Her career in Bulgaria has been notable for the interest taken by Queen Eleonore in all matters affecting hygiene. She proved a most enthusiastic sanitary reformer, and to her initiative many improvements are to be attributed. Then during the war with Turkey, when the arrangements for the sick and wounded proved at the commencement to be inadequate, the Queen undertook much of the necessary work of organisation, and, besides that, even played her part in the ordinary round of hospital duties. In the subsequent war the menace of famine appeared, and again the Queen showed herself competent to cope with the resultant circumstances. In happier auspices she might have bequeathed a great reputation; as it is, her death will be the source of deep regret throughout Bulgaria, where her qualities were known and appreciated.

The death occurred, on August 30, at Spetisbury, Blandford, Dorset, at the age of eighty-eight years, of Major-General Algernon Brendon, formerly of the Royal Regiment of Artillery. General Brendon, who retired from the service in 1881, saw service in the Crimean war, where he took part in the battles of the Alma and Inkerman, and also the siege of Sevastopol. For his services he received the medal with three clasps, the Turkish medal, and the Order of the Medjidieh (5th Class).

Colonel William Oliver Thompson, D.S.O., whose death has just taken place, retired from the Indian Army in 1905. He served in the Afghan War of 1878-9, for which he received the medal; with the Mahsud Waziri Expedition; the Hazara Expedition, receiving the medal with clasp; the first and second Miranzai Expeditions, for which he was mentioned in despatches; and the Waziristan Expedition, when he again received mention and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

SMITH.—On July 28, in Alexandria, the wife of (Temp.) Lt.-Col. Leonard Kirke Smith, D.S.O., the Royal Scots, attached Egyptian Army, of a son.

DEATHS.

BILLING.—On September 2, at 27, Eversley Road, Bexhill, William Billing, M.A., Indian Education Service (retired), aged sixty-eight.

BLANDY.—On September 2, 1917, at Darjeeling, Helen, the much-loved wife of E. Nicolas Blandy, I.C.S., daughter of W. N. Marshall, of Darjeeling and Calcutta, aged twenty-three.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

ALDERSON.—On September 2, on active service, the result of an accident, Major Bernard H. Alderson, Indian Cavalry, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Alderson, Wellfield House, Barnsley, aged thirty-five.

PEAKE.—Killed in action, on August 27, Brigadier-General Malcolm Peake, C.M.G., beloved husband of Louisa Peake, 33, Wilton Place, S.W.

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1917.

THE ADRIATIC TREATY.

A genuine service has been rendered to the Allied cause by the publication in an Italian newspaper of an outline of the treaty signed by the Entente Powers and Italy in April, 1915. The whole of the agreement is not set forth, but it is stated that, in addition to Valona, Italy is to receive Istria and a strip of Dalmatia running from the north of Zara to a point between Träu and Spalato, together with several islands. When it is remembered that the claims which have received most ventilation in the Italian Press bespoke the whole of Dalmatia, and that for two years it has generally been believed in Jugoslav circles that the full extent of these claims had been conceded either actually or in principle to the Italians by the Entente Powers, there would seem to be some ground for hoping that both peoples will accept the compromise with goodwill and set to work to make a complete success of it. Now that so much of the treaty has been divulged, it would be well if the text of the whole document were given officially, in order that both the Italians and the Jugoslavs may know exactly how the matter stands. Much ill-feeling and recrimination would have been avoided if the terms of the treaty had been made public earlier. Even now, unless Signor Bevione's revelations in the *Gazeta del Popolo* have been unduly curtailed in the telegraphic reports, there is room for considerable misunderstanding. Italy's rights to the western half of Istria have never been challenged; but her occupation of the whole of the peninsula, together with Fiume, would be a source of grave misgivings to the Jugoslavs. Again, the "several islands" that are said to have been promised to Italy require to be specified, as it will make a great difference to the reception of the treaty on the other side of the Adriatic whether these are merely the islands lying off the coast between Zara and Träu, or whether they include all or some of the Croatian islands in the Quarnero or of those between Spalato and Ragusa. The visit of the Serbian Prime Minister to Rome indicates, we may hope, that the Italian and Serbian Governments are engaged in filling in the details of the general *modus vivendi* that was agreed upon at the Paris Conference. It would be of excellent augury for the future, now that Serbian and Italian troops are fighting side by side in Macedonia, if at the conclusion of M. Pasitch's visit the terms of the Adriatic Treaty were announced, with an intimation that a complete understanding existed between the Serbian and Italian Governments.

If we may accept Signor Bevione's version of the treaty, it means that Italy is prepared to be content with a narrow strip of the Dalmatian coast, which, with the naval bases of Pola in the north and Valona in the south, will serve to round off her control of the Adriatic. Only an exaggerated attitude of intransigeance will deny the Italian claim to a foothold on the Dalmatian coast. The possession by a foreign Power of the country between Zara and Spalato must always constitute a potential menace to Italy, in so far as it may offer an inducement to a challenge of the latter's predominant position in the Adriatic. In Italian occupation, on the other hand, this strip of territory affords, *per se*, no encouragement to schemes of conquest in the Balkans. Owing to the geographical configuration of the country, the ports of Zara, Sebenico, and Träu are merely stages of a voyage along the coast; they are ports of call rather than outlets for the Balkan *Hinterland*. Dalmatia is no land of promise that the possession of its soil offers a rich economic prize to rival claimants. All that those who occupy the narrow plain between the sea and the Dinaric Alps have to offer in the way of produce the owners of the three ports will be far too anxious to receive to impose tariff restrictions upon their goods. If they should be so ill-advised as to adopt a suicidal policy, Spalato will afford the up-country Slavs all the market they require. In so far as Dalmatia is concerned, the compromise may be said to have been most happily devised. For Italy, naval requirements will be met by the possession of a fortified base at Sebenico, opposite Ancona; and historical association will be satisfied by the recovery of Zara, where the winged lion of St. Mark over one of the gateways keeps alive the Venetian tradition, and of Träu, the most distinctively Italian port on the coast. The Serbians in turn have secured not only political recognition for the new Jugoslav State, but an acknowledgment of its economic importance in Europe. Spalato is the natural terminus of the railway which at one and the same time will link Dalmatia with the rest of Jugoslavia and provide Serbia with her natural outlet on the Adriatic. The greater the part played by the Serbs in the new composite State, the brighter the future of Spalato.

Even if it should be found that Fiume has been promised to the Italians, we believe that the Jugoslavs will learn one day that its loss is less serious than they are now inclined to think. There is much in the contention of Dr. Newbigin in likening those who would make Fiume the outlet of an enlarged Serbia to those who would build a city on a sandbank at the mouth of a torrential stream. "Sooner or later the flood-water would sweep away both city and foundation. It has often been remarked that within the Balkan Peninsula the villages tend to avoid the main routes, the inhabitants having learnt by sad experience that these are the high road of the invader. The small Balkan States would similarly be well advised to keep clear, as far as may be, of the great stream-lines of commerce, and to obtain channels for their own trade more in accordance with its probable dimensions." There can be little doubt that the advice is sound. The new Jugoslav State comes into being late in the day; it must enter upon its career with many handicaps, and cannot hope to tread the paths of prosperity all at once. To hold its own in one of "the great stream-lines of commerce" already established, it might be tempted to rely on preferential treatment, which would create antagonism and prove prejudicial to it in other directions. Faith in its own future will prompt it to be content with hastening slowly, with building up its resources *pari passu* with the political consciousness of the people, and with developing channels of trade in which it will hold unchallenged sway from the outset. Northern Jugoslavia will make use of Fiume and Trieste in whosoever hands they are; but if the new State is to justify the expectations formed of it, and if Serbia is to play the part in the federation that her position bespeaks for her, then the centre of gravity must tend towards the south, and the lower ports of the Adriatic will amply fulfil all her requirements. Even the loss of Fiume would be well compensated by the permanence of good relations with Italy.

MONTENEGRIN HOPES.

Mr. Lloyd George has received the following letter from King Nicholas of Montenegro:—

"I beg your Excellency to receive the assurance of the feelings of lasting gratitude which I send you in my own name and that of my people for the noble speech at Birkenhead, in which the unshakable decisions of your glorious and powerful country were reiterated, and in which you spoke so warmly of the obligation to restore to the small nations the independence they have lost as victims of German aggression in the struggle for justice and liberty. Montenegro cannot but be proud of never having for a moment regretted having taken up the gauntlet thrown down by the legions of the oppressor."

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DWELLERS IN MESOPOTAMIA.

The following information, based on letters from native correspondents in Mesopotamia, gives the Arab view of recent events in that country:—

A book that should prove of considerable interest is about to be published by an Arab who has had special opportunities of studying the Turco-German *régime* in the Ottoman Empire. In 1913 the author, a son of the ex-Mufti of Baghdad, was in Constantinople co-operating with other compatriots in the Arab reform movement, which at that time was making good headway. The Committee of Union and Progress, which regarded the movement with considerable misgivings, tried to get rid of the Ulema by charging him with complicity in the plot for the assassination of Mahmoud Shefket Pasha. He was arrested and imprisoned, as were so many others on the same charge. As soon as Turkey entered the war, however, the Government bethought itself of exploiting his influence. He was liberated, honours were conferred upon him, and he was sent back to Baghdad with the promise of a liberal monthly allowance if he would stimulate the patriotism of the people of Baghdad and inspire them with a real and active interest in the war. The commission, however, was entirely opposed to his inclinations and the dictates of his conscience. Refusing to lend himself to Unionist propaganda, he continued to preach Arab solidarity and freedom. News of this reached the authorities, and he was arrested, and was about to be tried by court-martial when the British advance caused the Turks to evacuate Baghdad. The Ulema dedicates the book to H.H. Sirdar Arfa Sheikh Khaz'al Khan in appreciation of the valuable services he has rendered to the Arab cause by his co-operation with the British. He has much to say about the Turco-German atrocities. The number of people executed or drowned in the Tigris was considerable, but those who were dispossessed of their property could be counted by thousands. The weight of Turkish tyranny pressed heaviest on the Moslems at first, but was extended at the end to the Jews. The Unionists used to say: "Our rule over the Arabs is coming to an end, but we shall only leave their country a heap of ruins." These threats were repeated in so many circles that the conviction finally gained ground among the inhabitants of Baghdad that the Turks were resolved to set fire to the city before evacuating it. It is still believed that they were frustrated in this sinister design by the unexpectedly rapid advance of the British army. The Ulema describes the relief of the inhabitants at the triumphal entry of the British troops, and declares that this feeling developed into veritable joy when General Maude issued his memorable proclamation, in which he told the people of Baghdad and all the Arabs of Irak that the British were not coming for conquest, but to save the country from Turkish misrule, and to help the people to revive the ancient glories of Arab civilisation. The Arabs could, indeed, see in the advancement and prosperity resulting from the just and beneficent rule of Great Britain in India and Egypt an earnest of its forthcoming achievements in Irak.

The occupation of Samarra and Tekrit was the occasion for fresh rejoicing among the Arabs, as it was held to complete the liberation of the whole of Irak. The policy of Sirdar Arfa again came in for fresh commendation on the part of the people, who felt that many lives had been spared by his whole-hearted co-operation with the British.

The following incident is related in connection with the retreat of the Turks from Baghdad. The bulk of their military stores, arms and supplies, such as barley, sugar, and coffee, lay at Mehallet el Kazimein, and the local inhabitants successfully prevented their removal. On the arrival of General Maude, the chief of Mehallat el Kazimein said to him, as he presented this booty: "We Arabs are a hospitable people; but the Unionists have reduced us to a state of poverty such as does not enable us to receive your victorious army as it deserves. The least we can do, therefore, is to offer you what we have been able to regain from the spoils which the Turks had plundered from our people." General Maude, in reply, said: "The army of his Majesty the King of Great Britain is satisfied with the loyalty of the noble Arab people, and considers this as the best hospitality that can be offered it. Be sure that we shall not let the people share any of our burdens, as we have come to help you in resuscitating your old glories." In commenting on this incident, the correspondent remarks: "When it was seen that such words were not long in being translated into action, could any of the Arabs withhold their loyalty from the great nation who, in the mouth of one of its greatest generals, made such noble and sincere utterances."

A correspondent, writing from Nejef, gives an account of the visits of Sir Percy Cox, the Chief Political Officer in Mesopotamia, to Baghdad, Kerbela, and Nejef. At Baghdad Sir Percy achieved a notable task by effecting a friendly understanding between the respective chiefs of the Shiites and Sunnites, whose rivalries and dissensions had been studiously exploited by the Turks ever since they came to the country. Thanks to his tact, sagacity, and sincerity, these two great divisions of the Moslem population of Irak are said to have become practically as one in the love of their country and the unity of their efforts to reform it under the ægis of Great Britain.

At Kerbela, where Sir Percy Cox's visit had been announced a few days beforehand, the nobles and ulemas, together with a large number of notables, went outside the town to receive him with suitable honours. Their surprise and delight were great when they heard their distinguished visitor converse with them in perfect Arabic and Persian. The correspondent proceeds: "On entering the town the first spot visited was the sacred shrine of El Hussein, 'the martyr of martyrs.' Sir Percy Cox then repaired with the nobles and ulemas to the Government House, where the notables of the town were already gathered. His whole demeanour as he engaged in conversation with those about him charmed everyone, as it recalled by contrast the rough and haughty manner of Unionist officials. In the course of his speech Sir Percy Cox said: 'There is a current Arabic proverb which says, "If you come from a journey, bring with you at least a stone." (In the original the proverb acquires a special pithiness from the rhyming of "journey" and "stone.") Present circumstances prevented me from bringing fit presents to the nobles and ulemas; wherefore I beg you to accept from me instead an equivalent.' The equivalent was a sum of money which Sir Percy Cox handed over to be distributed among the poor and needy. This thoughtful act of generosity on the part of the Chief Political Officer elicited loud exclamations of praise and gratitude."

During his few days' sojourn in Kerbela Sir Percy Cox inspected the town, and testified to his admiration of the provisional government which the inhabitants had set up on the expulsion of the Unionist officials. He gave them encouraging and useful advice, and held out to them the prospect of a near era of prosperity and peace. The ceremony of farewell was no less impressive than that of welcome. Some of the nobles and ulemas insisted on accompanying Sir Percy to Nejef-el-Ashraf, where lies the famous shrine of Syed Ali, Emir el Mu'mineen (the Prince of the Faithful), and the great Shiite School. At the Government House Sir Percy explained, in perfect Arabic, to the assembly, composed

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HEART TONIC.
DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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KING OF SPAIN.

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of the nobles, ulemas, and notables, the admiration that British men of letters and legislators have for the wisdom, eloquence, and courage of Syed Ali, Emir el Mu'mineen, adding that the British Government is the true friend of the Arabs, that one of its chief aims in this war is to help the weaker nations to revive their historical glories, and that it considers it among its sacred duties to help in lifting up the noble Arab nation to its former proud position in the East. He also said that nothing would please Great Britain more than to see the Arabs regain the glory of their Islamic civilisation, which the Turks had destroyed. Here, again, a sum of money was handed over to the nobles and ulemas for the poor and needy, "the present of a traveller." The marks of loyal attachment to England which Sir Percy Cox witnessed on the part of the Shiite Arabs of Nejef and Kerbela made him say, on his departure, that Great Britain will never forget the feelings manifested by the Arabs, and that she fully reciprocates those feelings.

The inhabitants of Nejef and Kerbela saw fit to address a letter of thanks to H.H. Sirdar Arfa' Sheikh Khaz'al Khan for the inestimable services which he had rendered to the Arab nation by consolidating the ties of love and loyalty between it and the British authorities. This letter, which was signed by the nobles and ulemas, was received with the liveliest satisfaction by his Highness.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CAROB TREE IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Cyprus is an agricultural country (see the High Commissioner's report). With the statement no one will quarrel. Agriculture *is* the mainstay. Take as proof one product alone, viz., carobs or locust bean. The amount exported annually varies from 63,000 tons to 40,000 tons. It is a crop well worthy of attention, and yet, after nearly forty years' occupation by the British, the cultivation and the management of the tree remains very much the same as under Turkish rule.

The newly formed Agricultural Department is endeavouring to mend matters, but one doubts whether the officials are on the right track yet. Two things have to be done—one is to keep an eye on the carob trees of the island, owned principally in small numbers by peasant proprietors; the other is to establish a large orchard under Government control in which hundreds of young trees would be grown, and each tree as carefully handled as would a pear or an apple tree in British Columbia. Were this done, in twenty years' time only the best beans would be grown; the best type would be found there, an example to the carob tree owners of the island; and more important still, all would be known about the carob bean disease now so universally prevalent.

The department is taking action about the first point; there is no sign of the suggestion tendered as regards the second point being adopted. Want of funds will probably be urged.—I am, etc.,

G. L. H.

August 14, 1917.

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

The following are declared by the Civil Service Commissioners to have obtained the first five places in the recent open competitive examination for the Indian Civil Service. The selection of every candidate is conditional on his passing a medical examination, which will be held in London in the course of a few days.

Rank in Order of Merit.	Name.	Total Marks.
1	*Reuben, David Ezra	2,565
2	Gupta, Satyendra Nath	2,492
3	Jayaratnam, Thomas Cooke Samuel	2,334
4	Ellis, Thomas Hobart	2,230
5	*Rau, Pendyala Satvanarains	2,203
The following stand next in order of merit:—		
6	Bhadkamkar, Balkeisha Vasudeo	2,165
7	Chunder, Kamal Chunder	2,124

* Provisionally admitted to the examination.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS OF WAR IN TURKEY.

It is announced by the Secretary to the Post Office that, according to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office, the transmission abroad of parcels addressed to prisoners of war in Turkey in Asia, except those interned at Magnesia, is suspended, and until further notice such parcels cannot be accepted at post offices. The parcels on hand will be returned to the senders. Letters and money orders for prisoners of war in Turkey in Asia are still being forwarded.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Baghdad Railway.

In *The Fortnightly Review* Mr. W. P. D. Stebbing describes a journey undertaken before the war along the line of the Baghdad Railway between Adana and Aleppo. Apart from the interest attaching to his personal experiences, the narrative fills in some lacunæ in our knowledge of the railway.

The strength of a chain, Mr. Stebbing writes, is its weakest link. This aphorism well applies to the Baghdad Railway; and the Germans, with the Turks as their cat's paw, must have often cursed the slowness of the construction of this oft-discussed line. Over a year ago much still remained to be done at the Cilician Gates, and in and about the Amanus Mountains, though it was reported in the Press that a party of engineers had gone to this latter district to finish the work of construction, and subsequently that the tunnel had been pierced. From a recent article in *The Times* it appears that the break in the railway at the Taurus Mountains is now about forty-five miles, and is covered by a motor service.

Again:—

The western entrance to the tunnel through the Amanus Range starts at Airan; here the long boring was being rapidly driven in shales and slates, but at the eastern end, after a short distance in a soft bed, the heading had entered a hard light blue quartzite, and progress was very slow.

At the end of the article Mr. Stebbing expresses an opinion, previously advanced in these pages, that the news of the piercing of the Amanus Tunnel does not necessarily mean that through communication follows the next day, or even shortly afterwards. He makes some interesting remarks with regard to British prisoners in Turkish hands:—

The above notes were written some months ago, when it had been reported that through rail traffic was open between Konia and Aleppo. Much inaccurate information has been published about the Baghdad Railway, and even now there is no certainty as to its state of completion, while the British prisoners who are interned in various camps along its line have not been able to enlighten us.

A list of internment camps in the rather desolate country about the Amanus Range appears in a list of British prisoners of war dated Constantinople, March 5. Three of the six—Bagtche, Airan, and Entille—are actually on the railway, the two latter miserably cold spots at each end of the tunnel through the range. It might almost seem that the prisoners were congregated here to help forward the tunnel works, especially as there are large cantonments for the workpeople and small hospitals. From Entille are extensive views to the east and north-east, but from Airan the only outlook is down the narrow valley to the west. In these places there is practically nothing in the way of timber, the soil supporting little more than a scrubby evergreen oak.

Bagtche, although about equally desolate as a site for prisoners, is some distance down the valley to the west of Airan, where it broadens out and is joined by another coming from the north-east. At the junction of the two valleys there is a large unwalled Moslem cemetery. Below the station the valley widens, and, while a part of it is very damp and a jungle of swamp-loving bushes, there are numerous small cultivated patches.

From the death-roll it must be feared that the prisoners feel the rigour of these high-level camps, but being on the railway, the problem of feeding is easier, and use is almost certainly made of their labour along the permanent way.

Bulgaria and Peace.

The Fortnightly Review has a second article of Near Eastern interest in Mr. Crawfurd Price's powerful indictment of Bulgarian policy both before and during the war. He is under the impression that there may be some question of making peace with Bulgaria's present rulers on terms that would not leave them chastened—surely an impossible proposition. The drift of the article is discussed in the "Notes of the Week" of this issue, but his argument for taking care of the future may be quoted here:—

There has thus far been nothing to suggest that the Bulgarians regret their choice; but, as we are definitely asked by the pro-Bulgars to accept their nominee as guardian of the road to India and Egypt, let us, for the sake of argument, ignore her *liason* with the Central Powers and examine her qualifications from another point of view. We have need of a very staunch and trustworthy friend in the Balkans, for we cannot afford to be let down, and the *rôle* in question is one demanding a considerable measure of confidence on the one hand and absolute loyalty on the other. We have already noted that though in 1912 Bulgaria signed a secret treaty with Serbia under the ægis of Russia, she did not confirm that pact until Ferdinand had visited Vienna and Budapest and betrayed the scheme to Russia's principal antagonist. During the war of 1912 she looked to Russia while Macedonia was the prize, and sought the support of Austria immediately there appeared a chance to obtain Constantinople. In 1913 she promised Russia to proceed to arbitration (in accordance with the terms of the Serbo-Bulgarian Treaty), and simultaneously attacked Serbia and Greece in connivance with Austria. So much for Bulgaria's loyalty during the Balkan wars. And now what of the present conflict? She persistently humbugged the Entente, pretending to be ready to take sides with us eventually, when all the while, according both to the declarations of her own statesmen and the evidence of facts, she was pledged to go to the support of the Central Powers. Despite her protestations of friendship, she nevertheless dealt us the most tragic blow of the war. It is now alleged that if we will make it worth her while she will become a modern Judas, and betray her masters for thirty pieces of silver. Carry the argument farther, and it becomes self-evident that the moment Germany is prepared to offer her a still higher price than we can or will pay, she will again betray us in turn. In other words, she is ever ready to sell her allegiance for material gain. Can it, then, be suggested seriously that we should engage as door-keeper of the vital route to Egypt and India a nation always disposed to open it at the instance of the highest bidder?

The Situation in Greece.

In last week's issue "Corsair" referred to the difficulties that might be in store for Greece with M. Venizelos's strong hand removed, and no steadying influence remaining in Greece. The same subject is the burden of an article in *The Daily Telegraph* by Mr. G. J. Stevens.

"Political parties," he writes, "in the sense we understand them, do not exist in Greece. Personalities take the place of political ideals and principles, and herein lies a great danger in the present situation in Greece. If M. Venizelos were to disappear chaos would ensue. Among his followers there are capable men, like M. Repoulis, and the young but very promising M. Michalacopoulo, who could continue his work, but the absence of any defined party organisation in M. Venizelos's following, and the personal jealousies which would inevitably break out in its midst with his disappearance, would split it up into several parts, and thus leave it not only leaderless but an easy prey to its opponents. It would be the chance for the pro-Germans to agitate and clamour for the return of the ex-King, and for a recommencement of previous intrigues, methods, and policy. I have mentioned above that M. Venizelos is gradually gaining the average Greek over to his side, but this does not include the pro-German, who remains pro-German, and continues to be an adherent of the ex-King. This element still comprises a good many of the officers and non-commissioned officers of the army, the members who remained behind of the former Palace clique, a good number of the secondary agents of the German propaganda, a large section of the Athenian bourgeoisie, which complacently styles itself the 'aristocracy,' but whose lineage can easily be traced to very matter-of-fact commoners, and the several thousands who have lost their rich emoluments and comfortable billets by the change of *régime*. What makes this group dangerous, should anything happen to M. Venizelos, is its organisation, which up to my departure from Athens a short time ago had not been allowed to lose its efficiency. It is the heirloom left by its German mentors."

Articles to Note.

"Days with the Serbian Army," by Herbert Corey, in *The Windsor Magazine*.

"In Salonika during the Fire" (*The Times*, September 8).

"Agriculture in the Jewish Colonies," in *The Zionist Review*.

The Postmaster-General announces that in order to avoid delay, correspondence for India and the East should be posted whenever possible in time to reach the General Post Office, London, not later than midnight Wednesdays.

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THE BULGARIANS IN SERBIA.

(*Contributed.*)

Not long ago, in the Vienna Parliament, Deputy Dr. V. Ribar declared that the horrors of this war affected none of the Allies so terribly and gravely as the Jugoslav people. Once flourishing cities and villages are now in ruins. From the district of Nish alone the Bulgarians have deported more than 30,000 people to the deserts of Asia Minor. Since the times of Kossovo the Serbian people have experienced no greater catastrophe.

An important document, which illustrates the state of affairs prevailing in subjugated Serbia, has now come into the possession of the Allies. It was despatched by the Bulgarian War Ministry to the Bulgarian Headquarter Staff, and fell into the hands of the British Army at the Salonika front. From this document, of which we give the exact translation, it is clearly to be seen that the enforced recruiting of Serbians in the Morava districts is being conducted by Bulgarians, and that when these recruits were deported to Bulgaria "regrettable events occurred"—*i.e.*, the mutiny of the Serbian recruits in the neighbourhood of Karlova, etc. Many of these recruits deserted. The Bulgarians punished these deserters by whipping and hard labour. Afterwards, contrary to the law of nations and The Hague Convention, these unfortunate deserters were shot, their houses burnt down, their belongings confiscated, and their families deported from Serbia to Krpali. The Bulgarians also armed their civil population in order to complete the extermination of the Serbian nation.

This document runs as follows:—

[COPY.]

War Ministry Office, No. 463.
Sofia, May 20, 1917.

Very urgent.

To the Headquarter Staff, Field Office, Rustendil.

In reply to No. 28012 of May 13, 1917, and according to order of the War Minister, we inform the Headquarter Staff that the rumours circulated amongst the soldiers at the front with regard to ill-treatment of the peaceful field labourer by the labourer from the Morava valley are unfounded. Such rumours were circulated in the kingdom, but the inquiry ordered proved that these rumours are exaggerated. Until now only a few cases, which are regrettable, have been discovered, *i.e.*—(1) In the neighbourhood of Karlova; (2) in the district of Orchania, near Novacheni; (3) between Orchania and Mesdra; and (4) in the neighbourhood of Bakarala and Kanika.

These cases only are known to the War Ministry and the Ministry of the Interior; no reliance can be placed on any other cases reported. And, as a matter of fact, until the arrival of labourer recruits from the Morava districts desertions by Serbian war prisoners were few and far between and without plan, and occurred only in those places where they were not watched, as, for instance, at the requisition commissions, at reserve supply places, and where prisoners were working on farms privately. But since the arrival of men from the Morava districts these desertions have become very frequent. Recently the War Minister gave orders to the authorities of the Morava districts to arrest the deserters. At that time all such persons were sent to Pashmakly and Chiroka Luka, where they were punished by hard labour on the roads and by whipping; but afterwards a telegraphic notice was issued and communicated to all Serbians, those who were prisoners as well as those interned and recruited from the districts of Morava, that anyone who tried to desert would be shot, his house burnt down, his belonging confiscated, and his family deported to the districts of Krpali; the companions of the fugitive would also be punished if timely warning was not given (to the authorities) by them as to the intentions of the fugitive.

The War Minister also intends to transfer all the Serbian prisoners of war, as well as other Serbians, from the first and sixth divisional territory to the third and fourth, and to replace them, as far as possible, with Russians and Roumanians. At the same time, an order was given to all persons employing Serbians as labourers to remove them during the harvest time to depots, and afterwards to use them for work in ports, on the roads and railway lines at Becovil. Besides this, an order was given to distribute arms and munitions amongst the Bulgarian population all along the old Bulgaro-Serbian frontier, as well as to those persons along the roads, wherever desertions were possible.

With reference to the above, the War Minister begs the Headquarter Staff to communicate the same to the soldiers at the front, showing that these rumours are unfounded.

(Signed)

Major-General BRADISTILOFF,
Chief of the General Staff of the War Ministry.
Lieut.-Col. DIMITRIOFF.
Chief of the Inspectorial Section of the War Ministry.
Lieut.-Col. ANGELOFF.
Chief of the Field Sectional Office of the Headquarters Staff.
Lieut. POPOFF.
Officier de liaison.
Lieut. MANDOUKOFF,
Adjutant of the 1st Brigade.

This copy was sent to the adjutant of the 17th Dorestolski's regiment.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

A decree has now been issued restricting cotton production in Egypt. Some uncertainty attached at first to the extent of the restriction, but later messages indicate that it amounts to one-third of the acreage under cotton, which exactly accords with previous forecasts. This restriction, drastic as it undoubtedly is, is not surprising in view of the circumstances with which the Egyptian Government found itself faced. Coming at the present time, when the Egyptian outlook is so promising, the curtailment is most unfortunate, for however short its operation it is bound to exercise a detrimental effect on the country's prosperity. Lancashire will, of course, be seriously affected by the measure. The Lancashire cotton trade is in a most critical condition owing to the shortage of cotton, and only recently an arrangement was made by which users of Egyptian cotton should pay levies in support of the operatives engaged in using American cotton. Now that this source of supply is to be diminished the situation will be very difficult.

***

The question of industrial and commercial prospects immediately after the war, on which I touched last week, will not be by any means the only problem in the economic reconstruction. Through the war the means of production in this country, and, indeed, throughout the world, have been improved out of all recognition, so that whatever the conditions, production is certain to proceed after the war at a greatly enhanced rate. This will be all to the good, for the world's stocks will be at their lowest, but the time will not be long in coming when this shortage will have been made good, and then, failing palliative measures, the problem of over-production will ensue with its usual consequences. It needs no special prevision to see that this is a very real danger, and one which must be guarded against at all costs.

***

This eventuality is discussed in the article in the *Round Table*, from which I previously quoted, the writer's conclusion briefly being that it is not necessary that this should happen, and that the surplus production may be absorbed in the development of new countries. To open up new and unproductive areas, however, where the return is often very doubtful, a willingness to take risks is required, and, as the writer points out, everything will depend on those who manage the world's finances. If, he says, "they find themselves in a timid and conservative frame of mind, credit will grow difficult, and the over-production of commodities, finding no new fields to absorb it, will soon make itself felt." In view of the consequences hinging on their action it hardly seems within the bounds of probability, however, that they would be so lost to the needs of the situation as to take any action in the direction of restricting credit.

***

Even the policy of peaceful penetration is capable of proving infectious under certain conditions, and, judging by the signs, I rather imagine that Turkey is suffering from a slight attack of it. For some time there have been indications that Turkey has been making most strenuous efforts to establish commercial relations with Switzerland, and now the *Wirtschafteszeitung der Zentralmächte* comes out with an article in which it is stated that Fuad Selim Bey, the Turkish Minister in Berne, regards the economic *rapprochement* of these countries as his most important task. The fact that a large number of business men from various towns in the former Turkish provinces in Macedonia have settled in Switzerland is quoted as a favourable circumstance in bringing about commercial relations between the two countries. "At the beginning of the world-war," the article continues, "many business men also from Constantinople went to Switzerland to await calmer and more peaceful times. These traders, most of them competent and experienced men, are employing the opportunity to establish relations with Swiss industry, finance, and commerce." At this rate Turkey will soon be a fitting acolyte of her masters. She has evidently applied herself to the study of their methods most industriously.

***

The fuel shortage, which is now threatening Egypt, as will be seen from a letter from Our Cairo Correspondent, published elsewhere, is leading the authorities to undertake investigations with a view to discovering artificial substitutes for this commodity. Mr. Wells, the well-known engineer, is stated to have conducted successful experiments with cotton sticks, but the difficulty of obtaining machinery makes it doubtful whether it will be possible to utilise his discovery. In this connection it is of interest to note that in Scandinavia, where the same difficulty with regard to fuel has long obtained, some ingenious devices have been resorted to to conserve supplies. Thus the United States Commercial Attaché at Copenhagen (Mr. Edwin W. Thompson) writes in a recent report:—"In Copenhagen all kinds of apparatus for economical cooking are being tried, including small, cheap forms of charcoal burners adapted for short blocks of hardwood. Several forms of fireless cookers (locally known as 'hay boxes') are being extensively tried; all of them are cheap, crude, and inefficient. The cheapest is a plain pine box about 18 ins. square with a hinged cover and no lining, intended to be packed by the purchaser with paper or hay. This retails for 2$." Perhaps some manufacturer will be sufficiently enterprising to come to Egypt's assistance with a similar contrivance.

***

I understand that satisfactory results are attending the attempt to cultivate Turkish tobacco in South Africa. The climate seems to suit the plants fairly well, and the resultant tobacco is of a sufficiently high standard to justify the belief that South Africa will have to be considered as a producer of this brand of tobacco. The best proof of the quality of the tobacco lies in the fact that efforts are now being made to enter the American market. It is, of course, too early to determine whether the South African product will be likely to be a serious competitor with Turkey's tobacco trade after the war, but it may be said that the omens are favourable, and South Africa's venture will not improbably cause the Turk more than a little misquiet.

***

The report of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields for the year ended June 30, which is now presented, as was only to be expected in view of the destruction of the company's property last November, makes anything but cheerful reading. During the period under review the gross profits amounted to £26,400, and the net result is a loss of £3. The adjusted accounts for 1915-16 show a profit of £106,700, making the credit balance £220,200. Claims have been made by the company for compensation to the extent of £1,270,000, and when the end of the struggle makes it possible for these to be adjusted, and also for the company to obtain damages for the German occupation of the property, the position may be quite favourable for the shareholders.

***

Since attention was directed in these columns last week to the need for Government action with regard to the Greek currant crop, with a view to the reduction of prices, an order has been made under which the Food Controller becomes the sole importer except in cases in which special licences are granted. Opinion in the trade will probably not be altogether in favour of this drastic measure, more especially as freights and insurance are held to be two of the main factors in the present prices. Still, I think that the consumer is more likely to benefit by this order than by any less direct action that might have been taken.

***

The forthcoming issue of sugar tickets raises an interesting question as to the position of people who come to this country on leave after the date on which the tickets come into operation. In some quarters the idea seems to obtain that no allowance has been made for any subsequent issue of tickets. If that view is correct, then a number of people are going to suffer very severe inconvenience. The question is one which concerns many others than those who happen to be temporarily absent from this country. It affects everyone who henceforward may contemplate taking a house, for sugar enters so largely into domestic economy that it cannot be altogether dispensed with. In the circumstances it would be well for the position to be made clear.

COMMENTATOR.

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Trade After the War.

Competition for Near East Markets.

In the light of the past there can be little doubt that the Balkans will be one of the chief centres of the commercial rivalry that will come when peace is declared. There, if anywhere, before the war the policy of so-called peaceful penetration may be said to have reached its highest expression, and to such a pass had things come that Germany and her ally enjoyed a practical monopoly of the Balkan trade. For this several factors were responsible. For one thing, the Central Powers are more conveniently situated than other nations for trade relations with the Balkans, and to the advantage of convenient access to the markets Germany brought methods of trade organisation without parallel in commercial history. Even so, the success of the Central Powers would not have been so pronounced but for the failings of their competitors. This country, for instance, showed a regrettable disinclination to compete for smaller markets, and British manufacturers who sought openings for trade in the Balkans only too often adopted faulty methods, and, as we know, their representatives failed to obtain the assistance in official quarters that they had the right to expect, and the natural result was that before war broke out they were at a hopeless disadvantage there.

Britain's Opportunity.

The war has undoubtedly given Great Britain and the other members of the Entente their opportunity to secure a good footing in the Balkan markets. But anyone who imagines that they will do this without the most strenuous opposition on the part of the Central Powers will be very greatly mistaken. After their terrible experiences of the treachery, the brutality, and the total disregard of the recognised tenets of civilisation shown by Germany and Austria, the Serbians, and the Roumanians would be less than human if they wished to resume trade with them. But, failing adequate facilities on the part of their friends, they may have no option. By reason of their circumstances, the Balkan peoples as a whole are bound to give preference to a system which allows them time to pay for commodities, and here Germany and Austria-Hungary found the lever for their peaceful penetration. Their terms of payment were arranged over long periods, and they catered for their customers in every possible direction. We, on the other hand, eschewed the credit system, adhered to hide-bound methods, failed to accommodate ourselves to the requirements of the market, and, in consequence, had to stand aside and watch the trade going elsewhere.

Germany in Roumania.

The strength of the pre-war position of the Central Powers in the Balkan market was such that the greatest and most united efforts will be needed to ensure a reversal of the position. How completely Germany and her accomplice dominated the situation may be gathered by a glance back at their trade relations with Roumania before that country joined the Allies. There the process of peaceful penetration reached such extraordinary limits that, in the graphic description of a correspondent, quoted in these columns, "To study Roumanian commerce, industry and finance is to know the story of German enterprise, German work and German initiative gaining the mastery everywhere and in every walk of life." This strong view is by no means an over-estimate. Germans swarmed throughout the country, and exercised a most vital influence on its commercial and industrial affairs. In Bucharest alone there were 20,000 Germans, and outside Bucharest more than double that number, and they marked their presence by the establishment of clubs, chambers of commerce and all the *tout ensemble* that go to mark German trade supremacy. They had the dominant interest in the oil industry, while their capital was also generally present in the development of Roumania's natural resources. The import trade was practically their monopoly as may be gathered from the figures for 1913, when Germany was responsible for £5,600,000 out of the total imports of £9,520,000, while her ally took a large share of the balance. When we add that Germany established banks to prevent the smallest share of the profits of this trade going elsewhere we have completed the picture. There is nothing more to say.

Central Powers' Preparations.

The preparations that the Central Powers are now making show very clearly that their egoism is such that they do not think that the treatment they have dealt out to their former customers in Roumania and Serbia will in any way prove a bar to the resumption of normal trade relations after the war. And from this very fact we can measure the future struggle. The market was theirs, and they are determined to retain it at all costs. For the measures they are now taking to this end we are indebted to the enemy Press. Thus the *Vossische Zeitung* speaks of the establishment at Leipzig University this winter of an "Institute for South Eastern Europe and the study of Islam." The Institute, we are told, "will be devoted to the study of spiritual and material civilisation, and in the first place to the study of the political, social and economic conditions in the countries of South-Eastern Europe, with which is included the whole of the Balkan Peninsula and the study of the Mahommedan Near East. On a strictly pædagogic basis this institute will in the first place afford facilities for studying the politico-economic problems of Germany in the countries in question."

Then the Austrian *Tagespost* refers to the foundation of a Balkan Institute at Graz University, and says: "The demand for the special preparation of Austrians for employment in the Balkans will find this Institute a most important and all-round training ground. Besides lectures from University professors there will also be practical classes and special training to acquaint business men with the special conditions prevailing in the Balkan countries. Moreover numerous practical courses in languages will render possible the quick study of the chief Balkan tongues. Travelling parties will facilitate an acquaintance with conditions in the Balkans." One final instance will serve to emphasise our point. In the Hungarian *Szegedi Naplo* reference is made to a decision to organise a scientific expedition through Serbia, Albania and Montenegro. "The expedition," says the paper, "will explore the country from the economic point of view and with the object of acquainting Austrian and Hungarian professional men by direct experience with the changes that have taken place in those parts. The expedition will be in two sections, one for Serbia, and one for Albania and Montenegro, and the Chief Military Command has already invited all notable Austrian and Hungarian economists to take part in it." Is any further proof wanted that the Central Powers are looking with confidence not only to the re-establishment of the *status quo*, but even to the extension of their influence in the Balkans?

Promising Outlook.

Fortunately there is every reason for thinking that these charming expectations will be disappointed. For one thing, Germany and Austria-Hungary will find a vastly different type of competition. British traders, for instance, will come to the market with revised ideas, and a willingness to study and cater for market requirements. Then there is the all-important factor that the trend of trade is bound in the future to flow with ever increasing strength in the direction of the south instead of as previously towards the north. Finally there is the natural reluctance of the Balkan peoples to resume relations with their enemies to which we have already referred, but that, as we have indicated, would for economic reasons be inadequate by itself. Measures are, however, being taken which will have the effect of placing Serbians and Roumanians in a position to trade with those countries which have their welfare at heart. In another column we give details of a projected bank at Salonika with branches in Serbia and elsewhere. This is only one of the steps now in view, and in this connection we may remind our readers of the deputation received by Mr. Pasitch when he was in this country which brought to the notice of the veteran Serbian Prime Minister "what was being done and what was in prospect with a view to the advancement of the trade of Serbia after the war, having regard especially to the elimination of all enemy influences in the commercial relations of the country." Measures such as those indicated in these words, and the formation of the Anglo-Roumanian Society, are the best possible proof that we may await with confidence the outcome of all the efforts of the Central Powers after the war.

THE FUTURE OF SHIPPING.

Restoration of the Mercantile Marine.

Commenting on the report of the committee appointed by the Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom and the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association (the principal conclusions of which were given in THE NEAR EAST of August 31), the *Syren and Shipping* says:—

The committee's figures emphasise the very important point that if we suffer through failure to restore our mercantile marine to its pre-war eminence, then the whole civilised world whose ministers we have been, will suffer also, and to an equal, if not a greater, extent than ourselves. In this connection, and having regard to peace aims, we would especially commend to our politicians the following extract from this clear-cut report:—"The shipowners' point of view is a broad one, and although it must not dictate national policy, it is of the first importance that it should be considered in the framing of such a policy; and this is especially the case in regard to the British Empire, dependent as it is for its existence in both peace and war on its mercantile marine. The war could never have been fought if the United Kingdom had not owned nearly one-half of the steam tonnage of the world, and the British mercantile marine can only be maintained as it now exists so long as it continues to carry one-half of the overseas trade of the world."

Shipowners and the Settlement.

The shipowning interest should be adequately represented and consulted when the time comes for the drawing up of the deed of settlement that will free the world from the danger of German domination. That the adoption of such a suggestion would result in a reasonable and equitable policy being carried out is abundantly shown by the far-seeing proposals which the report formulates for the treatment of enemy shipping after the war. They suggest, for example, that the owners of foreign vessels in English ports should be brought for all purposes within the jurisdiction of the English Courts, and also that foreign ships which use our ports should be made to contribute to the upkeep, although they do not actually enter those ports. There has been in the past too much of the open door for the stranger.

Why should the Germans, for example, have been allowed to use the machinery of our ports in exploiting England for their passenger business, and yet leave the maintenance of our harbours to be wrought out by their British users? With regard, too, to the realisation of enemy shipping, the committee's proposals equally appeal to commonsense and justice.

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GREEK CURRANT CROP.

The following extracts are from Messrs. Burlumi's annual report on currants published on September 6 :—The stock of old fruit carried over to the present season is estimated at about 15,000 tons, making a total of 90,500 tons. Deducting 2,500 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season, 1915-16, we find that the crop of 1916 has given us 88,000 tons against 125,800 in 1915, and 145,000 in 1914.

The 53,000 tons shipped to foreign countries were distributed as follows :—

To the United Kingdom and New Zealand....	45,700	against	70,000 in 1915-16
To the United States and Canada.....	4,600	,,	12,700 ,,
To the rest of the world.....	2,700	,,	17,300 ,,
Total tons	53,000	,,	100,000 ,,

The shortness of supplies and the higher prices in Greece caused the markets to rise in England until about the middle of November, when there was a slight weakness, especially in the common kinds of Provincials, some of which arrived in indifferent condition, and were forced upon the market at 52s. 6d. per cwt., duty paid, while sound fruit could not be had under 70s. This state of the market lasted for about a month. In the middle of December prices went up from 3s. to 5s. per cwt., according to quality, sound Pyrgos in quarters being sold at as much as 75s. per cwt., duty paid, while the finest Vostizza were held for 88s. to 90s. At the end of the year prices were firm at 82s. to 90s. for Vostizzas; 81s. to 83s. for Gulf; 79s. to 80s. for Patras; 78s. to 79s. for Amalaias; and 75s. to 76s. for Pyrgos, in quarter cases, per cwt., duty paid. These prices remained unchanged until the beginning of February, when the reduction of the stock, without much hope of new importations, induced buyers to pay 1s. to 2s. per cwt. more for the cheaper growths. This rise gradually continued to the end of March, when prices shortened their range from 90s. for sound Pyrgos to 98s. for the finest Vostizza. In April, the limit of the 100s was overpast, and Vostizzas were paid as high as 110s., with Pyrgos at 98s. In the first week of May 120s. to 125s. was asked for Vostizza and 112s. for Pyrgos. There was no change in June and July because stocks were practically exhausted.

The deteriorated and out of condition fruit of the 1915 crop, which the retailers would not touch, found eventually buyers for manufacturing purposes at various prices, beginning at 18s., in October, 1916, and going up to 60s. per cwt. in May, 1917. At this latter price new crop damaged currants have also been disposed of for the same use. The fluctuations in prices all through the season have been, as we have seen, in one direction—viz., in favour of holders. The cheapest purchases were made in July, at 46s. to 47s. per cwt., c.i.f. for Pyrgos in quarter cases, but the quantities sold at these figures were very small, and the deliveries made upon these contracts turned out the reverse from satisfactory in regard to quality. The average selling price f.o.b. Greece for the fruit exported has been much higher than in the previous season, but the difference, in a great measure, was absorbed by the higher packing charges, especially the more than double price of packages and the increase in wages. The growers have obtained no more money for their crop because they have sold much less fruit and they have spent much more money to produce it. The dealers in England have done very well, and the grocers very much better. Their only disappointment must have been the want of supplies during the last four months of the season. The Greek exchange for cheques on London has fluctuated between 23.80 and 24.50 drachmas per £1 sterling.

The New Crop.

The new crop is estimated according to the latest news received from Greece at 130,000 to 135,000 tons. Fortunately no péronosporos has attacked the vines this year, and the ravages of the oidium have been checked by the use of newly invented chemicals in default of a sufficient supply of sulphur. The quality is promised good, but it depends in a great measure upon the weather during the harvest time. So far, we have no news of any damage. No samples of new fruit have yet come to hand by post, as was invariably the case in former years, and no prices have been mentioned on our markets. The great question is the tonnage that will be available, and that is an unknown quantity. It was reported a week ago that the freight demanded by shipowners from Greece to the United Kingdom was 400s. per ton of currants but later news raised this figure to 600s., while 500s. is quoted for New York. This uncertainty renders it almost impossible for respectable shippers to undertake firm engagements. Here, in England, the decision of the Food Controller to buy in the countries of production and import for account of the State all dried fruits, has put an end, for the present to the business of importers.

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IMPORTANT BANKING DEVELOPMENT.

We learn that a commercial bank is about to be established by a group of English, Greek, and Serbian capitalists to further commercial and other relations between England, Greece, and Serbia. The headquarters of the bank are to be at Salonika, and there will be branches in the principal towns of Greece and Serbia.

Mr. G. Lionda, managing director of Lionda and Co., Ltd., is shortly proceeding to Athens entrusted with the negotiation of this business, which will provide a large field not only from the commercial, but also from the political point of view.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

The London Chamber of Commerce, on the recommendation of the Financial Section of the Chamber, has appointed a special Committee to examine the constitution and functions of the Bank of England and to report to the Chamber.

BANK OF ABYSSINIA.

The Bank of Abyssinia, Cairo, has informed the National Bank of Egypt, London, that her Majesty the Empress of Abyssinia has been graciously pleased to become honorary president of the Bank of Abyssinia, and that his Royal Highness Ras Taffari, the Regent, has done the bank the honour of joining the board of directors.

THE CHARTERED BANK.

At a meeting of the court of directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, held on September 12, it was decided to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, payable on and after Wednesday, the 19th inst.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended September 9—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,744
Sailings	2,363

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :—

1,600 tons gross or over	*12
Under 1,600 tons gross	†6
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	‡12
British fishing vessels sunk	4

* Including one sunk during week ended September 2.
† Including one sunk during week ended August 26.
‡ Including two during week ended September 2 and one during week ended August 26.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Influence of Egyptian Restrictions.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Much interest has again been taken in the market in the report that the acreage under cotton in Egypt for next season will be reduced by one-third. The importance of the growth of foodstuffs is, of course, well known, but this decision is a serious blow for fine spinners in Lancashire. It is rather hard for leaders of the industry to be met by this development at a time when strong representations are being made to the Government to increase the growth of cotton throughout the British Empire. The downward movement in prices has been checked, and demand to some extent in yarn and cloth has been stimulated. Egyptian spinnings have been firmer in quotation, especially the higher numbers, and a little more trade has been done. In piece goods for Egypt there has been very little activity. Buyers distrust current rates, and it is useless to purchase goods if there are to be no export facilities. Values of cloth in Cairo are said to be hardening. A fair turnover has transpired in light materials for India, but ordinary grey shirtings show no improvement whatever. Moderate transactions have been mentioned in finishing cloths for China. Printed goods have moved off a little more freely for South America. American yarns for home use have attracted rather increased attention, and in certain quarters a steadier tone has prevailed. Only, a small trade has occurred in shipping yarns.

TUNISIAN TUNNY FISHING IN 1917.

A Poor Catch.

Unofficial figures show that the Tunisian tunny catch during the season just closed, says the United States Consul at Tunis (Mr. Edwin C. Kemp), has been very small—less even than the catch of 1916, which was described as "most mediocre." The two stations of Sidi Daoud and Ras El Ahmar are reported to have caught about 4,000 fish, Monastir about 3,500 fish, and Bordj Khadidja hardly 1,000. Fishing in the last-named place was suspended in mid-season. The fishing is done under Government concession, the concessionaire paying 1 franc per 100 kilos (kilo equals 2,2046 pounds) of fish caught, plus 5 francs per quintal for amounts over 8,000 quintals. (At normal exchange the franc is worth 19.3 cents.)

For the tunny fishing large nets are used extending out to sea and sunk to a depth of 20 fathoms. One hundred and twenty men are required to haul in the net. A complete madrague ready for working may be worth $30,000, and must be accompanied by a camp for the employees, smacks, and a packing establishment, so that the total investment may easily reach $100,000, to which must be added some $20,000 for yearly expenses. The season lasts about 120 days, from April to July, and in a good year the station of Sidi Daoud alone is reported to have caught 8,000 fish, which, when prepared for the market, were valued at over $120,000.

The official return of the present Egyptian cotton crop condition gives the average in Lower Egypt at 99 and in Upper Egypt at 96.

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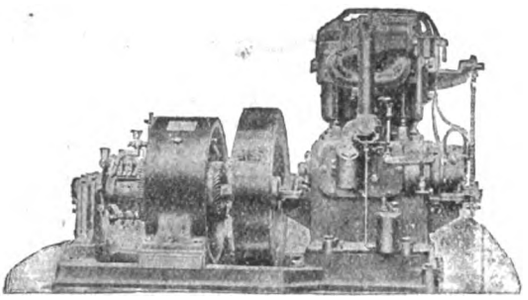

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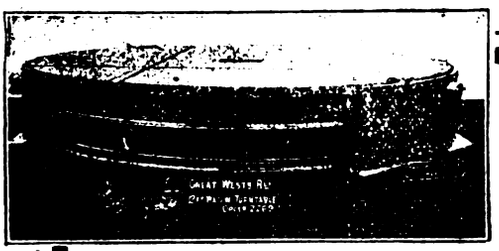

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Opportunities in Morocco.

The attention of British engineers and contractors should be more closely drawn to the rapidly increasing importance of Morocco as a market and new field for engineering and other enterprises. In previous Engineering Notes we alluded to the large sums of money that are being spent, and will be spent in the near future, on the improvement and construction of roads. An expenditure of 66,710,000 frs. has been authorised for the construction of 1,190 miles of roads, and 14,290,000 frs. for the provision of telegraphs, irrigation works, experimental farms, buildings, etc., whilst other sums, amounting altogether to 17,645,853 frs., have been granted to the municipalities of the various towns for municipal public works.

Water-Power Utilisation.

Another important scheme for the development of Morocco's resources is the utilisation of the water-power of the country for industrial purposes. It is proposed to use for the purpose the falls of the Oum-er-Rebia river, and probably the riverheads in the Atlas Mountains. From either source a great amount of motive power can be obtained.

According to recent reports, owing to the unprecedented economic development in the French zone of Morocco, which enjoys "a prosperity unknown in the annals of the country," several construction works of common utility are now being planned, such as the exploitation of a tramway concession, the building of better-class houses, and the amelioration of water supplies; whilst "there is an uncommonly large demand for all kinds of machinery, tools, motor-cars, agricultural implements, hardware, etc."

Apart from the economic agreement or understanding with the Allies, the participation of British firms in the work of progress and economic development of Morocco will undoubtedly be agreeable to the French.

An Egyptian Problem.

The question of the utilisation of the sun-power in Egypt has again arisen, and new tests are being suggested. The subject, which has been dealt with in these columns on previous occasions, is very interesting, for the utility of the sun's rays in tropical climates for the production of motive power will undoubtedly be very beneficial to many places where other means are inaccessible, or are obtainable only at a very high cost. There are many places on the Nile where water power could be developed at a very reasonable capital outlay, and power supplied at very cheap rates. Engineers have often wondered why turbines were not utilised at the great Assuan Dam, where, combined with a hydraulic power plant, a great amount of power would be available for irrigation pumping, or driving factories in districts further away from the river. It is admitted that wherever water is available for power purposes it has a positive commercial value, and when an installation is made, its freedom from breakdown or repairs, and its high efficiency, places it in the front rank among prime movers. The owner of a water-power plant is rightly compared with a mine owner, the only difference being that the former is raising "white" coal instead of black. It is asserted that many large plants abroad produce power at an extremely low cost; in some cases it is less than £1 per horse-power year, when running on a twenty-four-hour service. And when mines of "white" coal are so numerous on the Nile, and power can be produced so very cheaply, is it advisable and more economic to attempt the utilisation of the sun's rays for what can easily be obtained by the utilisation of the water-power of the Nile?

Agricultural College in Bulgaria.

It is reported that when the war ceases, it the intention of the Bulgarian Government to establish a large agricultural college, with German experts as instructors, with a view to introducing a new system in farming and the employment of modern agricultural machinery and implements. The old system of taking the same crop year after year, it is felt, is leading to the ruin of the soil, and the five and seven-crop rotation system will be enforced by Government decree.

AN ARABIAN SOAP SUBSTITUTE.

Aden Hottom Trade.

Although the consumption of soap has largely increased in this district, says the United States Consul at Aden (Mr. Addison E. Southard) in a recent report, there is still an important local trade in hottom, which is used as a substitute for soap. Hottom is the Arabic name for the ash cakes which result from the burning of a desert plant that grows plentifully in this part of Arabia. The plant from which hottom is made is a glasswort or saltwort; both *Salicornia herbacea* and *Salsola kali* are said to be found in this region and used for the purpose. The Arabs call this plant dalook, and say that it is a natural one, because it sprouts from the ground where it would not seem possible that there could have been seeds, or any other means of reproduction. As a reason for their belief they point to the parched and barren rock of Aden, from which, when there is one of the rare rainfalls, these plants sprout in great numbers, but usually never to mature. The Arabs of the desert gather these plants and pile them in pits dug in the sand. They are then burned to ashes, the ashes forming a hard cake at the bottom of the pit.

Prices and Principal Consumers.

The present selling price in the Aden market is 1 rupee ($0.3244) per maund of 28 pounds, although before the war, when communication with the mainland was free and subject to less interruption than at present, hottom could be had for 4 annas ($0.08) per maund. The product comes into Aden by camel caravan from the mainland, one camel carrying from two to three cakes. It is estimated that 6,500 to 7,000 maunds of hottom are sold each year in the Aden market. Much greater quantities are produced and used in the Aden hinterland and in the Arabian Red Sea provinces. The local government levies a tax of a half anna ($0.01) per maund on all the hottom sold in Aden.

The principal purchasers of this product are the native laundrymen and dyers. From the former it derives another local name much used by Europeans. The hottom has the appearance of dried cakes of hard mud. Native laundrymen are known as "dhobies," and hottom is frequently referred to as "dhobie mud." It is quite effective in washing very dirty or stained clothing, but is said to be sufficiently strong in alkali to have an injurious effect upon the wearing quality of the clothing if used regularly. Hottom is claimed to be an excellent mordant, and the native dyers use it in their work. A large quantity is used in this way.

Uses for the Dried Leaves.

The plant (dalook) has other important uses. The Arab women gather the branches and leaves and dry them thoroughly. They then crush the dried material into a powder. This powder is sold in the native bazaars and is also hawked about the streets. The price is 1 pice (½ cent) per cupful, the cup being about one-third of a pint in size. This form of dalook is used for cleansing the body, particularly by the Arab and the Somali women. It is invariably used when the hair receives one of its infrequent washings. The dalook powder is also used to make tough meat tender. While hottom and dalook are still extensively used, they are slowly giving way to imported soap. The use of soap in this district is increasing, and that it will continue to increase is a certainty.

DRIED FRUITS ORDER.

The Ministry of Food has issued the following announcement:—The Dried Fruits (Restriction) Order, 1917, prohibits all dealings in dried fruits of specified varieties outside the United Kingdom. Goods already on passage to the United Kingdom at the date of the Order are excepted. The effect is that the Food Controller becomes the sole importer, except in cases in which he gives a special licence. The Order also requires all persons concerned to furnish a statement to the Ministry of Food before September 15, 1917, showing the quantities of fruits purchased but not shipped on September 8 and the quantity thereof sold or unsold.

GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The India Office has issued the following statement, showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on August 31, 1917:—In India: Gold, £45,000. In England: Cash placed by the Secretary of State for India in Council at short notice, £6,000,043; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on March 31, 1917), £16,742,581; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £10,182,856; giving a total of £32,980,480.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

ROUMANIAN CONSOLIDATED.

The report of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Limited, for the year to June 30 last states that the profit and loss account, adjusted as between the year ended June 30, 1916, and the present year, shows for the former a profit of £106,728 and for the latter a debit of £2 16s. 2d. Profits were earned during the first four years of the company to the amount of £500,537, which, after writing off £9,708 for preliminary expenses, were applied as follows:—Depreciation, £161,591; reserve funds, £109,060; credit of profit and loss account on June 30, 1916, £220,179. While the development work incident to every new undertaking was being actively carried out, crude oil was produced to the amount of 313,628 tons, and, notwithstanding all the difficulties caused by the European war (in which Roumania was neutral until the end of August, 1916), the company's position in November, 1916, was:—Acreage (upwards of 90 per cent. still undeveloped and large areas not yet tested), over 5,000 acres; refineries, two; workshops, five; oil pipelines, 175 kilometres; steam, water and other pipelines, 120 kilometres; tankage on fields, etc., 60,500 tons; tankage at Constanza (for shipping purposes), 5,000 tons. The company had installations with producing wells at Bana Mereni, Baicoi, Chiciura, Bordeni, Telega, Bustenari and Campina, all of which were in operation in November, 1916.

A description is given in the pamphlet of the arrival in Roumania last November of the British Military Mission under Sir John Norton Griffiths, the convention arrived at with the company when the whole property and the services of the staff were, at Sir John Norton Griffiths' request, promptly placed at his disposal, and there is a full account of the destruction which was so efficiently carried out. Details are also given of the company's audited and certified claims, amounting to £1,270,725, and the company reserves the right to claim additional sums if the claims are not admitted with reasonable promptitude. Briefly summarised, the position is as follows:—Lands, £697,000; certified claims, £1,270,000; issued share capital, £1,177,000; debentures, £43,000. The surplus is accounted for to the extent of about £240,000 by the rise in values and about £320,000 by reserve funds and undistributed profits. The above claims take no account of another claim which the company will undoubtedly have in respect of the occupation by the enemy. A movement is on foot for the amalgamation and consolidation of all (or the major part) of the British petroleum undertakings, about fifteen in number, operating in Roumania, in view of securing co-operation and mutual assistance in formulating and dealing with the several claims, and in order to preserve the industry while in suspense during the war, and with the object of constituting a distinctive British petroleum undertaking available for the support of British interests after the war. The directors look with favour upon the progress of this movement, and may have to consult the shareholders thereon at an early date. The annual meeting will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on September 24 at 2.30 p.m.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Sept. 7.		1917. Week Sept. 6.
Cattle markets	578	..	288
General markets	394	..	414
Receipts (£)	972	..	702
Total for year	36,550	..	41,581

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our City Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue,
London, Thursday.

We have again this week had an exceedingly quiet market, and business has been on a very restricted scale. There has again been some weakening of prices here and there, which is not to be wondered at, as a stagnant market generally brings in a few sellers. There was also a Reuter cable published on Tuesday stating that the area under cotton next year would be restricted to 200,000 feddans, and this has possibly affected some holders of Egyptian securities. There is no doubt that there is some error of transmission in the cable referred to, and it is probable that the figure of 200,000 should have been 1,200,000. No doubt this matter will be cleared up.

There has been an improvement in the price of cotton during the past few days, and it is quite on the cards that, should the news from Russia improve, the Egyptian market will readily respond.

In Government stocks prices have kept firm. In Bank shares Nationals are ⅛ lower at 15⅞, and Agriculturals have receded 1/16 to 5 15/16. Some business has been done in Agricultural Prefs. at 7, and Anglo-Egyptian Banks are again ⅛ higher at 13¼, at which price there are several buyers about, while sellers are very scarce.

In Land shares Behéras are ¼ down at 12, Union Foncières 1s. lower at 39s., and Sidi Salems 9d. down at 15s. 6d. New Egyptians have remained firm round 13s. 3d., but Delta Lands are a trifle easier at 13s. 3d.

In Miscellaneous shares Salts are 6d. quieter at 25s. 6d., and Khedivial Mails have receded 3s. to 31s.

Greek securities have been inclined to weaken, but there has been no pressure to sell. Both 1881 and 1884 are half a point down at 59½, Monopolies and Larissas have lost 1 point at about 53 and 55 respectively, and Rentes are ½ down at 44. The other Greek loans have all remained quite firm.

Oil Shares.

The only change on Wednesday was in Roumanian Consols, which closed 3d. down at 12s. 6d.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included:—Egyptian Unified, 96 (unchanged); Serbian, 1895, 59 (unchanged); Turkish Unified, 62 (unchanged); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 751 (against 741); Suez Canal shares, 4,600 (against 4,570).

COMPANY MEETING.

RAPHAEL TUCK AND SONS.

The annual meeting of this company was held on September 5, Sir Adolph Tuck, Bart., managing director, presiding. After referring to the many difficulties of the past year, the Chairman observed that the business of the company in this the fourth year of the war was again on the upward grade, the net profit for the year amounting to £14,530. With regard to the outlook for the future, he gave some interesting particulars with regard to the new collections placed upon the market by the company for the coming season, which, he stated, were already meeting with a splendid reception by the trade and the trade Press. Having dealt with the accounts in detail, the Chairman went on to refer to the American company, observing that the certified balance-sheet vouched for by one of the first firms of accountants in America had been carefully studied by the board, and, in view of the limited number of publications which London in these difficult times was able to place at the disposal of the American company, and upon the sale of which the latter so largely depended, added to the fact that it was now over three and a half years since one of the London directors had been able to pay the necessary periodical visit to the States, the results for the past year were more encouraging, and gave promise that when normal conditions once again prevailed the American business would make up for its losses in the past. The adoption of the report was seconded by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and was unanimously agreed to.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Sept. 7.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83⅝	83⅝
Do. Pref. 5½ %, 1890	88	72⅝	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	60	59½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	60	59½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	54	53
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	55
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	60	60
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	52½	52⅛
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13⅛	13¼
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅛	2⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¼	4⅜	4⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅜	6⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	16	15⅞
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	19/6	20/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12½	12
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	13/3
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	33/-	33/-
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/3	13/3
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	16/3	15/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2	39/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/3	1/3
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/-	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	26/-	25/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	34/-	31/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON AUGUST 24.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	16½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Priviligiée	Frs.	78
	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	82
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85⅜
Privilégiée		75
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 1/16
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		30/3
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		10⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5⅜
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	166
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		22/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	710
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	337
" 1903 "	Frs.	266½
" 1911 "	Frs.	272
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the Suez Canal were as follows on the dates mentioned:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
September 3, 4	370,000	110,000
September 5	200,000	160,000

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended August 10.

	1916. £E.		1917. £E.
August 1-August 10	5,230	..	6,775
April 1-August 10	61,933	..	72,621

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(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to Issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

Directors:

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF SELBORNE, K.G., G.C.M.G. (*Chairman*).
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Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

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Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:

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Board of Directors:

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Paid up Capital - - 500,000
Reserve - - - - - 690,000

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889).

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DALMATIA.

THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[Registered at G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

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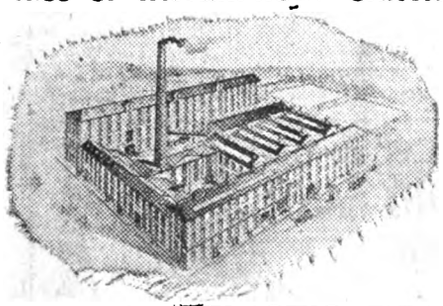
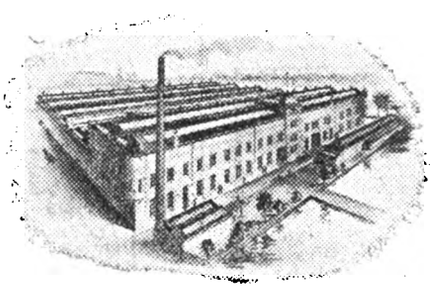
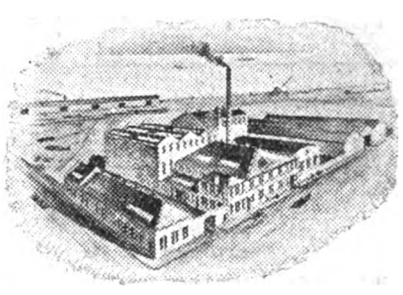

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 333.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Little news has come from Roumania during the week, and the Germans have made no claims in that direction. Bulgaria also has done nothing of moment, but on the western Balkan front the Allies have had a marked success. French and Russian troops advanced twenty miles in Albania, and are now established on the south-western shores of Lake Ochrida. It would appear that the enemy was taken by surprise, and that no serious resistance was attempted.

But all military events in this sphere are still overshadowed by the situation in Russia. General Korniloff's movement failed to win sufficient support from the troops to carry through his purpose, and M. Kerensky triumphed. He is now nominally Commander-in-Chief, and the head of the War Cabinet of five which is in charge of the new Government. A Republic has been proclaimed, but words are not necessarily adequate substitutes for things, and it remains to be seen whether M. Kerensky has the real power which he claims. Certainly General Korniloff had not. He stood for a restoration of discipline and a resumption of the offensive, and it seemed probable that he had assured himself of support from the army in advance. Clearly he miscalculated badly; but it is uncertain whether he struck at an inopportune moment for himself or whether the army resented the idea of a restoration of discipline.

Certainly the first movements of M. Kerensky in this matter show a hesitancy which does not augur well. He has issued an order of the day addressing the rank and file, advising them not to arrest their officers, which is, he says, the function of the judiciary. That such an obvious order should have to be issued almost in the form of an appeal is a sufficient indication of the pass to which things have come—and there have been more disturbing statements as to mutinies in the army and navy which show that the trouble is rather spreading than diminishing. Without discipline and the will to fight nothing can be done; and the Germans, who stayed their hand while there was a chance of Russia embarking on civil war, will no longer hold back any offensive they may have in contemplation. They have already given vent to their fury at the recently reiterated refusal of M. Kerensky to contemplate a separate peace, and as that prospect fades, they will no doubt attempt to make the most of the brief period which remains for military action before the winter.

Meantime the Soviet is divided, and the two parties are issuing manifestoes against each other. They are only agreed upon their refusal to have any Cadets in the Government, and so far M. Kerensky has obeyed their mandate. But M. Kerensky himself is claimed as a Moderate by some voices—a fact which in itself shows how far to the left the extremists have moved. A demand for a general peace of all the peoples has been put forward by some parties, which has, of course, been backed by German ink and will certainly be backed by German gold—from which source also came the rumour, no doubt, that the Entente diplomatists had taken the side of General Korniloff against M. Kerensky. That lie was easily disposed of; all that the Entente want is to see Russia united against the enemy.

The idea that Germany is ready for a "peace of the peoples" has received a curious commentary this week in the announcement that a new Polish Cabinet is to be formed. The Poles are to have the choice of the Ministers of Fine Arts, Justice, and Education, but the Germans propose to nominate the Ministers for Finance, for the Interior, and for War. The Teutonic modesty in recognising that the Poles are more fitted to deal with art than the heavy Prussian sculptors and painters is an engaging and even a redeeming trait in their character; so also is their reluctance to touch the Ministry of Justice, justice being a commodity which Germany neither imports nor exports in these days. But while these matters are handed over to the Poles, the real running of the country devolves on the Departments of Finance and the Interior, and for these only Germans need apply. It would probably have been better to appoint a Potsdam bureaucrat at once—it would have saved the appearance of mockery. Meanwhile, the Polish Legion has been deprived of even the semblance of nationalism, and is henceforth to be called the Auxiliary Polish Corps of the Austrian Army.

There is sufficient indication in these steps of the policy that the German Powers would pursue in the Balkans were they able to conclude a victorious peace in the East and South-east of Europe. The Polish Legion was a volunteer force, yet it disappears beneath the pressure of Austrian centralisation; the actual enemies of Austria in Serbia would be treated far more drastically; and the German promise of a constitutional régime for Poland resolves itself into a Polish Minister for non-political offices and German Ministers for political offices, and, to make assurance doubly

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sure, a power of veto even over that. These things are not likely to reconcile their enemies to Germany's peace offers.

The latest news of that particular game appears to be the suggestion that Germany will give up Belgium. If it be true, it is a continuance of the policy which is becoming more and more recognised in Germany, of a draw on the Western front in exchange for a victory in the East. It is probably calculated that England may be tempted to make peace by this means—indeed, an audacious lie has been floated in Berlin to the effect that we have made an offer of peace—and that our war-weariness will induce us to agree to what would be practically a German control of the East of Europe. Further hints to the same effect come from Austria, which, with Serbia and Montenegro in its pocket and its great enemy disorganised, can never have a more favourable moment for peace than the present. If peace were concluded at the present time Austria could probably afford to give up even the Trentino and Gorizia to Italy, if she could by any means secure Serbia and avert the dissolution with which the Jugo-slav movement threatens her.

The best answer to these schemes is the fact that the *Giornale d'Italia* announces that, on his recent visit to London and Paris, Baron Sonnino has come to an understanding with England and France on the Adriatic question. That, coupled with the cordial reception of the Serbian Premier in Rome, is an indication that the Italo-Jugoslav question has reached a satisfactory accommodation. Austria has, of course, long reckoned on and profited by Italo-Slav dissensions, and it is the knowledge that those dissensions are fast disappearing, as well as the increasing internal difficulties that face the Cabinet at Vienna, which makes Austria, and, through Austria, the Vatican, so anxious for peace.

A curious report has been published to the effect that the Bulgarian Government is sending out political missionaries to spread the doctrine of the necessity of Bulgarian annexation of the Serbian and Roumanian territories at present occupied by the Bulgarian armies. These envoys are to be accredited to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Sweden. Germany at least should require no conversion to the doctrine of annexation, although she is perhaps not quite so ready to approve of the aggrandisement of her allies as of her own expansion. But the envoy to Austria will have a more delicate task, since, if report speaks truly, Austria herself has designs on Serbia, and will not see the point of having fought the war for the *beaux yeux* of Bulgaria; Vienna would no doubt be ready to cede part of Serbia to her ambitious ally, but the lion's share she wants for herself, and in any event she is not likely to forget the fact that she entered the war at the beginning, and Bulgaria came in only a year later. The interest of Switzerland in the destiny of Serbia are not altogether apparent; and while we know that Sweden is rather aggressively friendly to Germany the world was not altogether prepared to hear that the authorities at Stockholm were ready to extend a benevolent ear to all the allies of the Central Powers. Quite possibly the envoy to Stockholm is really accredited to Petrograd *in partibus*.

At the same time, the practical difficulty in the way of Bulgaria's campaign is the fact that she has been financed by Germany. She obtained a loan six months before she entered the war, presumably as the price of her intervention. Her finances are in no state to stand the stress of a long war, and probably Bulgaria anticipated that one campaign would settle the whole business; but it has lasted, so far as she is concerned, nearly two years already, and shows no signs of coming to an end yet. In these circumstances, Sofia must have drawn rather heavily on Berlin, and the German Government does not make advances, even to allies, without a very definite *quid pro quo*. In the case of Turkey, the world knows already what the consideration was—the Ottoman Empire was forced to concede fiscal rights to Germany which in effect gave her master the right to exploit Asia Minor after the war. In the case of Bulgaria, the terms have not been divulged, but undoubtedly the bargain has been struck. Apparently the conditions have not proved quite satisfactory to Bulgaria, or there would be no necessity to embark on the present agitation. But neither Berlin nor Vienna is very likely to be moved by a political tourist party—they have used that kind of machinery too often at Potsdam themselves to have any particular respect for it. Bulgaria has made her bed, and will have to lie on it.

The announcement that the Greek Government has committed for trial those prelates who took part in the ceremony of anathematising M. Venizelos was not unexpected. In the events of last December it will be remembered that certain bishops were persuaded to support the King's policy so far as to place M. Venizelos under an ecclesiastical ban. It was an outrageous interference of the spiritual power in a purely temporal matter, and it is now meeting with its just punishment. There was no excuse whatever for the episcopal censure, and, indeed, no need for the Church to intervene at all. It may be assumed that after the bishops have had a fair trial they will be given an opportunity of reflecting on the folly of their acts in the leisured retirement of a convenient monastery.

The deplorable disaster at Salonika, which moved the whole Western world to sympathy—sympathy that has been happily expressed in a tangible form by the raising in London of a fund to relieve distress—has evoked a cordial expression of goodwill from the British Government. M. Politis, the Greek Foreign Minister, has replied that "the Royal Hellenic Government is deeply grateful for the noble sentiments, which will be a precious comfort in the cruel blow which has struck us." As further details of the disaster reach this country, the more active will sympathy become for the unfortunate city. Although the loss of life was happily small, a large proportion of the people have been rendered homeless. Their houses can be rebuilt in time, but some irreplaceable monuments of antiquity in the shape of ancient Byzantine churches have been ruined or completely destroyed.

Some further details have been published this week of the British medical aid to Serbia. Field hospitals have been erected on the Salonika front with a total of ten thousand beds. The equipment is, of course, on modern lines, and the official organ of the Serbian General Headquarters pays a warm tribute to "the liberality of the hospital administration, the conscientiousness and dutifulness of the members of the staff, and the whole-heartedness and warmth which made every patient feel thoroughly at home." As a result of this "there has grown up among Serbians an ardent desire for a lasting Anglo-Serbian friendship and a longing for closer association." This feeling will be warmly reciprocated in England, which has been greatly moved by the accounts that have been received from British doctors and nurses on the Serbian field of war of the heroism and uncomplaining fortitude of the Serbs.

The German propagandists have tried a singularly futile trick in Morocco. They have spread the report that General Lyautey, the French Resident-General, has been disparaging the British effort in the war. The statement was almost too absurd to need denial, but it serves as an indication that Germany has not altogether resigned her ambitions in Morocco, although little has been heard of them since Agadir, and even the obedient German Press has almost forgotten the alleged German commercial interests in Morocco during the war.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 23.

H.H. The Sultan.

The Sultan still remains on his estate at Gabaris, where the climate suits him far better than that of Alexandria. In his speech at the recent meeting of the local British Red Cross and Order of St. John Committee the High Commissioner referred to the indifferent state of health which his Highness has enjoyed for some time, and I understand that it is unlikely that the Sultan will leave Gabaris or hold any Court ceremonies until the cooler weather sets in.

The Nile

On Friday evening there took place out at Old Cairo the historic ceremony of "Cutting the Khelig." Nowadays the ceremony is shorn of much of its attraction and pomp owing to the fact that the old canal, which used to run from Old Cairo through the city, and which on this occasion had the dam at its mouth cut so as to allow the high waters of the Nile to enter it, no longer exists. Nowadays the traditional boat, which used to enter the canal with the first rush of water, still proceeds to Old Cairo amid the booming of guns and with a crowd of official guests on board, but beyond that the ceremonial part of the event is confined to the signing, in the presence of the representative of the Sovereign, of a Hedja drawn up to record the fact that the Nile has risen to the point where the collection of the land tax becomes permissible, and to a firework display. This year the ceremonies were carried out in the presence of Ali Pasha Zulfikar, Governor of Cairo, representing H.H. the Sultan, and the attendance of Egyptians within and without the enclosure was unusually great.

The Nile is rising rapidly, but, although it appears certain that the flood will be a high one, it is as yet impossible to say how long the high levels will last. Meanwhile, so good is the water supply, that it has been found possible to allow water from the river to lands which would normally receive it between November and the arrival of the 1918 flood. A Proclamation to this effect and giving certain powers to the officials of the Irrigation Service has been issued by General Allenby. This should result in an extension of the maize area and should further alleviate the cereal foodstuffs situation next year.

The British Red Cross.

At the meeting of the local committee of the British Red Cross, already referred to above as having been held at the Residency under the presidency of the High Commissioner, it was decided to accede to the request of the authorities at home for a third appeal to be made to Egypt and the Sudan for funds, and October 17 has been fixed as "Our Day" out here. Egypt has benefited so much from the protection afforded to the country by the British forces, and the population both in Egypt and the Sudan has derived so much prosperity from their immunity from the ravages which the war has made elsewhere, that it is to be hoped that they will once again respond with alacrity to the call now made upon them, even as they did on the previous two occasions. With his customary magnanimity and charitableness whenever it is a question of alleviating suffering, his Highness, immediately he heard that it had been decided to hold an "Our Day" for Egypt and the Sudan, headed the subscription list with the sum of £E500.

The Financial Advisership.

I understand that owing to Mr. Ronald Lindsay's resignation Lord Edward Cecil, for whom he was acting, will return to Egypt very soon. No decision as to the Under-Secretaryship in the Ministry of Finance will be taken until Lord Edward arrives.

The Lighting Economy Order.

The Order for the early closing of public establishments and for the reduction in the lighting of the streets so as to effect an economy in the consumption of fuel came into operation last week throughout the country. The Order was enforced with very little trouble, and the streets in consequence assumed an exceedingly gloomy appearance. Some establishments managed to remain open by burning candles and petroleum lamps, but such devices for evading the law were soon put a stop to. The present Order aims directly at reducing the amount of coal used for lighting purposes, but since coal imports have fallen to practically nil, it is quite on the cards that the domestic as well as the public consumption of electric light, gas and coal will have to be regulated in the very near future, in which case other lighting and heating substitutes will have to be used. Of these substitutes, candles, petroleum, and alcohol are the most important, at any rate in the towns. The two former are almost entirely imported—the Red Sea oilfields do not produce anything near enough for Egypt's requirements—and as imports are at their lowest ebb, it follows that the strictest economy even in these substitutes ought to be practised. It is indeed abundantly evident that further restrictions will have to be introduced very soon; that, in fact, some control will have to be instituted, for already with a view to profiting by the situation some far-seeing persons have bought up the available stocks of candles and have driven up the price enormously.

Egyptian Finances during April.

Cairo, August 20.

The State accounts for April, the first month of the new financial year, just published, show that the upward trend of revenue still continues. Revenue during the month amounted to £E1,408,287, as compared with £E1,329,037 in April, 1916. The chief heads were land tax, £E311,664; Customs, £E216,302; tobacco dues, £E95,178; mixed courts fees, £E79,049; native courts fees, £E33,194; railways, £E371,756; domains receipts, £E48,510; Ghaffir cess (which makes its first appearance in the accounts), £E41,639; and miscellaneous receipts, £E51,924. The only decrease of importance was in tobacco dues, which fell off by £E89,855. Both land tax and customs showed large increases over April last year. Expenditure during the month amounted to £E1,585,418, as against £E1,610,138, and the deficit at the end of the month—there is always an excess of expenditure over revenue during the early part of the financial year—was £E177,131, over £E100,000 less than at the end of April, 1916.

SALONIKA MAILS LOST.

The Postmaster-General announces that letters, newspapers, etc., but not parcels, for the Salonika Force, which reached the Army Post Office, London, for despatch between 2.30 a.m. on July 31 and 2.30 a.m. on August 4, have been lost at sea through enemy action, also letters, etc., for the civilian population of Salonika and district and many of the Greek islands which reached the General Post Office, London, for despatch from July 30 to August 2, inclusive.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August.*

Reorganisation.

On returning to Athens one finds a different atmosphere from that which prevailed seven months ago. Under the masterly leadership of M. Venizelos, efforts are being made to evolve some order out of the chaos into which the country has drifted during the past two years. Athens seems to have quite settled down to the new regime, and the various controls of the Allies are being relaxed or removed. The situation called for firm treatment, and the promulgation of martial law was evidently a necessary measure to control the Press and to prevent mischievous meetings.

The Government's Disclosures.

Telegrams will already have informed the British public of the chief features of the White Book, which has brought out into such strong relief the efforts of the German Government at the outbreak of the war to induce Greece to abandon her treaty obligations towards Serbia, and the unscrupulous efforts made by the King and his entourage to play into the hands of the Germans to the prejudice of the Allies and of Greece's true interests. The White Book also sets forth the details of Greece's betrayal of her Ally. Its publication and the disclosures regarding German loans to Greece have naturally provoked much comment in Parliament, and M. Venizelos has spoken in strong terms of the part played by the National Bank in the transactions. The recompense that the Bank was to receive from the Government for the part it took in realising the loans was the extension for another term of years of its privileges; but there had not been time to effect this renewal. M. Venizelos states that before this extension is granted certain necessary changes will have to be made, and a process of cleansing carried out.

The Reply to the King's Speech.

The debate in the Chamber on the address in reply to the King's Speech from the Throne clearly revealed the two currents of political feeling. Two replies had been submitted, one from the Majority and the other from the Opposition. That of the Majority began by expressing the conviction that the advent to the throne of King Alexander, after the abdication of King Constantine and the Crown Prince, would mark the opening of a new era for the nation, and that the people looked with calmness on the future evolution of the political life of the country. The hope was expressed that there would be an early removal of the obstacles in the way of the convocation of the National Assembly, which is to fix definitely the regime in accordance with the democratic views of the nation, with the object of excluding the possibility of a misinterpretation of constitutional procedure. Parliament, it was added, had learnt with satisfaction of the recall of the diplomatic representatives from the Central Powers, and, thanks to this measure, Greece was now able to take her place alongside other democratic nations who are fighting against despotism and absolutism. The address expressed satisfaction at the measures initiated to bring into line the whole forces of the country in support of the nation's grand aspirations, and referred with satisfaction to the steps taken to reorganise the public services for the benefit of the country. The address of the Minority was, of course, couched in a different tone. It stated that a divergence of views in the policy of the country did not create a real split in the State, and criticised the action of the Powers in interfering. It commented on the action of the Government in revoking the Royal Decree which dissolved the Chamber of May, 1915, describing it as a violation of constitutional government, and deprecated the blame thrown against the Church, the treatment of some of the clergy, and also the suspension of many public functionaries. This address, in fact, criticised the entire actions of the Government in power. But, in conclusion, it expressed the hope that Greece would emerge from the present crisis stronger morally and materially, that her territorial integrity would be conserved, and that she would be free to settle her own affairs independent of any influences and in accordance with her sovereign rights.

Effects of the Blockade.

At the end of a long blockade Greece finds her stocks of all foodstuffs quite depleted, and measures are now being taken to ration the country, but the want of the necessary tonnage is likely to restrict importations. Everything has naturally gone up in price, and the cost of living has become much heavier. The bread is now brown, containing a certain percentage of bran, but seems of a better quality than that consumed in France and Italy. Coal practically does not exist here, and has been replaced by lignite, wood, and pine cones. Various lignite deposits have been opened up, and steamers, trains, and industrial establishments are making use of this fuel; but large quantities of timber are also consumed, the burnt part of Tatoi forest being cleared.

General News.

The disastrous fire which destroyed a large part of Salonika somewhat preoccupied public attention here last week. The fire is a great calamity for Salonika, all the more so in present circumstances, when the replenishment of stocks and the reconstruction of buildings will be extremely difficult. It was hard enough before the fire to find accommodation for the great influx of people due to the military operations, but now it has become absolutely impossible to do so. King Alexander, having expressed a wish to visit the town, left here on Friday in a special train, and returned two days later.

The Military Commander has issued a circular to the police that in future no foreigners will be allowed to travel in the country without a passport which has been visé by their authorities. All foreign subjects residing in the district of Athens must within five days notify their presence to the Prefecture of Police and register themselves and give two copies of their photographs. They will be given a police permit to stay in the country with a copy of their photograph attached, and in the event of a foreigner going abroad a police permit will be necessary. These measures do not apply to the staffs of the foreign missions.

Athens is again this summer suffering from a shortage of water, the public supplies being wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the city. This is a great misfortune for a town like Athens, where an unlimited supply of water is indispensable in a summer temperature of over 90 degrees.

The establishment of a through service of trains from here to Salonika has greatly improved communications with that town.

According to the papers, the extermination of the Greek communities in Asia Minor seems to be proceeding almost as badly as in the case of the Armenians. In any case, what with the persecution by the Turks and the insufficiency of nourishment, the Christians in Asia Minor are evidently in a miserable condition, and the mortality is said to be very heavy.

Delayed in transmission.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Forty Years on.

Cyprus has entered the fortieth year of British Administration, the flag having been hoisted on July 12, 1878. There are no longer any British officials on the island who witnessed that historic event, but there are several who came soon after. They have seen many changes, and life is very different in many aspects from what it was in the days of the early pioneers.

Bairam was quietly celebrated by the Moslem community in town and village. The tranquillity of the Turkish element has remained unruffled, affording another example of quiet progress and contentment under a just and stable Government, which carries out its duties and obligations with clockwork regularity. In the recent session of the Legislative Council the Ottoman members held their own and voted with the Government whenever Greek claims or proposals were brought into question as clashing with a sane view of the political situation, or the ordered course of debates.

The bulk of the well-to-do and leading Turks is gathered in the capital, Nicosia, forming a loyal and compact society which embraces all the institutions which make Ottoman society complete in itself. The transfer of the island from the Sultan's authority to British has made no perceptible change in the course of events. The few appointments which were made, or confirmed, at Constantinople are now made independently. All the establishments provided for under the Anglo-Turkish Convention are maintained, including the District Kadi's courts, which take cognisance of religious matters. A Turkish judge sits in the civil courts with British and Greek colleagues. The Evkaf Department, which deals with properties dedicated to religious and charitable purposes, is administered by one Turkish and one British delegate. There are a high school and other

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CAIRO: 23, SOLIMAN PACHA.

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educational establishments. Many Turks speak excellent English, especially among Government officials. Not a few were educated at Canon Newnham's school.

The principal mosque is the beautiful Latin Cathedral Agia Sophia, converted for Mohammedan worship after the Turkish conquest in the 16th century; as its great namesake was at Constantinople after the conquest by Mehmet II., in the 15th century. There is a *Tekké* of "Whirling" (Mevlevieh) Dervishes, and the large order of the (Kadrieh) "Howlers," and others are represented. As in all Moslem communities, large numbers of residents are affiliated to one, or more, of the principal *taryks*, or Orders. There is a Dervish *Tekké* which gives picturesqueness to the western margin of the Salt Lake near Larnaca. Here lies buried a daughter of one of the Companions of the Prophet. As regards the Mecca pilgrimage, it is not very often undertaken from Cyprus, and now the war has placed additional obstacles.

The title of Hadji, or pilgrim, is, by the way, borne far more in Cyprus by Greeks than by Turks. Many Greeks bear this prefix to their names. Thus we have Hadji-Pavlos, Hadji-Ioannou, Hadji-Dimitri, and the title is prefixed to many other of the commoner names, such as John, Peter, George, Michail, Nikolas, Kyriakos, Andreas, Andoni, Savas, etc. It has been earned in bygone days by ancestors who have made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. This journey was, of course, more perilous and expensive in past ages. Nowadays there is far less desire to bear a name partly of Moslem origin. In normal times Cypriot Greeks go in large numbers to Jerusalem, and steamers are often chartered for passages to and from Jaffa. The war has temporarily stopped the annual stream, but it will, no doubt, flow again in happier times. Greeks must now content themselves with visits to local shrines, which are numerous.

In the Greek Community there is much more movement. Commercial activity is, of course, far greater, and Greeks now go to the hills in large numbers for a change during the hot months. Members of Council take note of the needs or grievances of their constituents. Looking back at the past half year, one of the most conspicuous features has, perhaps, been the strengthening of the combination of members of Council and the leading members of the Greek Church since the election of the new Archbishop Kyrillos. They work in a more vigorous partnership in local "politics" and for the advancement of Greek interests.

ROUMANIA'S ARMY.

(From a Correspondent.)

Jassy, July.

The Retreat and the Future.

Rumania is again menaced. The Germans are at her gates, and she is facing the enemy who would destroy her, not only with her own troops but with those of Russia. The Roumanian troops, by general admission, are of the best quality: the proof of this was given quite recently, when they took the offensive in the south and repulsed the invader, inflicting heavy losses upon him, besides taking nearly 4,000 prisoners and much booty. Unfortunately this action, which began so well, had to be broken off for strategic reasons on account of the position of the Russian army in Galicia. As to the Allied troops, it is hoped that they will oppose the invader again on the new line of resistance. The Russian soldier is very amenable. The unhappy retreats in Galicia and Bukovina have been due to the spirit of non-resistance which has spread through the Russian lines since the revolution; the German victory is thus not really a victory, but an occupation of territory without battle. One cannot call the retreat of the Russians a defeat—they have not fought. Wherever they have resisted the enemy the German push has been stopped. It is thought the enemy cannot advance further, because, according to the calculations of competent authorities, they have not sufficient strength to follow up adequately the action begun in Galicia. On the other hand, what now opposes them is an army determined to fight. The Moldavian and Bukovinan fronts have been strengthened by the Russian troops which took part in the recent offensive, as well as by certain Roumanian units which gave a good example.

A United Country.

In face of the danger which menaces the country, all sections in Roumania are united. The two historical political parties, represented by their chiefs, M. Bratianu and M. Take Jonescu, are in power. The feeling against a separate peace is stronger than ever. As the enemy armies are still active the necessary steps have been taken to remove the valuables of the State into safety—the banks, etc., have sent every day trains loaded with their deposits into Russia. Part of the population has also quitted its native soil, preferring exile to living under the German heel. The Government, however, like the King, will not leave until the last moment, and the army will fight to the last man. People remember a phrase of King Ferdinand's on this matter; he remarked that if danger approached he would send his family away, but he himself would remain at the head of the army to conquer or die.

The Army.

The morale of the Roumanian army is excellent. This army, which only a few short months ago brought tears to one's eyes, is to-day the pride of the nation and compels the admiration of foreigners. The officers of foreign missions who have helped or who have taken part in recent battles marvel at its prowess. The little Roumanian soldiers, after an artillery preparation which demolished the German trenches, went forward to the attack with a gaiety wonderful to see. Victory was assured. The enemy had quitted his positions and prepared to retreat: in a few days it would have been possible to recover all the occupied territory as far as Buzeu. Unfortunately, events in the north forbade the achievement and the offensive was stopped. The army which should have advanced on Braila and freed the lower course of the Danube and the mouths of the river, has now many of its officers and men sick. This army, under General Christescu, had laid its plans down to the minutest details, had bombarded the enemy uninterruptedly for two days, and the Germans, unable to hold out any longer, had quitted their positions. But just as the infantry were to be given the order to attack the telegram from Headquarters arrived to stop the advance. The disappointment of this army and of its chief, who was about to reap the fruits of so long a preparation for victory and was now unexpectedly condemned to inaction by the orders of their superiors, may be imagined.

The army of General Averescu has done wonders. The enemy positions have been rushed, and the troops have shown unparalleled enthusiasm. Severely wounded men shouted with enthusiasm at having given their blood for their country. The reconquered territory had everywhere been cultivated, not for the inhabitants, but for the invader, and the Germans had carried off everything they could lay hands on. Not a single chicken had been left behind; the people behind the German lines had suffered, it was found, greatly from hunger. Thus has vanished for ever the legend created by the agents and spies of the Kaiser that the German troops had treated the occupied lands generously.

Roumania and Her Allies.

The feeling of gratitude and affection for the Allies is as great as that of hatred for the Germans. The visits of M. Albert Thomas, of M. Vandervelde, and of General Hugh Scott have given an opportunity for Roumania to show her feeling for France, Belgium, and America. The representatives of these three countries, who came so great a distance to encourage the Roumanians in their difficult position, have been publicly fêted and officially received by Parliament, and the splendid speeches of MM. Take Jonescu and Bratianu faithfully expressed the feelings of every Roumanian. Full confidence is felt in England, who entered the war to defend the rights of small nations, and France, like America, will not let Roumania perish. It is therefore with great satisfaction that Roumania has learnt that the Allies have again insisted on Russia giving as much assistance as possible to her neighbour, and that Moldavia is to be defended at all costs. The other point—a reaffirmation of the promises made regarding the national aims—has also reassured public opinion. Certain of the final issue of the war and of the justice of their cause, the Roumanians await the future with confidence.

The Montenegrin Committee for National Unity has issued a memorandum expressing accord with the principles of the Corfu Declaration, as expressing the will and the wish of the Serbian people in Montenegro. The memorandum adds: "The Montenegrin Committee for National Unity will continue its work, which aims at the union of all Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes."

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE ADRIATIC TREATY.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I confess to a certain surprise at one or two expressions in the first part of your leading article under the above heading. You would seem to imply that until the publication of the interview with Signor Bevione nothing had been known of the terms of the Adriatic treaty with Italy, and you state that Jugoslav circles have believed erroneously that the treaty conceded to Italy the whole of Dalmatia. The "secret" of this treaty, concluded on April 27, 1915, was from the first an open one. I was myself apprised of its leading features a month later, and in September, 1915, in the *British Review*, I gave an outline of its terms as I had received it, an outline which was correct in its main features, but requiring modification chiefly in the matter of the allocation of the islands. In February, 1916, Dr. Seton Watson, in the *English Review*, also stated the main provisions of the treaty, his *exposé* containing the necessary modifications in my own statement alluded to above. Jugoslav circles were throughout well informed of the actual contents.

There is unfortunately some misapprehension, if I may say so, in your article as to what the actual terms of the treaty are. Italy is conceded a great deal more than a "strip of Dalmatia" from the north of Zara to Spalato. As a fact, she is given the whole of Dalmatia north of Spalato, about three-fifths at least of the area of Continental Dalmatia, the southern boundary running from the neighbourhood of the Arzano Pass to the immediate north of Spalato. Your remark as to the allocation of the islands is just, but unfortunately that allocation is far different from that which evidently would have been advocated in your article. All the Quarnero Islands, both inner and outer, go to Italy, together with all the islands off the coast of the ceded territory. Moreover, beyond that she receives all the southern islands except the small islands, Lopud, etc., which lie immediately to the north of Ragusa. The case of Meleda and Lagosta is particularly flagitious, for they did not form part even of the Venetian dominion such as it was, but belonged to the independent republic of Ragusa, which overlooked Venice.

The treaty boundary assigns a good slice of Carniola to Italy and strikes the sea just west of Fiume, which is left to Croatia; it then passes along the coast so as to give all the islands to Italy till it joins the point where the northern boundary of Dalmatia touches the sea; it then follows the Dalmatian frontier along the Dinaric Alps to the neighbourhood of the Arzano Pass and then strikes across to the Bay of Spalato between that town and Traü. The harbour of Spalato will therefore be covered by Italian guns across the bay. The boundary then again hugs the coast, and even passes through the Curzola channel so as to include that island in Italian territory, finally enclosing Meleda and Lagosta. The character of the treaty, it will be seen, is hardly that envisaged in your "leader." I forbear comment on it here, but in my book on the Jugoslav future, shortly to be published by Mr. Unwin, I have devoted some sixty pages to the Adriatic question. It should be stated that the above account of the delimitation has never been challenged as inaccurate by the Governments concerned.

Perhaps I may be allowed to take this opportunity to mention two other matters. It has been stated in the Press that M. Pashitch went to Rome with the idea of entering upon a detailed agreement with Italy, and his visit has been described as disappointing. It may save disappointment to state that his object was only to block out a general agreement, leaving the settlement of details to stand over. Whether he has been successful in his more limited aim I do not know.

The statement in the *New Europe* that Montenegro was outside the Paris Conference has been contradicted by the contents of a message from the Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post*, which said that Montenegro had been duly represented. As a fact the Montenegrin delegate was not admitted except to the final meeting, to which he was invited on the proposition of Italy.

May I conclude with a plea for aid to Serbia? One quarter of the population at least has perished, as shown by statistics, women and girls and others have been carted away to Turkey, thousands are dying in Austria-Hungary, the seeds of death and disease threaten the future vitality of the nation, and the administration of the blockade, so tender to the susceptibilities of Swedes and Dutch, is adamant to the suggestion that the starving Serbs should be fed through Switzerland—the plan of extermination is working towards its end. M. Pashitch needs all the support, moral, diplomatic, military, and material, that we can give, if he is to answer satisfactorily the question to be put to him by the nation, "What has been the result of your blind trust in the Allies?" If the Serbs feel that they have been left in the lurch in the war and abandoned in the peace treaty there may be a real danger of possible reaction. A merely greater Serbia (with Bosnia and southern Dalmatia) would be for fifty years the poorest and weakest of the Balkan States, and she might be tempted to seek safety in the arms of Austria. Some such solution is indeed envisaged by H. N. Brailsford, but I do not think that others will share his complaisance.

I may add that a Press polemic on the subject of the Adriatic treaty would be undesirable, and is not, I know, desired in authoritative Serb circles. It must be remembered also that Italian opinion shows signs of a distinct *rapprochement* with the Jugoslav idea.—I am, etc.,

A. H. E. TAYLOR.

Canterbury, Sept. 18.

THE FUTURE OF ARMENIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In the *Fortnightly Review* for July "Politicus," writing on the formula of "no annexations, no indemnities," refers also to the problem of Armenia, for the solution of which he proposed an illusory scheme. "Armenia must fall to Russia," he says; "but, of course, Russia can give the Armenians a large measure of self-government and can make them entirely independent when they have shown the ability for complete self-government and have developed sufficient strength for self-defence." Any student of the economic development and political expansion of Russia will readily see the absurdity of this proposal. "Politicus" expects too much from the nature of the *political animal*, even if that happens to be the Revolutionary Government of Russia. It would seem, moreover, to be a mistaken policy to sharpen the appetite of the strong at first, and then attempt to teach him morality and justice. Armenia will never get independence or even some sort of self-government once she falls to Russia. Those who base their reasoning on the avowed professions which for the present seem to rule Russia may be expected to modify their views when the centrifugal forces now at work will necessarily disappear. Then there may be a chance for a permanent partnership between Russia herself and such large units as Ukranians and Poles, but almost none for Armenians and Georgians.

Another doubt which is often expressed in this country is that the Armenians shall not be able to defend themselves. If one asks against whom the Armenians shall not be able to defend themselves, the answer will be against Turks or Kurds, or both combined. This is an assumption obviously based on a misconception of Kurdish social conditions.

In the Armenian provinces of Turkey at least about 70 per cent. of the Kurdish population is now settled down to agricultural or cattle-rearing occupations; under Turkish rule this large mass of Kurds was almost as defenceless as the Christians. They were often as much robbed and killed as the latter. It was the remaining 30 per cent. of the Kurds, with chieftains and their hangers-on, whose only means of subsistence consisted of robbing not only the Christian but also the defenceless Kurdish peasant, and sometimes even the Turkish tax-collector and gendarme.

It was this latter class of Kurd who was an instrument of oppression in the hands of Turkish parasites. Clear out at once the Turk, bag and baggage, from the country and give a decent and honest Government both to Kurd and Christian. It would be a paradox of human nature if the settled Kurd, with whom religion is a very loose matter, did not entirely fall in with a new order of things which promised a good market for his cattle and corn. To mention only one instance of Kurdish character. In the summer of 1909, a year after the proclamation of the Turkish Constitution, I met Major Seifeddin Bey of the Turkish Hamidic Cavalry, in Bulanik (Bitlis). He was the chief agent of the notorious Colonel Fetullah Bey, who practically commanded about 5,000 armed Hamidics of the Hassanauli tribe. I had seen the major in his "splendour" under Abdul Hamid. On the advent of the Turkish revolution in 1908, Hamidic Kurds were cowed and some of their chiefs imprisoned. For more than a year these Kurds were not allowed to rob and kill. Almost all notorious murderous robbers repaired to their lairs, and many of them took to peaceful labour. Then in 1909 Major Seifeddin Bey had taken to muleteering, and he was none the less happy in driving his pack-horses and "earning his bread by his toil," as he said. But as Young Turks began to instigate the predatory instincts of Kurds in 1911, Seifeddin and thousands like him recommenced their old game.

In 1910 the Turks opened a school in Mush for Turkish children. But many of the Kurds refused to entrust their

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children to the Turks, because they had no faith in the morals of Turkish teachers.

"Politicus," and others who think like him, might worthily promote the cause of peace in that country not by generously assigning Armenia to Russia, but by removing the Turk and putting instead an honest administration for all. Then Armenian and Kurd together will see where their genuine interests lie.—Yours, etc.,

A. S. SAFRASTIAN.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE UNITED STATES AND GERMANY.*

This is a most extraordinary book. Everyone will recollect reading in the newspapers from time to time during the first two and a-half years of the war accounts of German intrigues or outrages in the United States. At first one read them with a certain amusement—they seemed so futile; then with irritation, and finally with boredom—they were so stupid. It did not quite dawn on the world at first that they were part of the system of frightfulness, which was meant to terrify the United States, originally to prevent them from supplying the Allies with munitions, and later to keep Washington neutral. These elaborate manœuvres, together with an enormous Press propaganda directed by Count Bernstorff, had in the end a precisely opposite effect to that intended. In another century or two some Prussian professor will attack this puzzling phenomenon, when probably he will decide, after exhaustive investigation, that the psychology of the American people was too premature for these experiments. He will certainly never suspect that the German method was wrong.

In the meantime, M. Alphand has made a collection of these outrages, from the blowing up of a munition works in the States to the attempted invasion of Canada and the elaborate plots in Mexico, which were intended to keep President Wilson busy with troubles too near at home to give him time to attend to Europe. The latter were the most likely to succeed, and they were not perhaps so very far from being successful; most of the remaining Teutonic activities were simply grotesque. However, here they all are, from the recall of Dumba to the outbreak of war, fully documented, a kind of nightmare of subterranean activity. One would like an equally full account of Germany's intrigues against England, say from the time of Lord Haldane's visit to Berlin in 1912; perhaps Lord Haldane will himself undertake the task.

"HINDENBURGLAND."

The French, like ourselves, have sometimes been rather forgetful of European politics east of the Vistula. Now, however, that the destiny of those countries is reshaping, many pamphlets are appearing both in French and English to guide public opinion. Of these, in addition to the monthly *Pro-Lithuania*, published at Lausanne, we may mention "La Question Lithuanienne," a memoir presented by the Lithuanian delegation to the third Conference of Nationalities at Lausanne; and "Ober-Ost," by M. C. Rivas. This latter consists of a series of timely quotations from German newspapers advocating a German annexation of Lithuania and Courland—which, it is suggested by the enthusiastic admirers of the Prussian marshal, should be called in future Hindenburgland. This particular suggestion does not seem to have been remarked by the English Press, and it is well to be reminded that German ambitions in that quarter have by no means been checked. Indeed, recent events have greatly strengthened the party in Germany which contends that the western war may be postponed for twenty years, so long as the eastern war is won and its fruits gathered in.

BOOK NOTES.

Among Messrs. Methuen's new books is "A Boswell of Baghdad and other Essays," by Mr. E. V. Lucas. The work includes a number of Mr. Lucas's recent contributions to *Punch* and the *Sphere*.

Messrs. Blackie will shortly publish Captain Brereton's new book "From the Nile to the Tigris," in which the author relates the further futures of the quartet whose earlier exploits were told in "At Grips with the Turks."

Miss Bessie Marchant is the author of an illustrated war book entitled "A 'V.A.D.' in Salonika: The Story of a Girl's Work in the Great War," which will be issued by the same publishers.

Among Mr. Heinemann's latest announcements is "Serbian Fairy Tales," translated by Mme. Elodie Mijatovich.

Messrs. Melrose will shortly publish "Ancient Stories of the Dardanelles," by Frances Delanoy Little.

Lady Kennard is the author of "A Roumanian Diary," which Mr. Heinemann will issue in the autumn. Another forthcoming work from this publisher is "My Round of the War," by Mr. Basil Clarke, who records his travels and adventures as a special correspondent in France and the Balkans.

Mr. G. Ward-Price, the official Eye-Witness with the Allied Armies in the Balkans, has now finished a record of his experiences, which he has put into a book, entitled "Salonika," to be published by Mr. Heinemann in the autumn.

Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall have just issued "The Last Cruise of the 'Majestic,'" by George Goodchild, priced at 1s. 6d. net. The "Majestic" was the first battleship to enter the Dardanelles. The book gives an account of the writer's experiences from the day of mobilisation till the following May.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Knights of Araby. By Marmaduke Pickthall. (London: Messrs. W. Collins, Sons and Co., Ltd. 6s. net.)

Petite Histoire Politique de l Angleterre depuis 1914. With Foreword by M. Stephen Pichon. (Paris: Librairie Grasset. 50 centimes.)

Serbian Songs and Poems: Chords of the Yugoslav Harp. Translated by J. W. Wiles, M.A. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. net.)

Brahmadarsanam, or Intuition of the Absolute. By Sri Ananda Acharya. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans. By R. W. Seton-Watson, D.Litt. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

The Turkish Empire: Its Growth and Decay. By Lord Eversley. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 12s. 6d. net.)

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* "Les Etats-Unis contre l'Allemagne." Par Gabriel Alphand. (Payot et Cie, Paris. 6fr.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. September.	1917. September.		1335. Dulheggia.	5678. Tishri.
21	8	Friday	4	5
22	9	Saturday.....	5	6
23	10	Sunday	6	7
24	11	Monday	7	8
25	12	Tuesday	8	9
26	13	Wednesday	9	10
27	14	Thursday	10	11

The King is to hold an Investiture in connection with the new Order of the British Empire on September 27. On the previous day his Majesty will hold a Naval and Military Investiture.

Mr. John Stavridi, Hon. Counsellor of the Greek Legation, has left London for the country.

General Basil Rudeanu, Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission, has left London for France.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John and Lady Norton-Griffiths have taken 24, Buckingham Gate for the winter.

Mr. H. E. Mountain has returned to Athens, and has joined the commercial staff at the British Legation.

Professor S. Mandriescu, of the University in Jassy, arrived in London on September 18 from Roumania.

Colonel Vasescu, of the Roumanian army, and his family arrived in London on September 18 from Roumania.

M. Blondel, formerly French Minister in Bucharest, and Madame Blondel have left London for the Continent.

Ex-King Constantine arrived at Zurich on September 17 with his family and Dr. Streit, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Ivan Stuart Campbell, of Cadogan Place, S.W., who died on June 28 at Jassy, left estate of the gross value of £5,906.

Madame Lahovary, the wife of the Roumanian Minister in Paris, arrived in town on September 17 from Bournemouth.

Essad Pasha, the Governor of Albania, has been entertained by the Serbian Government at dinner at Corfu. He has now left for France.

The Secretary of State for India has appointed Miss Alice Sergeant, to the Indian Educational Service to be Inspectress of Schools in Madras.

M. Michale Antonescu, former Vice-President of the Roumanian Chamber, is stated to have been deported and interned in a war prisoners' camp in Germany.

According to a Sofia telegram, among the numerous wreaths sent for the funeral of the Queen of Bulgaria were two or three from French and British prisoners of war.

Major-General Sir George Tindal Pretyman, K.C.M.G., C.B., of Beech Hurst, Camberley, Surrey, Military Secretary to Lord Roberts in Madras 1881-84, left estate of the gross value of £1,827.

Earl Granville was received in audience by the King at Windsor Castle on September 17, and kissed hands upon his appointment as his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Athens.

Reuter's correspondent at Athens states that the arrest is announced at Missolonghi of General Papoulos, who ordered the Greek troops to fire on the Allies on December 1 and who is considered a dangerous reactionary.

The King of Montenegro has appointed Dr. Pierre Chotch to be Minister of Instruction and Public Worship and also Minister of Justice and the Interior. Dr. Chotch was formerly Director of the Royal Ministry of Finance and Public Works.

A Military Mission of the Spanish Red Cross has visited the German prisoners' camp at Gibraltar, says Reuter's Algeciras correspondent, making a minute examination into the arrangements of the camp and conversing with the prisoners. The Mission will in due course issue a report of the visit, and will testify to the favourable impressions it gained.

Colonel Dimitrievitch, of the Serbian Army, has arrived in London from Petrograd.

It is reported from Constantinople that the Turkish Government now allow women to study medicine, and that they have also permitted commercial schools to admit female students.

The Roumanian Minister entertained at luncheon on September 13 the Portuguese Minister, General Dessino, of the Russian Army, M. Victor Antonescu, formerly Roumanian Minister of Justice, and Madame Antonescu.

Messrs. Paterson, Zochonis and Co., Ltd., Manchester, have forwarded to the Lord Mayor of Manchester £500 for the relief fund which is being raised by the Lord Mayor of London on behalf of the sufferers by the Salonika fire.

The Greek Minister to the Court of St. James, M. Jean Gennadius, who recently presented to King George his credentials from King Alexander of the Hellenes, paid formal visits to the members of the Corps Diplomatique on September 18.

The engagement is announced of Major E. C. Hodgson, I.M.S., son of the late Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Hodgson, I.A., and Mrs. Hodgson, to Guelda Kathleen, daughter of Mr. B. T. Earle and Mrs. Earle, of Meadowcroft, Camberley.

The wedding of the Rev. Charles Egerton Chadwick, M.C., Senior Chaplain to the Royal Flying Corps, and Miss Dorothy Elwin Harris, only daughter of Dr. Elwin Harris, of Clifton, was celebrated at Clifton on September 18. The Rev. H. Chester Master, C.F., was best man.

Sir James Walker has presented the Red Cross Gift House (for the Prisoners-of-War Central Fund) at 20, King Street, St. James', with a valuable inlaid Indian writing-box, six Indian plaques, a four-panelled screen with jade and soapstone flowers inlaid, and a picture by Orrock.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, has received from a great meeting organized recently at New York by the Committee of Serbian National Defence an acknowledgment of "our gratitude for the understanding come to at Corfu," which settled a scheme for the eventual formation of a united Southern Slav State.

The Czech Press Bureau states that, according to the *Narodni Politika*, Magyar has been made the language of instruction not only in the Roumanian schools in Transylvania but also in the few Slovak public schools which were still left not Magyarised. The Slovak children are henceforward forbidden to use their own tongue even in saying prayers.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, Colonel Sir David Semple, Director-General Public Health Department, will in all probability retire from the service on the expiration of his contract in March next. It is stated that he will be replaced by Dr. John Warnock, Director of the Lunacy Department, Ministry of Interior, who in turn will be replaced by Dr. Dudgeon, Director of the Khanka Lunatic Asylum.

The *Jewish Chronicle* states that Joseph Hirsch, of the Zichron Jacob Colony, Palestine (who was in Paris at the outbreak of war), a volunteer in the French Foreign Legion, has been mentioned in a Divisional Order in the following terms:—"A thorough soldier, who distinguished himself by the spontaneity with which he volunteered to accomplish most perilous missions. He was seriously wounded April 17, 1917."

At the conclusion of the Liturgy on September 16 at the Greek Church in Moscow Road, Bayswater, a Te Deum was sung in commemoration of the name-day of the King of the Hellenes. The Great Archimandrite, the Very Rev. Dr. Pagonis, officiated, assisted by a Deacon. There were present the Greek Minister, attended by the *personnel* of the Legation, all wearing uniform, Madame Gennadius, the staff of the Consulate, and a large Hellenic congregation.

If you are willing to help

THE SERBIAN ARMY

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at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

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The engagement is announced of Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) G. H. Richard, R.A.M.C., eldest son of Mr. H. J. Richard, late Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Burma in the P.W.D., and Mrs. Richard, of 67, Gordon Road, Ealing, and Dorothy Dundas, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Rothbarth, of 30, Quex Road, West Hampstead.

It is announced in a Supplement to the *Gazette* issued on September 17 that Major-General William George Lawrence Beynon, C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., has been made a K.C.I.E. for services connected with the war, and that Major (temporary Lieut.-Colonel) R. M. Carter, F.R.C.S., Indian Medical Service, has been promoted to be brevet lieut.-colonel, with effect from April 26, 1916, as a reward for distinguished service in the field.

The Consul-General for Greece in London informs Reuter's Agency that instructions have been received from Athens to the effect that all Greek subjects belonging to the provinces both of Old and New Greece born between the years 1884 and 1897 inclusive are, with some exceptions, to be called to the colours. Greeks of these categories residing in the United Kingdom should apply immediately to the Greek Consulate-General, 40, Old Broad Street, E.C., when they will receive their marching orders.

The depositions of three Serbian prisoners who recently escaped from Austria, says *The Times* correspondent with the Serbian Army in a message dated September 18, relate that the treatment of Serbian prisoners in Austria latterly has undergone a marked change for the better, and that this change is accompanied by much talk among the guards and the population generally of approaching peace and the restoration of Serbia. Serbian paper money, which at pre-war parity was ten dinars to nine Austrian crowns, and the currency of which was officially fixed after the Austrian occupation at ten dinars to five crowns, has lately risen in Austria to a premium, ten dinars being valued at over twelve crowns.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The following appointments were notified in Wednesday's *London Gazette*:—Memoranda.—The undermentioned Lieutenant-Generals, Indian Army, to be Generals:—Sir A. A. Barrett, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., in succession to Sir R. I. Scallon, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., D.S.O., supernumerary. August 1. Sir M. H. S. Grover, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., in succession to Sir J. B. Woon, K.C.B., supernumerary. August 27.

OBITUARY.

Rear-Admiral Mather Byles, whose death occurred on September 14 at Rosemount, Dawlish, commanded the Seagull during the Egyptian campaign of 1882, receiving for his services the medal, the Khedive's Bronze Star, and promotion to the rank of captain.

Major-General Herbert Maynard Ramsay, of Warnham, Horsham, whose death has occurred at the age of seventy-four years, entered the Indian Service in 1873. He attained the rank of Major-General in 1899, and retired in 1903. He was one of the Commissioners appointed to report on the Chaukidari system, 1890-91.

The death has taken place at Bideford, at the age of sixty-eight years, of Surgeon-General William Simson Pratt, C.B., who was at one time principal medical officer, Southern Command, and who was appointed in 1900 principal medical officer at Gibraltar. He saw service in the Sudan in 1884-5, when he was mentioned in despatches and promoted surgeon-major.

The Rev. Louis Borissow, whose death has just taken place at East Gilling Rectory, Yorkshire, at the age of seventy-seven, was formerly the tutor of H.H. the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar. The Jam Sahib was a frequent visitor at his Yorkshire rectory, and he was staying there at the time that he sustained injuries while out shooting near Scarborough two years ago. Mr. Borissow was a scholar of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, and took orders in 1866.

Mr. William Ernest Gordon Leith, late Chief Magistrate, Calcutta, and Legal Remembrancer of the High Court of Judicature, Fort William, Bengal, died on September 16 at a nursing home, at the age of sixty-two. The son of the late Mr. John Farley Leith, Q.C., he was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1879. He joined the Bengal Judicial Department in 1893, and was subsequently appointed Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Legislative Department. He was appointed Remembrancer of Legal Affairs in September, 1896, and retired from the service in 1902.

Lieutenant-Colonel Laurence A. M. Graeme, who died at Fonthill, Shaldon, Teignmouth, on September 14, was the only surviving son of Major Laurence Graeme, Lieutenant-Governor of Tobago. In 1853 he joined the Madras Fusiliers, and his active service included the Mutiny campaign, when he was with Havelock's column in two engagements and in the relief of Lucknow, being awarded the medal and two clasps. He also took part in the Abyssinian campaign, 1868, and received the medal, and was promoted brevet-major. Colonel Graeme, who retired in 1875, was one of the oldest magistrates for Devon. One of his sons, Colonel Lawrence Oliphant Graeme, was killed in action in France. Another son is in the Seaforth Highlanders.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

DAWNAY.—On September 12, in Cairo, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel Alan Dawnay, D.S.O.—a son. Villa Dawnay, Ghezireh, Cairo.

HOLME.—On the 13th inst., at Maymyo, Burma, the wife of H. B. Holme, I.C.S., I.A.R.O., of a daughter.

DEATHS.

LEITH.—On September 16, at a nursing home, William Ernest Gordon Leith, late Chief Magistrate, Calcutta, and Legal Remembrancer of the High Court of Judicature, Fort William, Bengal, aged sixty-two, son of the late John Farley Leith, Q.C.

MAGRATH.—On September 10, in Alexandria, Egypt, Beatrice, wife of Gerald P. Magrath, Egyptian Administration, and daughter of the late William Petch, of Southcotes, Leamington.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

O'SHEA.—Killed in action on September 11, Lieutenant Dermot Patrick O'Shea, Punjabis, Indian Army, aged 19 years and 7 months, the dearly loved younger son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Bernard O'Shea, Mount Prospect, Barton Cross, Torquay, and grandson of Colonel J. G. Kelly, C.B.

IN MEMORIAM.

O'SHEA.—Killed in action in Mesopotamia on May 23, 1916, Wilfred Bernard, dearly loved elder son of Mr. and Mrs. F. Bernard O'Shea.

According to a Zurich message, the Bulgarian Government has sent special Envoys to Germany, Austria, Sweden, and Switzerland to carry on an active propaganda in favour of the annexation of the Serbian and Roumanian territories now occupied by the Bulgarian armies. The Envoys in question are M. Militic, who is in Germany; M. Moloff (Austria), M. Chichmanoff (Sweden), and M. Mileff (Switzerland).

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THE GREEK WHITE BOOK.

Revelations are the order of the day. Their value lies in the fact that they help towards a better understanding of what is at stake in this conflict, and perhaps when the last has been made the war will be found to be nearing its end. Only the protraction of the struggle has enabled the world to appreciate to the full the real divergence of the principles that divide the two sets of belligerents. An object-lesson of the slowness with which enlightenment has come was provided by the United States; the Vatican is still a stranger to it. The main difference between the honest pacifist and the rest of his fellow-countrymen is that his mind has become atrophied by reason of an obsession and has remained impervious to any idea beyond those which it assimilated in the days when war, as it is envisaged to-day, belonged to the realm of theory. With understanding of the issues at stake follows not only the resolve to substitute other and better conditions than those out of which the present tragedy emerged, but also the knowledge of what is required in the new order. Thus interspersed between the revelations we have the clear and striking enunciation of accumulating ideas with which the statesmen of the Grand Alliance outline from time to time the future organisation of the world, from national, political, social and economic points of view. How necessary it is that after this inferno of suffering the new era should be established on sound and lasting foundations the people as a whole discern but dimly to-day, and are apt to be impatient of a multiplicity of theories and schemes for the regeneration of society, while the war is still in progress. Such an attitude, however, is almost a negation of the moral forces at work behind the struggle. The Allied nations cannot lose sight of the fact that they have not merely to win the war, but also to reconstruct afterwards the whole framework of national endeavour and international relations in such a way that peace and prosperity may return to a stricken, exhausted world. The revelations, therefore, regarding the dark forces at work both before and during the war have a significance apart from the sensation that they naturally cause, and for this reason deserve to be studied closely.

If the disclosures regarding the German Emperor's intrigues with the ex-Tsar reveal the danger accruing from unrestricted militarism, the Greek White Book, though considerably more localised in its scope, constitutes an admirable exponent of German militarism's *alter ego*, *Kultur*. By this word the Germans understand both the particular bent of mind and the methods which have enabled them to reach the commanding position that was theirs at the outbreak of the Great War. The whole conception is essentially materialistic, and not ethical. Ex-King Constantine would be regarded as an apt disciple so long as he succeeded in his purpose of hoodwinking the Allies. As he has proved a failure, he may no longer be acclaimed in Germany as a sharer with the Bulgarians and Turks of the *Kultur* mantle; but the evidence afforded by the White Book is valuable from the double point of view, for it depicts the ex-King in his true colours, and shows how closely he relied upon German prompting for the steps he took. The full text of the diplomatic documents published by the Greek Government supplements the information given in the telegraphic summaries of four weeks ago, especially in regard to the Greco-Serbian Treaty. From the Military Convention, signed on June 1, 1913, simultaneously with the Treaty of Alliance, in which reference is made to the eventuality of Serbia being attacked "by another Power than Bulgaria," it is evident that King Constantine's contention that the alliance was of a purely Balkan character, and was not applicable to a general outbreak of war in Europe had no foundation in fact. Even more striking still is the evidence of the utterly unmoral attitude which characterised the Greek politicians who supported the King in his pro-German policy. We have the Foreign Minister discussing with the Greek Minister in Berlin the possibility of Greece aggrandising herself at the expense of her ally, Serbia, and later, M. Skouloudis, the Premier, solemnly assured the Chamber, "in the most categorical manner," that what had happened at Fort Rupel did not happen with the complicity of the Greek Government, "that the Greek Government did not agree to it, nor would they have tolerated it." Yet there is documentary evidence to prove that M. Skouloudis himself received an intimation from the German and Bulgarian Ministers of what was going to happen in regard to the passes of the Rupel ravine, and acknowledged its receipt.

But while for the outside world the Greek White Book has mainly an academic interest, in bringing home, as it does, to the imagination the unscrupulousness with which Germany has carried out her intrigues and the absence of any moral principle in her dealings with other nations, for Greece the significance is not so quickly exhausted. King Constantine was enabled to carry out his policy by means of the support of a substantial section of the political forces of the country. It was possible that for a time these could believe that they were in reality helping to spare their countrymen the horrors that had befallen Belgium and Serbia; but the treatment by the Germans and Bulgarians of the inhabitants of the occupied districts disposed of any comfortable theories of this nature, and left the subservient politician with no other guiding star than the behest or the gold of German agents. In spite of all that has happened these men have availed themselves of the freedom of speech secured for them in the Chamber under the Greek Constitution, and have sought to defend the actions which have earned for King Constantine and his several Governments the contempt of every right-minded man whether inside or outside Greece. Their demeanour suggests an intention to hinder, if they can, the reorganisation of Greece, and they will watch zealously for any opportunity to detract from the merits of M. Venizelos' achievements. But the spirit of frankness with which the Greek Prime Minister approaches every problem is likely to stand him in good stead, and it is to be hoped that it will be reciprocated in all his dealings with the Allies. So far the latter have done much to strengthen his position, but they have failed to remove the anomaly, from the Greek point of view, of the Italian occupation of a portion of Northern Epirus. In a spirited speech in which he set forth his reasons for refusing to accord seats in the Chamber to representatives of that district, M. Venizelos declared that while the Greeks had as yet no international title to Northern Epirus, they had with it "bonds stronger even than any declaration of men and any agreement of nations," and that Greece was bound to this section of unredeemed Hellenism by the firm determination of the majority of the inhabitants not to cease to be Greeks and not to accept subjection to foreign rule. It is possible that the problem is not so easy of solution as M. Venizelos' words imply; but that is no reason for burking the question, to the prejudice of the harmony of the Grand Alliance or of the domestic situation in Greece.

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DALMATIA.

Physical Features.

Dalmatia is a coast strip squeezed in between the Adriatic and the vast limestone barrier of the Dinaric Alps, which in some places, as, for instance, near Ragusa, approach within a few miles of the shore. It runs from a point due north of Zara to a few miles south of Cattaro.

Dalmatia includes three harbours of great importance, Zara, Spalato, and the Bocche di Cattaro—the last the finest natural harbour in Europe, perhaps in the world. In the Bocche di Cattaro the whole British Fleet could ride at anchor. In addition, there are the three minor harbours of Gravosa—the port of Ragusa—Sebenico, and Trau. The Curzolari Islands are of great strategic importance. As the islands are very numerous and the distances between them comparatively short, they form ideal lurking places for submarines. The readiness of communication between them is illustrated by a famous Dalmatian legend similar to that of Hero and Leander. In this case, however, it was the lady—Margherita Spolitano—who used to swim nightly from one island to another to visit her lover. Ultimately Margherita was discovered and drowned by her brothers. Submarines now follow in the track of Margherita.

A record of the naval importance of the Dalmatian islands is to be found on the island of Lissa, where a marble lion commemorates the victory of the Austrian fleet over the Italians on July 20, 1866. The victory was the more remarkable because the Austrian fleet had no proper ironclads. Lissa was also the scene of a victory by the British over the French in 1811, which the British characteristically refused to commemorate, and have now long forgotten. Curzola was the scene of many Venetian naval battles in the Middle Ages, and was occupied by the British, who built a fort there in 1813. There are many excellent harbours in these islands, but the chief mediæval harbour was on the mainland, at Stagno, the outlet to the vale of the Narenta, now a place of no importance. Stagno was the harbour of the mediæval Bosnian kingdom, and was connected viâ Sarajevo with mediæval Serbia. It was ceded by Stephen Dushan—the greatest of Serbian mediæval monarchs—to Ragusa, but was used by him as the base for an advance up the Narenta in 1351. The numberless islands and indented fiords on this coast contrast strikingly with the Italian shore opposite, where harbours are almost non-existent, and where ships consequently have no protection against the Scirocco and the much-dreaded Bora or "Wind of the Dead." This in winter sweeps down from the narrow mountain gorges of Dalmatia in sudden and almost irresistible gusts, dangerous alike to landsmen and mariner. The islands afford an ideal protection against this wind, but between Ragusa and the mouth of the Bocche and between the inner islands of Lissa and Lagosta very rough weather is often experienced. Like the Lake of Galilee, the Adriatic is tideless, but subject to terrible storms. In such cases the Curzolari Islands provide a haven of refuge.

Traffic between the Dalmatian towns is seaborne, and railway communication with Bosnia is scanty and difficult. The rivers are few, little more than mountain torrents in the upper part of their course, and are often nearly dry in summer. In many places the absence of lakes and even of springs makes the construction of artificial reservoirs essential. Between Zara and Spalato the land is especially stony and barren, and the bare white hills resemble a gigantic wall.

In classical times Dalmatia was obviously incapable of producing much. According to Strabo, it could barely support its own population, though he seems to have thought that this was due rather to the ignorance of the inhabitants and their lawless character than to the inclemency of Nature. As a matter of fact, the heavy rains have a tendency to wash away such soil as collects on the mountains, and it is only by a system of artificial terraces that the population has been enabled to falsify Strabo's description. From Spalato southwards and on the islands the country is much more fertile, and vines, olives, figs, pomegranates, and oleanders grow luxuriantly in a semi-tropical climate. The jackal, another semi-tropical product, is found both on the coast line and on the islands. The climate gives a special character to the wines of the country, for the sun and the limestone limit the moisture in the grape. As a result, wines which the traveller imagines to be as light as Chianti or Capri he finds to have the strength and weight of Madeira. This characteristic, like so many others, emphasises the difference between Dalmatia and the Italian coast opposite. The Adriatic abounds in fish of all kinds, many peculiar to Dalmatia, the strangest of which is the Dalmatian cat-fish, whose sandpaper-like skin is used for scrubbing tables and floors.

Roman Influence.

The characteristics of such a land are obvious from this description. All its lines of development stretch out towards the sea, over which is borne food, wealth, civilisation, and the arts. As Venice is the nearest good harbour in Italy, it was there that the chief centre of attraction was to be found. But Rome left its mark on Dalmatia long before Venice did. The influence of Greece was hardly felt, but as the Roman Empire expanded Dalmatia was brought within its orbit. Pompey showed his genius for organisation by clearing the Adriatic of those bands of Illyrian pirates who haunted the creeks and islands of Dalmatia. Augustus reaped where Pompey sowed, and Dalmatia became Roman under him.

It became even more famous under Diocletian, who reared a magnificent palace at Spalato, to which he retired after governing the world for twenty years. More than 3,000 people still live within the very walls of the Emperor's palace. Owing to the solidity of its masonry, the inhabitants have been unable to destroy it, and, though lath and plaster cottages still hide part of the Roman structure, much has recently been revealed by the demolition of modern buildings. The style is of great interest as a transition between the Roman and the Byzantine. It stands indeed as an imposing symbol of an Empire that was actually passing from the Western to the Eastern Rome. No one who has seen it can forget the grandeur of its appearance, more especially when one stands at the very centre of the palace, near the broken Sphinx, whose paws still hold the symbol of the Sun. Opposite this last great monument of pagan Rome now stands a Christian campanile, and a cathedral rises above the tomb of the great pagan Emperor.

Four miles from Spalato is Salona.

Qua maris Adriaci longas ferit unda Salonas
Et tepidum in molles zephyros excurrit Iader.

(Lucan.)

The Iader, a magnificent torrent, finds its source in a green valley two miles above the Roman ruins at Salona. The town itself was the naval harbour and capital of the Roman Dalmatia. It contains ruins of the fifth and sixth centuries. When the barbarous Avars finally destroyed the town, the inhabitants took refuge in the deserted palace of Diocletian, and thus founded the importance of Spalato. What was only the site of an unusually magnificent Roman villa ultimately became the most important town in Dalmatia. For the time being, however, it was the day of Venice, and Zara and Ragusa rose into importance as the Middle Ages dawned.

The Expansion of Venice.

From the twelfth to the fifteenth centuries Dalmatia was the battleground of Venice and the land Powers of Hungary and Serbia, which were expanding towards the Adriatic. The struggle could not ultimately be doubtful, for the road by the sea was easy, and the mountains proved more formidable to armies than the Scirocco and the Bora were to ships. Though for certain periods Hungarian or Serbian kings controlled part of the country, their hold on it was never as secure as that of Venice. Circumstances favoured the growth of city life in Dalmatia—strong, independent, self-centred and self-sufficient. Thus there arose a civilisation as varied and artistic in its own way as was the far richer and more developed city life of Northern Italy. The apologists of nationality in Venice or Belgrade have claimed that this civilisation was exclusively Latin or Slavonic. It is difficult to say that it was either. Byzantine influences were not absent, and in its strange mixture of things that were Roman and things that were Greek, of things that

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were Slav and things that were Italian, this civilisation proved itself eclectic and indefinable.

The sea power of Venice was not directed against Dalmatia until the naval republic decided on making the Adriatic a Venetian lake. With this end in view, she crept slowly along the Illyrian coast, seeking to use each Dalmatian harbour as a naval base and a stepping-stone to further conquests. Zara was the first victim, and the most permanent Latin conquest. It was acquired in 1202, and was the price demanded by Venice for conveying the Crusaders to Constantinople. Zara was more thoroughly Latinised than any other Dalmatian town. The cathedral is Romanesque, and the city abounds in Latin inscriptions and in Venetian art and architecture. Singularly enough, many of the buildings are erected from the fragments of Roman temples and tombs. Zara has since remained the stronghold of Italian influence in Dalmatia. It is now the only town on the whole coast governed by an exclusively Italian town council, and is the only place in Dalmatia where an Italian feels thoroughly at home.

Trau was the next victim. Remote as it is, and seldom visited, it represents perhaps the best example of the civilisation which Venice bestowed on its conquered peoples. The beauty of its art makes one inclined to forgive Venice for the cruelty with which it treated its subjects. Yet this lovely little town, still almost wholly mediæval in aspect, with its walls, its gates, and its towers, is not wholly Venetian in feeling. The Loggia, or open Court of Justice, with the winged lion of St. Mark in marble looking down on it, might have been taken straight from Venice itself, but the rich carving in the porch of the cathedral was due to the imagination of Slavonic sculptors working under Venetian influences, but not wholly in the Venetian spirit. Nevertheless the influence of Venice is clearly still supreme.

Ragusa.

Venetian art is less evident at Spalato, where the carvings on the great cathedral doorway were the work of Slavonic artists, and at Ragusa we are conscious of a further change. The art and architecture of the city, though Latinised, are clearly original; they are Ragusan, not Venetian. The reason is not far to seek. Ragusa occupied a unique position. Placed as it is upon the sea between two blood-red cliffs, surrounded as it still is by mediæval walls, and defended on the landward side by a gigantic limestone barrier, it was impregnable to attack either by land or sea. Serbian and Hungarian kings besieged the city many times in vain, and Venice found it wiser to make her an ally than an enemy. The result was that Ragusa took all from Venice which she needed and nothing which she disliked, so that in the literature, the art and architecture of Ragusa is found the supreme and harmonious blending of the Latin form and the Slavonic spirit. The Franciscan church of Ragusa, with its beautiful cloisters and corridor, is the work of Slav artists, while the Rector's Palace is a Renaissance building of a true Venetian type. Similarly her churches are filled with paintings acquired directly from Italy, and in the Renaissance period the nobles of Ragusa studied the humanities first in their own city and then in the Italian universities.

In the fifteenth century there arose and continued for three centuries a singular Ragusan school of literature. It was written in the Serbo- Croat tongue in Latin characters, and was based largely on Italian models. Every form of literature, from satire and novels to comedy and epic poetry, was represented, and there were also interesting developments in the study of science and history. Here again Latin and Slav imitation and originality strove with each other. It is an interesting fact that, though other towns in Dalmatia and in Jugoslav territory beyond had literary schools of a similar type, there seems to have been no conscious connection between them. Their spirit was wholly parochial or rather municipal. It was certainly not until the nineteenth, perhaps not until the twentieth, century that the modern ideal of nationality, overcoming natural barriers and local prejudices, dawned upon the cities of Dalmatia. Every prominent Dalmatian (if Zara be excepted) has expiated his patriotism in an Austrian barracks or gaol.

The modern aspect of the problem can be given in a few words. The population, according to the census of 1910, consists of over 600,000 Serbo-Croats, of about 18,000 Italians, and 3,000 Austro-Germans. The Italians are mostly at Zara, while the Germans are almost wholly officials. These figures tell their own tale, for, though Austrian statistics are not above suspicion, it is clear that the preponderance of Serbo-Croats is enormous. On ethnographic grounds Zara alone can claim to be Italian. No one would deny the civilising influences which Italy has brought to bear upon Dalmatia, influences which have the permanence of religion, art and trade, but during the present generation the position has been profoundly modified. Before, Italian influences were supreme and Italian business men controlled the city life of Dalmatia. During the last thirty years the Serbo-Croat element has gradually displaced the Italian on the governing bodies of the Dalmatian cities, and the Italian has become a shopkeeper, a sailor, or a citizen of Zara. The Italian contention now rests on memories rather than on realities. The modern feeling is best expressed by a fountain recently erected by the citizens of Spalato. In the midst of the water stands a marble nymph, pointing with outstretched arm towards Serbia.

GLADYS TEMPERLEY.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

Part II. of Professor Flinders Petrie's journal, "Ancient Egypt," of the present year, has just been issued, and contains several interesting articles, of which two are by Miss M. A. Murray. One of these reproduces two inscriptions in the collection of Sir Frederick Cook, at Richmond, one carved upon the false door of the tomb of a personage named Ni-Kau-Ptah, and the other a stele of a certain Tehuti-Hetep and his wife Kayay. This monument in the upper portion of the stele, both on obverse and reverse, depicts scenes of adoration; one of Isis-Hathor standing among the branches of a tree, the other Osiris enthroned. The three heliotypes provided give excellent views of the texts and tableaux, and "Ancient Egypt" renders valuable service in thus publishing accounts of relics buried in private collections.

The false door of Ni-Kau-Ptah's sepulchre is a very early piece of Egyptian sculpture, for its text proves that he flourished under the sixth dynasty. He was priest of the Pharaoh Sahu-Ra, and also of an obelisk called Ra-em-sep. The king was buried at Abusir, and this obelisk and three others are mentioned in tomb texts at Sakkara. Tehuti, owner of the other stele, lived under the XIX. dynasty, one of his offices being that of Rower to King Mereuptah. He may have been partly of foreign extraction, for he is stated to have been a chief of the Mashakabu.

His highest post appears to have been that of "Regulator of Foreign Embassies of the King." Professor Flinders Petrie points out that in the remarkable list of temple property published in the last volume of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri the Syrian deity, Atargatis Bethenunis, is mentioned. This reference is to Beit Hanaun, and the "House Beautiful," or "Gracious Habitation," is a title of Derceto. This Beit Hanaun—and we do not at present know of another—is between two and three miles from Gaza, and only a little further than three miles more to the north is a valley in which Diodonis says that there was a sacred fish-pond of Derceto.

Among the reports of discoveries is an excellent summary of the excavations carried on by Lieut. G. Pézard and his brother, who is an experienced explorer in Persia, at the mound of Sabzabad, near to the British Residency at Bushire. This site seems to have ceased to have been a town ever since about 3,000 years ago, because the earliest inscribed relics found near the surface are bricks bearing the names of kings of Anzan and Susa, such as the great Shilkhat-in-Shanshiriak of 1100 B.C. or thereabouts. The place then belonged to the Elamites, and their goddess, Kirinsha, is mentioned. At a lower level in the hill quantities of pottery with archaic decorations, and stone weapons and implements, have been found, but scarcely any traces of metal.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

I was, perhaps, not quite clear enough in my recent notes on the history of Constantinople, and the apathy of the Turks in general towards such matters as historical research and archæology. My references to the subject were of a purely general character, and I merely wished to point out that the Turks as a race could hardly claim to pose as patrons of anything that made for enlightenment. This characteristic of the majority has not, I am well aware, prevented archæological researches of the greatest value being conducted in the country, and in particular in Constantinople. In this connection all my readers, I am confident, are familiar with the excellent work accomplished by the late Professor Alexander van Millingen, the fruits of whose labours resulted in a number of valuable works, notably "Byzantine Constantinople" and "Constantinople." Had he lived, I believe it was Professor van Millingen's desire to establish a school at Constantinople on the lines of the British School at Athens. Perhaps that may even now come to pass when happier days dawn.

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It would seem that I am a novice in the matter of the interpretations placed upon prophecies in the Bible. Some weeks ago I referred to some remarks in a monthly magazine known as *The Young Man and Woman* on the subject of the twelfth chapter of Daniel, with special reference to current events in Palestine. Readers were assured that in that chapter the fall of Turkey "is definitely dated to the year and even day," and that the event was to take place in October, 1917. As I could not follow the line of reasoning on which the interpretation of the chapter and of the particular verse was based, I sought for further enlightenment. Some water has since flowed under London Bridge, and when I turn eagerly to pursue the subject in the next number of *The Young Man and Young Woman*, this is what I read:—

"Next October may pass with all the war drums beating. But wait; in that month the decisive turn will take place in events appertaining to Turkey, and the future historian will verify the Inspired word. How long it will take to wind things up I do not know, but although everything and everybody seem dead against my conclusion, I stand to October next as the decisive month of the war. In what form I know not, and do not wish to know. 'Secret things belong to God.' But that October, 1917, is pre-eminently marked in biblical prophetical datings—I am certain." And a little further on: "By the fall of Turkey in October next I do not mean that every Turk will be cleared out of Europe. I mean that by that date the Ottoman Empire will have ceased to have any influence, authority, or power in the councils of Europe."

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The only comment required is, perhaps, a note of exclamation. But I should like to point out to my confident friend that the Inspiration of the Bible is not impugned because his interpretation of certain passages in it is challenged or criticised. My own feeling is that any individual who sets himself up to declare of a prophecy that the sole reference is to this, that or the other event and that hereafter there can be nothing that fits the passage better, because his limited human intelligence imagines that he foresees a few weeks ahead something that will fit it, is suffering from a malady which is apt to become dangerous when he asks for a little latitude to be given to Holy Scripture in order that it may not be held to clash with his interpretation.

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That the prophecies have a distinct reference is not disputed; but I prefer to think that when they come to be fulfilled the fact will be obvious and will not depend on the guessing powers of a monthly magazine. Moreover, if the prophecy in question in the twelfth chapter of Daniel was meant to refer to the fall of Turkey in October, 1917, the fall of Turkey will take place "there and then," and we shall not have to follow the lead of the Editor of *The Young Man and Woman* and bring human sophistry to the aid of biblical inspiration by discovering that as a matter of fact in that month "the Ottoman Empire will have ceased to have any influence, authority, or power in the councils of Europe." Having knocked about the world a bit, I am inclined to think that these displays of religious gymnastics, unless handled very carefully and reverently to the exclusion of "I am certain" or "I know," do more harm than good to the cause of true Christianity, which my confident friend really wishes to promote.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Plight of Serbia.

The Serbian paper *La Serbie*, published in Geneva under the editorship of Dr. L. Markovitch, addresses the following appeals to the Allies on behalf of the starving population remaining in that country:—

The internal situation in Serbia grows worse with every day that passes. The population waits for help which is being but insufficiently and inadequately sent to it. In our last issue we pointed out the reasons which our Allies put forward, and which, in our opinion, do not justify failure to send due help to a nation which is starving. With such help the sufferings of our people could be alleviated, and at the same time the effect of the blockade would not be weakened. The Swiss Committee, whose task it is to help Serbians, affirms that all foodstuffs and help sent for Serbia will be distributed among the Serbian population, and that at the same time the old system of rationing will not be altered.

Numbers of persons in Serbia are deprived of food to such an extent that they can only eat bread once a week, and several kinds of food are quite unobtainable, as, for instance, milk, which, if sent, could save from death the children who are still living. Suits and boots are not to be found in Serbia, or are so dear that in present circumstances nobody is able to procure them. Assistance of this kind, if sent, will not diminish the effect of the blockade, because the recipients would certainly not pass any of it on to enemies who give nothing to them.

It is easy to see that military requirements and the most elementary laws of humanity are reconcilable, and with a little more goodwill it is quite possible to achieve and render a great service to the Serbian nation. It has been the duty of the Serbian representatives to explain to our English and American Allies that this is not a question of helping our enemies, but of saving the Serbian race from starvation. We again appeal to the generosity so often and abundantly shown by English, French, and Americans to save an unfortunate kinsfolk from a terrible situation. Just the same might be said of the Serbians who are prisoners or interned, whose lot is most tragic.

The second appeal describes the people of Serbia as threatened with a catastrophe more terrible than the great retreat, and continues:—"It is the question of money, which is being insufficiently and inadequately sent to them by the Government of Serbia and the Serbian Red Cross Society in Geneva. The special Commission charged with the despatch and distribution of the money actually possesses 25,000 postcards sent by that number of families to Geneva imploring help in the matter of food and clothing, and the Red Cross Society is unable to reply to these appeals owing to lack of money and other means of help. The Serbian Red Cross Society can obtain no help from the Serbian Government, which, as a matter of fact, is quite dependent in financial matters upon our Allies, and her resources are very limited.

The Serbian Government is sending only half pay to the officials left in Serbia. No help can be sent to families of the working class or to those who have lost their menfolk during the war by the Serbian Government on account of its limited resources. From January 1, 1916, until August 1, 1917—i.e., during a period of nineteen months—the Serbian Government sent them only 1,200,000 francs, amounting to 70,000 francs a month.

The amount of money required to save the remainder of the heroic Serbian population, which is bearing stoically the most terrible rule of subjugation, is really insignificant compared with the fidelity and the sacrifices endured in this war.

We are addressing this urgent appeal to our Allies, and beg them not to hesitate to save the Serbian population, which is on the verge of complete extinction.

Roumania's Part in the War.

General Basil Rudeano, Chief of the Roumanian Military Mission in Paris, has given to a representative of the *Morning Post* a detailed description of events on the Roumanian front during the twelve months that have elapsed since the Roumanians entered the war. The effects of the operations on the Roumanian front during August, 1917, are thus summed up:—

1. General Averesco's offensive, which was begun in Moldavia five days after the Austro-German counter-offensive in the Bukovina and Galicia, forced the enemy not only to refrain from drawing troops from the Roumanian front to aid in that counter-offensive, but compelled them to limit their action on the Russian front by transferring two or three divisions thence to the Roumanian front.

2. The Austrians and Germans, for the first time, suffered a check with their famous pincers offensive on the Eastern front.

3. The resistance of the Roumanian Army and its splendid *moral* had a most salutary effect on the Russian Army in Roumania by reviving in them their historic warlike qualities.

4. These events have shown the great importance of the Roumanian front from the point of view of the war as a whole.

5. These events have also shown beyond doubt that it is of the greatest importance to the Allies to strengthen the effort of the Roumanian Army by keeping it provided with an abundance of munitions and war material of the most efficient description.

Austria's Position.

In an article in the *Sheffield Daily Telegraph* Mr. Julian Grande comments on the fact that both Austria and Hungary to-day live in a state of perpetual crisis.

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After summarising the indications of this he continues:—

Now it may, I think, be assumed that Austria must collapse in the course of the winter unless Germany by her intrigues, or Austria herself by her insinuations, can procure peace. Among British people there is still, I fear, a tendency to show a certain leniency towards Austria. Of this tendency Austria is well aware, and she exploits it to the utmost, although knowing full well that she is wholly undeserving of it.

The Stockholm Conference is but one German machination among many; and those who in England are attempting to support it or desiring to attend it are not merely endangering the future peace of Europe, but traitors to the men who have shed their blood for the Allied cause. The so-called Socialists in Germany and the Clericals in Austria, who are now trying to bring about some sort of patched-up peace, are emissaries of the German and Austrian General Staffs, of men, that is, who are well aware to what condition Austria-Hungary is now really reduced.

Again, those who imagine that there is any real democratic current of opinion either in Austria or Germany show an astounding ignorance of both countries. Democracy will not prevail in either until both are thoroughly defeated, which will be possible if the war is vigorously prosecuted for another winter. The military party in both the Central Empires may then be expected to collapse like a house of cards. Preparations for the evil day may even now be noticed. For instance, Major-General Höfer, head of the Austrian Food Office, took occasion to deliver a speech in Salzburg so recently as August 16, a speech which is an instance of how Austria is now being taught to realise that she may be forced to capitulate.

MR. MONTAGU'S VISIT TO INDIA.

Reuter's Simla correspondent telegraphs that the following official statement has been issued there:—Mr. Montagu's absence from England cannot be prolonged. It will, therefore, be necessary for him to concentrate his attention on the matters referred to in his announcement in the House of Commons of August 20. All deputations will be received by Mr. Montagu and the Viceroy. No addresses on subjects other than those specified will be received. The selected members will be granted private interviews. All deputations will submit their requests through the local Governments. It is desired that the views of all sections of the community may be heard.

THE BULGARIAN OCCUPATION OF SERBIA

The forced recruiting of Serbians by the Bulgarians in occupied Serbia, as is known, provoked a sanguinary uprising on the part of the exasperated population. Repressive measures followed, the Bulgarians being furious at such a striking check on their attempts to represent these populations as purely Bulgarian, and as being delivered by Bulgaria from the Serbian yoke. The Bulgarian Government has nevertheless done everything possible in order to hide the sad events which have been going on in Serbia, and which have led to the destruction and annihilation of whole districts. The Bulgarian Minister at Berne, M. Passaroff, has declared in the *Journal* of M. Debrit:—"There has been no indigenous movement of the nature of those to which you refer. At the moment of his last unfortunate offensive General Sarrail ordered bands to go through mountain paths in the occupied territory. We pursued these bands and took precautionary measures in the places concerned. But that is all. No measures were taken affecting the population."

An authentic neutral witness has, however, just published, in regard to this rising, a document which places a somewhat different complexion on the matter. Dr. Ferriere, M. H. Micheli, and M. K. de Watteville, delegates of the National Committee of the Red Cross, in their report of their journey into Bulgaria and their visitation of some of the prisoners' camps in Bulgaria (documents published in August, 1917, by Messrs. Georg et Cie., Genève), observe, on page 11, as follows:—

> To refer again to the interned civilians, their number has been increased as a result of the insurrection, by no means unimportant, which occurred in the month of March, 1917, in those districts of Serbia occupied by the Bulgarian troops, especially in the environs of Nish, as well as by partial revolts which were still going on during our stay in Sofia in May last. As a consequence of these popular movements, and of the repressive measures which followed, a large number of villages were burnt to the ground and their wretched inhabitants—old men, women, and children—transported wholesale into Bulgaria. We have encountered in every camp that we have visited numerous interned Serbian civilians of both sexes and every age—from an infant of eight days to a poor old woman of ninety years, who was bringing to an end her sad existence in these tragic circumstances, having at least the consolation of dying amid some of her family.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The report that Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland has been chosen as Parliamentary Secretary of the new Department which is being created to co-ordinate and improve our commercial intelligence system is a welcome indication that the Government does not intend to allow the grass to grow under its feet, and that the establishment of the Department will be pushed on with all convenient speed. Obviously the sooner it is set up the better, as much time must naturally elapse before it can be really ready to fulfil its destined rôle in relation to post-war trade and industry. The choice of Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland to control the new Department is, incidentally, a satisfactory one. Sir Arthur has a considerable expérience of the affairs of the Dominions which should stand him in good stead in his new sphere of work, and he also has a very thorough knowledge of industrial conditions in general. From some points of view the appointment of a business man pure and simple would have been preferable, but failing that the choice is as good as could have been made.

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While on the subject of the new Department, I would like to emphasise once more what I consider to be one of the greatest shortcomings of our present system of commercial intelligence, and that is the meagre information contained in the Consular reports. Other countries are amply served in this way. Their Consuls devote no end of time and labour to the search for details likely to be of use to manufacturers, and their reports are often a model of concise and valuable news. The United States consular reports are as good an instance of this as can be found. They are a perfect mine of useful information, and they are, above all, invariably up to date. I wish I could say as much for many of the productions of this country's representatives. I have no doubt, however, that under the present conditions of the Consular Service the results are as good as can be expected. But that is not saying much, and the reorganisation of the Consular Services that is in view will fail in its purpose if it does not lead to this country being as well served in this respect as its rivals.

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The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin, which has just been issued, is, like its immediate predecessors, little more than a mere formal document. This is inevitable in view of the fact that no details of the working of the line are obtainable, the only certain thing being, indeed, that the Turkish Government is still in occupation of the undertaking. The statement of accounts, naturally very brief, shows an income of a few pounds from transfer fees, while the debit balance of £269,800 brought over from December 31, after allowing for interest and administrative charges, is increased to £358,100, as against £187,400 twelve months ago. It only remains to note that certificates of interest for the six months have been sent to the Debenture stockholders in accordance with the arrangement which was entered into in 1915.

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Attention was drawn in an article last week to the thorough character of the preparations the Germans are making with a view to the commercial struggle after the war. Fresh light is thrown on this question in a report in "German Foreign Trade Organisation," which has just been issued by the United States Department of Commerce. This report emphasises the fact that Germany is literally leaving nothing undone that may be calculated to help her to overcome the handicap under which she will resume trading relations with the greater part of the world. Here is the picture given by the report of the commercial education of the German business men of the future:—"In the German commercial high schools at the present time emphasis is more than ever being laid on the higher courses in preparation for foreign trade. At the commercial high school in Berlin, for the winter semester 1916-17, 115 separate courses of instruction were offered. At the same time, that is, in 1916, in the midst of the war, the University of Berlin was offering no less than 94 courses of study, especially referred to as 'preparing for commerce and industry.' These courses cover commercial and maritime law, economics, sociology, international law, government, history, geography and foreign languages."

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As to the principal trade objective of the Germans, the following extract from the report, which fully confirms what was said in the article referred to above, should be of great interest to my readers:—"German exporters are already planning campaigns for extending their business in the Near East. Some of the German writers on foreign trade urge the advisability of making the most of the German opportunities in that region, and are pointing out that, if sufficient energy were bestowed on the development of Mesopotamia, it would become a second Egypt. They are pointing out that the thing for Germany to do is to establish herself so firmly in the countries to the East that in any future contingency Germany would have overland communication with big and flourishing markets and sources of supply for raw materials all the way east to the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea. The German Levant banks are already there. Germany has already taken a hand in the construction of railroads in the Near East, and if the Germans can further irrigation and the growth of industries in that section Germany's future in the world trade will be more secure. The Near East is apparently one of the great fields where German competition will be keenest."

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The report of the Suez Canal directors, which is given elsewhere in this issue, bears witness to the influence of the war by the picture it gives of reduced traffic and receipts. Throughout the war there has been a more or less gradual decrease in the use of the Canal, and this process can hardly be expected to undergo any very great change until the end of the struggle. Included in the report are a number of statistical tables of the Canal traffic from 1870 to 1916, which emphasise far more clearly than words the break in the continuity of progress due to the war. 1912 and 1913 were the most successful years, and the present conditions are best indicated by the fact that the figures for 1916 are between those for 1903 and 1904.

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Mr. T. H. Mawson, of the School of Civic Design, Liverpool University, has a great opportunity before him in the task he has undertaken of replanning and rebuilding Salonika. After the war the seaborne trade of the Balkans will increase out of all proportion to what it was before, and Salonika's position is such that much of the trade is bound to pass through that port. But Salonika will have to compete for the trade with rival ports on the Adriatic as well as in the Ægean, and the future of the port will largely depend on the measures that are now taken to afford adequate facilities in the shape of warehouses, harbour accommodation and the like. What is obviously required is a programme of replanning which will take future developments into full consideration.

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A circular has just been issued by the leading Eastern banks to their customers in Ceylon directing attention to the urgent need for economising as much as possible owing to the difficulty in financing exports, and it is pointed out that the restricted means by which funds placed in London can be brought back again have rendered the negotiation of sterling bills more and more difficult. The provision of funds required for estate upkeep has, it is stated, been one of the heaviest burdens laid upon the banks, and they are of the opinion that the time has come for the whole question of production and estate expenditure to receive careful attention. In their view the question of the curtailment of crop outputs is a matter of great urgency, since, while present conditions continue, it will be impossible for them to negotiate estate finance bills on the scale on which they have hitherto been drawn. Thus the companies are faced with a most difficult situation which would appear to admit of but one solution. The question is one of great importance, since the conditions referred to are bound to affect India just as much as Ceylon.

COMMENTATOR.

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THE SUDAN AND ITS ECONOMIC ADVANCE.

14.—The Upper Nile Province.

By PERCY F. MARTIN, F.R.G.S.

By the five strangely shaped mountain peaks of granite, which rise up abruptly from the plain you can easily recognize where the Upper Nile—once known as the Kodok Province—begins, and where its boundaries adjoin those of the White Nile. To use the word "mountain" is, perhaps, to employ an incorrect term, since no hill is of a greater altitude than 600 feet; but in a country so uniformly flat as the Sudan any small elevation appears to the eye of exaggerated importance. The superficial area of the province is small, being no more than 42,340 square miles, but its population is one of the largest of the different political divisions, being estimated at over 303,470, a total exceeded by two other provinces only, those of Bahr-el-Ghazal and Kordofan, with populations of 810,000 and 336,589 respectively. Consisting formerly of but five districts, or *mamurias*, the province has now eight, including the trading station of Gambeila Enclave, which, strictly speaking, is within the boundaries of Abyssinia and only leased by the Government of that Empire to the Government of the Sudan. At one time the Upper Nile Province formed one of the largest in the Sudan, but in January of 1906 the boundaries were altered, so that the portion which lies south of north latitude 7° 30′ was formed into what is now known as the Mongalla Province.

Systematic Development Needed.

The natural resources of the Upper Nile Province are considerable, and with systematic development they could unquestionably be made to yield far more liberally to the general revenue than they do. The prosperity of the people is marked, and if they could but be induced to settle down permanently to the pursuit of peaceful occupations an entirely different result might be achieved. Agriculture forms the principal occupation of the people. Most of the people's wealth is to be found in their cattle and sheep, of which immense herds may be met with in the interior of the country. Between the natives and the Arabs a very active trade is carried on; the former have learned the value of money, and this has had an unlooked-for advantage to the Government, since in many cases it can now collect its taxes and duties in cash instead of having to accept them in kind. In the instance of the Nuers, who form so considerable a proportion of the population, and who inhabit its vast tracts of grassland, the native wealth consists entirely in the possession of cattle, only sufficient grain for home consumption being cultivated. The Shilluks, however, are different. This tribe has a unique code of laws and dwells under consistently administered tribal discipline, and is, in fact, industrious and enterprising.

The eight *mamurias* of the province are:—Abwong, Gambeila, Kodok, Malakal, Melut, Nasser, Renk, and Tonga. The first-named place is inhabited by the Dinkas, and is located upon one of the main roads leading across country to a small village called Gore. Gambeila, already referred to, is a valuable trading post. Nasser, where a Government post is also situated, occupies one of the most attractive positions, from a scenic point of view, upon the left bank of the Sobat river. The whole district is well wooded, and contains several stretches of country strongly suggestive of well-kept English parklands. This is the locality occupied by the Nuer tribes, whose villages are numerous.

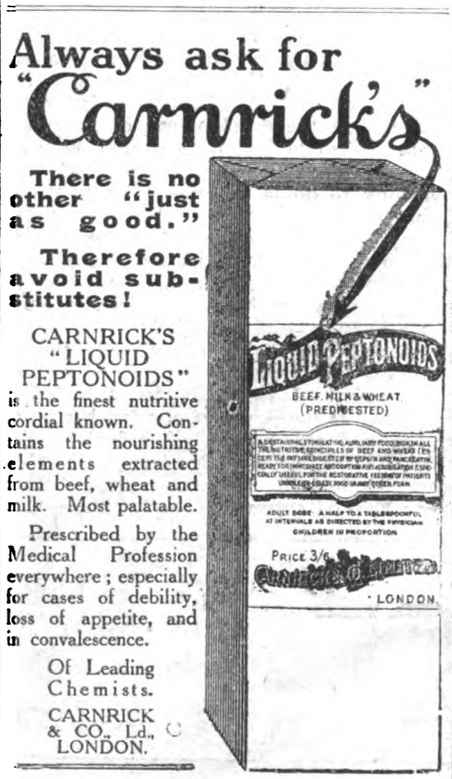
Malakal, the seat of the Provincial Government, has risen from an obscure village to a settlement of some importance, the site upon which it stands being considered more healthy than Kodok for Europeans. Kodok is a singularly prosaic and uninteresting place. Standing on the left bank of the river, the village is approached by a narrow backwater; the whole of the country around is extremely flat and covered with coarse grass, with here and there clusters of large umbrageous trees. The general aspect is monotonous, but it is improving somewhat as the place becomes more settled and better cared for. Renk, situated some 298 miles from Omdurman, is the headquarters of the district of the same name. It is a very trying place for any European to live in, the forests harbouring myriads of ferocious mosquitoes, whose attacks after sunset are beyond endurance.

The Outlook for the Future.

It is reasonable to take a hopeful view of the economic prospects of the Upper Nile Province. The key to the situation is the improved condition of the native population. It is said that every householder in the towns possesses at least one donkey, besides sheep and goats, while the generally high price of *dura* induces a large number of the natives to cultivate it assiduously. The growing of sesame is also on the increase, while greatly increased interest is taken in the picking of the *hashab* gum, especially by the Baggara Arabs of the north. The prospects of this industry are immense, and now that the newly-opened road from Um Barbeet to El Egeis is available, a considerable impetus has been given to its pursuit. It is believed that a good opening for the cultivation of cotton exists in this province, but the question of creating a ready market has still to be settled. The amount of labour available has also to be considered, as at present the demand is largely in excess of the supply. The ivory trade is, of course, languishing at the present time, but with the renewed demand from Europe and America after the war, this branch of the province's industries may be relied upon to revive.

The Government will, however, have to keep a careful eye upon the native elephant-hunters, whose methods threaten to exterminate the many herds of pachyderms that haunt the forests and plains of the Upper Nile province. Unauthorised chase of the elephant has gone on for so long that a marked decrease in the herds was noticed as long ago as 1913; since then the war in Europe has prevented the customary number of big-game hunters from taking their usual toll, but, in the absence of their exercising a beneficial supervision, the natives have been more reckless than ever in killing and burning the females and calves among the herds for the purpose of getting a few of the tuskers.

A commission has been appointed in Cyprus to enquire into and report on the extent, causes and effects of indebtedness in the Island, the realisation and distribution of the estates of debtors and insolvent persons, and whether any, and if so what, remedial measures are required for the protection of creditors and debtors and for the relief of the poorer classes of the community.



SUEZ CANAL AND THE WAR

A White Paper was issued on Monday containing the report of the directors of the Suez Canal for the past three years, together with some statistics for the first half of the present year. The most noticeable feature of the report is the decrease in traffic and receipts due to the war. We give below some extracts from the report.

The net tonnage for 1916 shows a decrease of 2,940,808 tons as compared with that of 1915, and a decrease of 7,084,148 tons as compared with that of 1914. The reduction of the transit dues to 6.25 frs. per ton from January 1, 1913, together with the reduction of tonnage, had the effect of reducing the gross receipts, which amounted in 1916 to 80,862,403 frs., as compared with 93,522,616 frs in 1915 and 122,248,853 frs. in 1914. In addition to the increase of 50 centimes per ton in transit dues, which came into effect on October 5, 1916, by a recent decision of the Council a further increase of 75 centimes per ton—making 8.50 frs. in all—to come into force on July 1, 1917, was made.

The number of vessels which passed through the Canal was 4,802 in 1914, 3,708 in 1915, and 31,110 in 1916, of which 3,078 in 1914, 2,736 in 1915, and 2,388 in 1916 carried the British flag. There was a decrease of 1,867,848 tons last year as compared with 1915 in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 12,910,278 tons in 1914, 11,656,038 tons in 1915, and 9,788,190 tons in 1916. The tonnage of German vessels decreased from 3,352,287 tons in 1913 to 2,118,946 tons in 1914, and disappeared entirely in 1915 and 1916.

The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage in 1916 was 76.8 and 79.4 respectively, as compared with 73.8 and 76.3 in 1915, and 64.1 and 66.5 in 1914. Of 1,885 merchant vessels and vessels in ballast of a net tonnage of 7,051,134 tons passing through the Canal in 1916, 1,509 ships of a net tonnage of 5,762,788 tons were British, being 80.5 per cent. of the number and 81.72 per cent. of the tonnage; Holland, Japan, France, Russia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, America, Belgium, Spain, Roumania and Greece combined furnishing a total of 19.5 per cent. of the vessels and 18.28 per cent. of the tonnage of the carrying trade to the East through the Suez Canal.

In the ten years 1891-1900, the annual net tonnage ranged from 8,698,777 tons to 9,738,152 tons, and the transit receipts from 83,422,101 frs. to 90,623,608 frs. The average of the net tonnage was 8,588,947 tons, and of the transit receipts 80,006,013 frs.; while in 1916 the net tonnage amounted to 12,325,347 tons, and the transit receipts to 80,862,403 frs. The mean net tonnage per vessel, which in 1881 was only 1,517 tons, rose from 2,067 tons in 1891 to 2,926 tons in 1901, to 3,688 tons in 1911, and to 3,963 tons in 1916. Fifty steamers, exceeding 150 metres (492 feet) in length or more than 18 metres (59 feet) in breadth, with a draught of over 8 metres (26 feet 3 inches), passed through the Canal in 1916.

The number of troops carried through the Canal last year was 235,441, as against 119,812 in 1915 and 228,720 in 1914, being an increase of 115,629 over 1915. There was an increase of 66,421 French, 37,892 British, 8,647 Russian, 3,014 Italian, and 18 Spanish, against a decrease of 302 Dutch and 61 Belgian troops, compared with 1915. The number of civilians was 45,743 in 1916, against 86,653 in the preceding year, being a decrease of 40,910, while the number of special passengers was 1,846 in 1916, compared with 4,065 in 1915, or a decrease of 2,219.

The vessels of six lines (three British, two Dutch, and one Japanese) have ceased to use the Canal at the present time. The total traffic for the half-year ended June, 30, 1917, was 4,257,000 tons, as against 10,344,676 tons for the corresponding period of 1914. The net diminution in tonnage for the first half of 1917, as compared with the corresponding half-year of 1916, amounted to 2,000,924 tons. the reduction in commercial shipping being 2,121,801 tons, against an increase of 120,877 tons in ships used by the Italian, Greek, and Japanese Governments for military purposes.

The offices of the European Oilfields Corporation, Limited, have been removed to Worcester House, Wallbrook, E.C.

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SEWING MACHINES FOR ADEN.

A Growing Demand.

For the following particulars of the trade in sewing machines with Aden we are indebted to a report of the United States Consul at Aden (Mr. Addison E. Southard) :—

The imports of sewing machines into Aden during the period since the beginning of the war have been greater than the total imports for the ten preceding years. The greatest number of machines imported during any one year from 1904 to 1913 was 269. The average annual imports during that ten-year period was 150 machines, compared with an annual average of 625 machines since the beginning of the war. In 1914, 269 sewing machines were imported, valued at $4,131 of which 23, valued at $496, came direct from the United States. This is the first time direct imports of American machines are credited in the Port Trust returns. In 1915 there were 580 machines imported, valued at $7,820, of which 48, worth $588, were imported direct from the United States. In 1916 there were 419 machines imported, valued at $4,899, but none came from the United States direct. Most of the imports for these three years were, however, American machines. They came to Aden from the English, Egyptian, and Indian agencies, and in the Aden import returns were credited to those countries.

The present year will probably show the largest sales since sewing machines were first sold in this market. There recently arrived a shipment of 600 machines of American make. The local agent estimates that of these, 100 machines will be sold in Aden, 200 in Abyssinia, 100 in Red Sea ports, and 200 in the Persian Gulf district. Aden is the distributing point for the sewing machine trade in the places named and in the Somaliland Protectorates. . . A good share of the increase may be attributed to the growing use of sewing machines among the natives, their greater purchasing power, owing to high prices obtained for many of their products, such as hides, skins, and gums, and to the effectiveness of more active selling methods on the part of local agents.

German Hold on the Market.

Before the war the trade of this district was largely supplied with cheap German-made machines, which were sold to dealers on favourable credit terms, and an active interest was also shown in pushing the sales. The next best sellers were the American made. They were, however, more expensive than the German makes and could not be secured by dealers upon the favourable credit terms offered by German exporters. Three well-known makes of German machines were sold in this market. Prices for hand machines ranged from $10 to $16 and foot-power machines sold from $25 to $30. Variations in these prices depended upon whether the machines had covers, attachments for special work, etc. Any considerably higher-priced machines would be beyond the average purchasing power of the natives, as this is not a market for expensive articles of any class. There are still a few German machines on the market, but the stocks are low.

Since the stoppage of supplies from Germany American machines have taken the lead. One American machine that was introduced in recent years sold at the popular price of 35 rupees ($11.35). It met with great favour until, according to the local dealer, high freight charges from America to Aden forced him to increase the price to 50 rupees ($16.22). There is, however, an opportunity for a greater increase in the sales of sewing machines, and the market is far from being fully developed. An American machine strongly established in this market is carried by the local agent in about ten different styles at prices ranging from 45 rupees ($14.60) to 300 rupees ($97.32). The demand, however, is principally for the lower-priced machines. A discount of 10 per cent. is given on cash purchases. Many machines are sold on the instalment plan.

Local Requirements.

There is a growing preference for foot-power over hand-power machines. Electrically operated machines could not be sold, as there is no general service electric plant in Aden. All machines for this market should be as nearly dust or sand proof as possible. Further, the climate of Aden quickly affects all metal parts susceptible to rust, unless protected with particular care. Much of the success of the American machines already sold here is due to the development of the market through a system of agencies which have long been established in Egypt and India. Being on the ground and familiar with local conditions they are much more successful in approaching the trade and placing their machines. Concerns attempting to work the market by means of correspondence are not apt to be so successful, unless they are fortunate enough to interest an active importer or dealer in taking up the introduction and sale of their machines. Persons interested in the market should send catalogues and price sheets to the local dealers. If possible, prices should be in English or Indian currency and quoted c.i.f. Aden. If f.o.b. quotations are given it is necessary to furnish an estimate of the freight and insurance charges from the port of shipment to Aden. There is no duty on sewing machines imported into Aden.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has received the following letter from the Government of Bengal, Commerce Department, dated Calcutta, July 31 :—I am directed to intimate, for the information of your Chamber, that the Secretary of State for India has agreed to the discharge of liabilities in Baghdad by approved Indian firms, provided the creditors in Baghdad are approved by the Government of India. I am also to say that there is no objection to Indian creditors accepting payments from Baghdad.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Slightly Increased Activity.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The tone of the market continues uncertain, but in certain quarters rather more business has been under consideration during the week. Definite information with regard to the decision of the Egyptian Government to limit the area under cotton for next season would be welcome, but it is understood the acreage will be fixed at 1,200,000 feddans. Lower prices in Bolton yarns cannot be expected, yet users hesitate to place orders freely. A little more business has been done, however, during the last few days. In cloth for Egypt a fair amount of inquiry has come through, but merchants are afraid of having goods on their hands which cannot be shipped, and a good deal of caution is now being exhibited in placing orders with manufacturers. According to telegrams, however, the situation in Cairo remains healthy. Although sized goods are still neglected for India a rather increased demand has come through in finishing and bleaching cloth for Calcutta and Bombay. Some exporters who have been nursing orders have been more disposed to operate. There has not been much activity for China. Buyers for several minor outlets have been by no means idle, and the turnover in piece goods may be described as rather larger than recently. Some manufacturers have derived support from war contracts, there being buying for our own Government and also for France. American yarns have been in rather increased request, and spinners tend to improve their position, especially producers of the superior marks. Only a miscellaneous trade has been done in export numbers.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

Since the outbreak of the war, applications have been received at the Department of Commercial Intelligence from a large number of firms in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad, who wish to get into communication with British manufacturers or producers of various classes of goods which have previously been obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary.

Applications have been recorded (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (amongst other) articles. British manufacturers or producers of these articles now in a position to supply are invited to make application for the names of the enquirers :—Celluloid marking rings for poultry, chromic acid, curling irons, cheap (for Italy); glove-makers' waste, leather waste, such as roans, bucks chamois, suede etc.; machinery, etc: flexible shaft-driven portable tools, machinery for making toy marbles, small gear-cutting machines for cutting click gears; skins, basils, and kid; sodium sulphide, waste from women's and children's boot and shoe uppers, wood preservative, not containing coal tar oils, wooden shovels for margarine factories (for France).

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Cement for Russian Railways.

We had occasion in previous engineering notes to allude to the schemes for the construction of new railways in Russia after the war, and to the interest with which such schemes are followed by enterprising American groups. The committee which deals with the construction states in a recent report that the necessary new minimum mileage per annum cannot be estimated at less than 5,000 miles, and that to meet the requirements the Russian cement industry must be better developed. The import of cement into Russia before the war was considerable, as the home production was extremely small for many years. In 1912, for instance, it was only 10½ million barrels (of 10 poods); in 1913, 13½ million barrels; in 1914, 21 million barrels; and in 1915, 29½ million barrels. The war has proved a powerful stimulus in the development of the cement industry, seeing that in 1912 there were only thirty-four cement factories in existence, whilst on January 1, 1916, the number had risen to sixty-nine. The committee adds that "if a cement famine is to be averted, the present cement industry must be increased by at least 15 per cent." The question is worthy of attention, for it is well known that the whole of Asia Minor, Persia, and Southern Russia, besides the Balkan States, get very large supplies of cement annually from England and France, but especially from England, and the establishment of more cement factories in Southern Russia, as has apparently been recommended, will seriously affect the export of cement from England to those countries. The convenience and cheap rates of transport from Black Sea ports by sailing ships to any port in the Ægean Sea and Eastern Mediterranean will enable Russian cement to compete very effectively with any other European cement.

The Subsoil Plough.

In view of an unusual demand in the East for subsoil ploughs, it is evident that farmers have begun to understand the benefits derived from their use. Grain requires several tons of water to the acre, and in dry seasons, or in dry farming sections, the utmost care should be taken to conserve the moisture. When a subsoil plough has been used the water is retained in the little trenches made in the subsoil, and as the upper soil begins to dry the moisture spreads outward and upward, thus keeping the upper soil from baking or forming into what is known as hardpan. Another benefit obtained from the use of the subsoil plough is the loosening of the subsoil, so that the roots of growing plants can penetrate more deeply into the soil in search of the elements needed for their growth. British manufacturers would do well to introduce their subsoil ploughs to the East, where they, like other implements, can no longer be obtained *as usual* from Germany and Hungary.

Cork-faced Clutches.

The fitting of cork facings to cone clutches has, apparently, proved successful. An increased angle of about 16 degrees was necessary, compared with leather, and with this a very easy engagement was obtained as well as a positive disengagement. Contrary to expectations, the cork was found to be less susceptible to charring than leather under the effect of heavy duty and slippage. The results are sufficiently promising to suggest an important future for cork-faced cone clutches. American car makers are already experimenting with this invention.

The "Caterpillar" Tractor.

At the commencement of the war we had occasion to allude to the special features of the "caterpillar" tractor as an agricultural machine and later to note its remarkable adaptability for transport service on the dunes or on clay and soft soil, whether wet or dry. Its newer features and achievements on the battlefield consequent on its metamorphosis from "caterpillar" to a formidable and terrifying "tank" are not to be dealt with in these notes; but as in its original form, as a peaceful agricultural machine, it is still to the fore, and its services are fully appreciated by farmers at the present time, when scarcity of labour and war conditions are so embarrassing to them, a few notes concerning the efficiency of the "caterpillar" tractor for quick and economical cultivation, as proved in recent tests, should interest many farmers and landowners in the East.

The Tractor at Work.

The "caterpillar" at work is very interesting. The efficiency and speed with which it hauls the ploughs, and the results, from all points of view, are thought highly satisfactory by the farmers and experts, whilst its handling can be entrusted to an ordinary mechanic. One of the improved types of "caterpillars" was recently tested at work on stubble in association with, it is said, the largest plough procurable in this country—a six-furrow plough—and, according to reliable information, a very large space of land was ploughed on a consumption of fuel varying from 2½ to 3½ gallons of paraffin per acre, whilst eight and a-half acres were ploughed in six hours by a man who had never driven a tractor or even ploughed before he tried the "caterpillar." The same tractor has been working a 12-tine cultivator weighing 2½ tons, which, the owner declared, his steam tackle was not capable of efficiently hauling. These accomplishments are not surprising to those who are acquainted with the hauling and gripping power of the "caterpillar." The large sizes of "caterpillars" are specially suitable for large farms or for contract ploughing, whilst the small sizes can be employed in small holdings, etc.

Russian Demand for Locomotives.

Locomotive engine builders in the United Kingdom are, it is said, extremely busy, and so are those in America; but why the latter continue to look for, and are able to book new orders, while the former are, apparently, content with what they have in hand, and show no wish for more at present, is difficult to understand. According to the statement of a railway expert from Southern Russia, the demand for railway freight cars and locomotives is very large there, and it would seem impossible to meet it at the present time. The home car construction before the war amounted only to 1,450 locomotives and 32,000 cars for the whole Russian railway system. The Government has now decided to put aside annually a sum of 50,000,000 roubles, to be lent to new factories erected for the manufacture of cars and locomotives. In the meantime it is interesting to hear that American authorities estimate that recent foreign and domestic locomotive contracts accepted in that country are of the aggregate value of no less than £6,400,000. The number of engines ordered is 800, of which between 500 and 600 are for foreign buyers. Russia and France are the largest customers, but the orders also include engines for India, East Africa, Java, and the Belgian Congo.

Agricultural Machinery for Russia

Recent private and official reports state that the Russian agricultural districts on the Black Sea are in great want of agricultural machinery and implements. It is estimated that since the commencement of the war quite 50 per cent. of the machinery in the hands of the farmers in the districts of Rostov and Berdiansk has worn out and become useless. This applies specially to ploughs, harvesters, and threshers, and the cause is partly due to the extra work to which they have been put, and partly to their use by inexperienced people. A number of ploughs have been bought in Sweden by the Russian Ministry of Agriculture, and mowing, reaping, and binding machines have been ordered from the United States, Canada, and Sweden. It has previously been mentioned in these columns that during 1916, and even recently, American agents have been booking orders in these districts for machinery previously supplied by German and Austrian firms. They found the field clear of any other competitors, and, according to recent reports, have established themselves there. These districts were supplied about twenty years ago chiefly from the United Kingdom, and it will be the fault of British manufacturers if the present opportunity of regaining the market is lost.

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GREEK CURRANTS.

Heavy Crop Forecasted.

Reports from the field indicate, says the United States Consul at Patras (Mr. A. B. Cooke) in a recent report that the Greek currant crop is in a very satisfactory condition. Despite a shortage of sulphur and sulphate of copper with which to fight the two chief foes of the currant vine, peronospotos and oidium, the vineyards do not seem to have suffered greatly up to date. Conservative estimates put the total prospective crop of dried currants at 160,000 tons. It is said that there are now on hand old stocks from 1916 amounting to some 50,000 tons. Most of these old stocks are too badly deteriorated for consumption as fruit, and will be used for the production of alcohol. About 20,000 tons of the old stocks are available for export purposes. This gives a total of 180,000 tons. As it is anticipated the legal "retention" will be in kind this season and not in cash, this would leave available for actual export some 135,000 tons of dried fruit.

Notwithstanding the anticipated heavy crop and the prospective shortage in tonnage to move the fruit to the world markets, Patras quotations remain firm. This steadiness is explained by local interests as due to the fact that there is a sharp demand for currants for wine-making purposes and also for the distillation of alcohol, both of which products have risen in price here more than 100 per cent. since December 1, 1916. Currants have also been consumed by the domestic market as food during the present year in quantities never heard of before and at high prices. Ordinary currants, which in normal times have retailed at 4 or 5 cents a pound, have sold during the past winter in the local markets as high as 15 cents a pound. Patras dealers maintain that these demands will continue into the new season, and that the shortage in exports will be balanced by the consumption in these new fields.

FRANCO-MOORISH FAIR AT RABAT.

A Franco-Moorish fair was to be opened at Rabat on September 15 and was expected to continue until the end of the month. The fair, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, is intended to be primarily a samples fair. Its programme includes: (1) Stalls for the sale of the products of local industries; (2) stalls for the sale of imported French products (perfumery, ironmongery, textiles, groceries, silks, passementerie, glassware, china, toys, etc.), all of which, it is remarked, should be cheap; (3) a display of articles and products of interest to agriculture; (4) the distribution of prizes for agriculture; and (5) numerous native attractions. The agricultural section will include a display of agricultural machinery and implements, and motor ploughing, land clearing, etc., competitions will take place. The fair buildings and grounds will cover about thirty acres.

FOLLOW-UP LETTERS.

An interesting point is raised by Mr. Alexander W. Weddell, United States Consul General at Athens, in a recent report in which he says:—Since the beginning of the European war many American firms have adopted the plan of following up original letters with one or more carbon copies, posted at dates subsequent to the mailing of the originals. It has frequently happened, however, that carbon copies of letters only have reached this office, with nothing to indicate the address of the writers. In such cases, where the originals were never received or where it was not possible to locate the senders through trade directories, no action on the part of the addressee has been possible. It is suggested that this difficulty could be obviated if the names and addresses of the firms were printed or stamped on the follow-up letters.

The Madras Government have under contemplation the establishment of a second agricultural college in the Northern Circars and the opening of a second engineering college in the same area.

PETROLEUM DEPOSITS IN MOROCCO.

A mission, directed by M. Gentil, has just completed its investigations as to petroleum deposits in the territory of the French protectorate of Morocco. M. Gentil, who is a member of the Faculté des Sciences, Paris (says a French contemporary), has been assisted in his researches by a number of reputed specialists.

The cost of the mission has been borne by a company, and the exploration has led to the delimitation of the zone in which the borings are to be undertaken. This drilling, moreover, will establish the truth as to whether the existing deposits can be exploited from an industrial point of view. The results of the inquiry made by the Gentil Mission are to be communicated as soon as possible to the Administration of the Protectorate, as well as to all the interests.

SOLE LEATHER CONTROLLED.

The Army Council gives notice that the control hitherto exercised by the War Department over leather is now extended so as to include all descriptions and classes of sole leather, including offals. The Army Council will proceed to arrange for the release of such quantities of sole leather as are not required for military purposes. The effect of this further control now established will be substantially to reduce the price of all that sole leather which has hitherto been free from any restriction under the Defence of the Realm Regulations. By this action prices of the various classes of leather will be brought approximately to their proper comparative values.

ADEN'S TRADE IN PEARL SHELLS.

Growing American Demand.

There has always been at least a limited American demand for Red Sea mother-of-pearl shells, says the United States Consul at Aden (Mr. Addison E. Southard) in a recent report, and inconsiderable shipments from Aden to the United States have been made from time to time. During the second quarter of the current year, however, the declared exports of mother-of-pearl shells from Aden to the United States have been greater in quantity and value than the total annual exports of the shells for any one of the past ten years. During this quarter 129,920 lbs., valued at $26,341, were shipped to the United States.

There are several pearl fisheries in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, and before the war the pearl-fishing industry and the trade in mother-of-pearl shells were important. For the three years preceding the war the annual exports of pearl shells from Aden averaged 539,280 lbs., valued at $113,233, the bulk of the exports going to the United Kingdom. Austria took the next largest amount. The pearl fisheries at present are not being worked to any considerable extent. The rest that the fishing-beds will have had will undoubtedly result in greater prosperity for the industry when the return of peace conditions permits it to be fully resumed.

The offices of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, until further notice, will be at 25, Buckingham Palace Road, Westminster, S.W.1.

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In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 last states that the Ottoman Government still remains in possession of the railway and its revenues. The accounts thus presented are incorporated with those from Smyrna to August 31, 1914, since which date no further returns have been received, and they are subject to adjustment as and when later returns are received. Certificates for the debenture interest for the half-year, amounting to £74,175, have been posted to the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. debenture stockholders. hTe revenue account shows that the debit balance of £269,766 brought over from December 31, after allowing for interest and administrative charges, is increased to £358,149. The meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., September 25, at noon.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C., announce the numbers of Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway Company 4½ per cent. bonds drawn for repayment at par on October 15.

On the 30th instant a dividend at the rate of 5½ per cent. per annum on the Cumulative Preference shares of the Khedivial Mail Steamship company, less income-tax at the rate of 5s. in the £, for the six months to June 30, 1917, will be paid at the bank of Glyn Mills Currie and Co. The Preference transfer books will be closed from the 25th to the 30th instant, inclusive, for the preparation of dividend warants.

The directors of the Mercantile Bank of India announce an interim dividend at 6 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 last.

The directors of the Eastern Telegraph Company announce the payment on the 15th proximo of the second quarterly interim dividend of 1½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of income-tax, in respect of profits for the year ending December 31, 1917.

The directors of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company have declared a second quarterly interim dividend of 3s. per share, free of income-tax, in respect of profits for the year ending December 31 next, payable on the 15th proximo.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, week, 22 tons (previous week, 21 tons). Hurgada, 1,138 tons, against 4,379 tons.

Baku Russian.—Week ended September 8, 77,600 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Production for week ending September 9, 51,750 poods, or 835 tons.

European Oilfields.—Production for week ending September 9, 75,500 poods.

Maikop Orient.—Plot 435a, Well 3.—production for week ending September 1, 10,500 poods; production for week ending September 8, 9,000 poods.

Maikop Pipeline and Transport.—Received for pumping week ended September 8, 52,370 poods (845 tons).

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended September 8, 39,600 poods.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended September 16 :—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) :—

Arrivals	2,695
Sailings	2,737

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :—

1,600 tons gross or over	8
Under 1,600 tons gross	*20

British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines 6

British fishing vessel sunk 1

* Including nine sunk during week ended September 9.

ON 'CHANGE.

From Our Own Correspondent.

Throgmorton Avenue,
London, Thursday.

We have had again a very uninteresting week, and business has been reduced to a minimum. Changes in prices have been quite unimportant, and the general tone has been a fairly steady one. The error in Reuter's cable, to which we referred in our last week's report, has now been rectified and it turns out that the area which it is proposed to put under cotton next spring is 1,355,000 feddans.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds are a trifle quieter at 83½. Bank shares have been a steadier market. Some business has been done in Nationals at 16, but the price remains unaltered at 15⅞, with a good undertone. Agriculturals are 1 32 firmer at 5 31-32, some 500 shares which had been hanging over the market having now been placed.

In Anglo-Egyptians a few hundred shares have been done round 13¼. Land Banks are 1-16 quieter at 6 1-16. A few Delta Lights have been done at 6, and, in land shares, Delta Lands, after a fair amount of business between 13s. and 13s. 6d., finished 3d. down at 13s.

In New Egyptians there has also been a certain number of transactions between 13s. and 13s. 6d. Union Foncières are 2s. lower at 37s., and United Egyptian Lands are 3d. down at 1s.

In miscellaneous shares there have been a few transactions in Markets and Salts at generally unchanged prices, and there has been some support for Khedivial Mail round 31s.

In Greek stocks a small transaction was effected in 1884's round 59½, and Monopolies were done as low as 52½—half a point down. Otherwise there has been no change in prices.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included :—Serbian 1895, 59.10 (unchanged); Crédit Foncier Egyptien, 765 (unchanged); Ottoman Bank, 480 (unchanged); Suez Canal shares, 4,585 (against 4,595).

Oil Shares.

On Wednesday Anglo-Egyptian (B) declined 3d. to 21s. 3d.—22s. 3d.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Mr. William Knox D'Arcy, a director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Burma Oil Company and Campbell Praed and Co., who died on May 1, aged 67 years, left £984,012, the net personalty being £599,963.

1916-17 was not a good year for public companies in the Madras Presidency. During the year ended March 31, 1917, twelve new public companies were registered and twenty-seven ceased to exist. Apparently the war had little to do with these failures.

An exhibition of feminine art and industries, organised by L'Oeuvre des Industries Feminines en Egypte, will be held at the Jardin Rosette, Alexandria, from September 29 to October 7. The exhibition is under the patronage of her Highness the Sultana and Prince Ahmed Fouad.

According to reports from Turkestan the cotton planters there have decided to substitute cereals for cotton in order to solve the food shortage there.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended August 20.

	1916. £E.		1917. £E.
August 11-August 20	4,798	..	6,667
April 1-August 20.....	66,731	..	79,288

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Sept 14.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	77½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83½	83½
Do. Pref. 5 % , 1890	88	72½	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	59½	59½
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	59½	59½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	53	52½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 % , 1890.....	56	55	55
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	62½	62½
Do, 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	60	60
Do. 5 %, Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5⅛	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7⅛	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	13½	13½
Bank of Athens.....	£2	2½	2½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅝	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	15⅛	15⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17⅛	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	20/-	19/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12	12
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅜
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/3	13/-
Do. and Foreigh Trust ..	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	33/-	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/3	13/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	15/6	15/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	39/-	37/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/3	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅛	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅛	25/6	25/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	31/-	31/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned days :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
September 6, 7, 8	530,000	430,000
September 11	230,000	100,000
September 14, 15	450,000	290,000
September 16	200,000	170,000
September 17	310,000	100,000

CONSTANTINOPLE RAILWAY TERMINUS DESTROYED.

Reuter's Zurich correspondent in a message dated September 15, says that the Swiss Insurance Company, Helvetia, has received a telegram from Constantinople, saying that the new railway station and two immense warehouses have been totally destroyed by fire, the damage done being estimated at over four million francs (£160,000). The station was built by the Germans as the terminus of the Bagdad Railway.

It has been decided to use oil instead of coal for the engines of the North Western Railway system in India. This decision is the result of experiments conducted over a long period. Oil tanks have been installed at Kiamari, and pipes will be laid between the tanks and Karachi Cantonment station.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 334.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The battle continues to rage in Roumania, and no conclusion is yet visible. While the more excited correspondents are urging that Germany has shot her bolt, there is no sign yet that her efforts are at an end, or if they are, that they have not merely transferred their objective to the other end of the line, in the Baltic. In that region a further advance has been made, and now that Russia has repudiated both a separate peace and a civil war, it is quite likely that the Germans will prefer to concentrate their efforts in the north, where they can attempt to reach Petrograd, rather than to break through in Roumania. The former would appear to be the easier task in a military sense.

On the whole, the news from Russia has been less depressing, mainly because there has been less news, or else the correspondents have got tired of telegraphing manifestoes. Several more generals have refused the task of reorganising the army, but the non-effective troops are to be reduced; the panacea which will restore discipline and energy to the fleeing regiments, however, still remains to be found. In the political field there has been talk of harmonising the aims of the various provinces and peoples into an effective federation of States. It remains to be seen whether this can be done; certainly it will not be done if German agency can prevent it, since it becomes more and more Germany's interest to divide her eastern neighbour into a series of petty States. Russia appears dimly to perceive this danger, but whether she can overcome her present paralysis of will cannot be foreseen.

On one point a definite statement has been made. Poland has been promised full independence, and it is recognised that this implies an outlet to the sea to be effective; moreover, there is no adequate outlet in Lithuania. This indicates that in the opinion of Russia the Polish contention that the new Polish State should hold Danzig is sound—and Poland undoubtedly will recognise the sincerity of this statement, particularly in face of recent German equivocations on the subject. At the same time, it must be remembered that to deprive Germany of Danzig means to split not merely the German Empire but Prussia as well into two; and Germany would fight to the last cat, to use the Kaiser's words, before she would give that up. It would appear that the Russians, who were recently speaking of a people's peace as though it could be easily assured, do not quite realise how long a road a people's peace based on this particular assumption would prove.

Both Germany and Austria have purred like tigers in their answers to the Pope's peace note. They believe in disarmament (especially for other people), the freedom of the seas (especially for themselves), and universal peace (under their dominion). They omit any mention of territorial readjustments, they have forgotten to mention Belgium, Serbia or Roumania. The Pope is said to be pleased with these soft answers; His Holiness possibly feels it is something gained for Germany, the fire-eater, to profess to be mealy-mouthed, like the wolf in "Red Riding Hood." For our part, we prefer the frank sincerity of the answers given by Turkey and Bulgaria to the cant of Berlin and Vienna. Turkey wants the maintenance of full sovereignty over Turkish territory—a matter in which she has as much ground of complaint against her ally for demanding to exploit her by commercial treaties as against Britain for merely seizing a province or so. Bulgaria is understood to lay special stress on the principle of nationalities—and probably she will be able to demonstrate by the aid of German professors that all the desirable lands which she wishes to annex are really inhabited by Bulgarian nationals.

A curious episode marked the business of answering the note. Germany announced that Britain had offered peace to Berlin—an announcement which was speedily denied at Whitehall. The fact was that the British Government, before drafting its reply, asked some information from the Pope, and the Pope forwarded the question, which apparently he could not answer, to Germany, obviously with the best motives. This the German imagination—which appears to resemble a dyspeptic's digestive arrangements, in being usually too sluggish but occasionally disconcertingly rapid—construed into an offer of peace. It does not require much perspicuity to see that the information which the British Government required was about Belgium, and the German silence on that point is extremely eloquent.

Mr. Asquith's speech on the War Aims of the Allies at Leeds is an effective answer to the German and Austrian Notes. The latter are silent as to territorial restoration; the Allies insist that, besides restoration of Belgium and Alsace-Lorraine, "the just claims, long overdue, of Italy and Roumania" must be conceded; "there is heroic Serbia, who must not only be restored to her old home, but given the room to which she is entitled for her expanding national life. There is

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Poland; there are the cases, not to be forgotten, of Greece and the Southern Slavs." Before there can be any peace, indeed before the actual fighting can cease, Mr. Asquith insists that Germany and Austria must admit these claims, since only secondary matters, of detail and not of principle, must be left over for the Peace Conference. It must be remembered that Mr. Asquith was speaking, not as a private member, but as one who is, on the occasion of a meeting of this kind, an authoritative exponent of the Government's aims. His declaration will be repeated during the next few days by actual members of the Government.

There is, then, no weakening whatever of our war aims, as the Germans have attempted to suggest in some quarters. Indeed, Admiral Tirpitz, who torpedoed himself some time ago and is now attempting to make for the safe harbour of office again under his own steam, seems to recognise the fact in his latest oration. It is true that, like the official Germans, he makes no reference to Serbia or the Near East at all—which has always been a secondary consideration to the German naval school—but he protests that if Germany evacuates Belgium, she will have lost the war. In this context we may point out that Serbia furnishes an exact parallel to Belgium.

The Kaiser has been to Sofia, where no doubt he has been calming his ally, who has given signs of late of being disturbed as to Bulgaria's share of the plunder. From Sofia William II. proceeded to the Roumanian front, where he congratulated the troops in his usual bombastic manner on their successes. By an oversight, however, he admitted that he did not know what the future had in store for Germany—the General Staff no doubt being uncertain at the moment whether they would be able to break through the Roumanian front. While the Kaiser was uttering these sentiments, the American Government was publishing full details of the devilish German plots against Roumania, which included the storing of poison and explosives in the German Legation at Bucharest, for use in case of need.

The atrocities committed by the Central Powers in Serbia seem to be endless. An account issued by the Serbian Legation states that a German general who visited Serbia asked why gallows had not yet been erected; the Austrians quickly took the hint and put up gallows in all the larger towns and villages, and pictures showing people hanging on them were soon circulated and distributed among the population. There are again a number of cases of deaths from starvation, disease and hard labour in the mines. These tragedies will only nerve the Serbian army to further exertions, and a determination to secure reparation.

A long article recently appeared in the *Corriere della Sera* on the Southern Slav question. Its friendliness and moderation of tone towards the Corfu agreement and the whole Jugoslav problem are excellent signs of the new feeling in Italy, which results mainly, no doubt, from the visit of Baron Sonnino to Paris and London and the reception of M. Pashitch in Rome. It may be hoped that in the next few months a similar friendly solution may be found to the long-standing difficulties between Greece and Italy. The outstanding questions in this case are perhaps more obstinate, but they are not beyond the power of true statecraft to settle amicably.

The public dissatisfaction at the continued silence of the War Office as regards military events on the Eastern fronts has not been met by the belated publication of Captain Nunn's despatch on the naval operations on the Tigris. It has been pointed out that no account has yet been published of the operations in Palestine, which terminated, or were not terminated, last April in the fight before Gaza, and that there can be no military object served in preserving this secrecy. Further, only a few lines have been published from time to time regarding Salonika, although months have passed since the last dispatch; while from Baghdad there has been nothing on the military side since General Maude's account of its capture.

Reference was made in these pages a few weeks ago to the recommendations of the Inter-Departmental Conference presided over by Lord Islington in regard to the system which is intended to take the place of indentured labour from India. The term has been invested with a considerable amount of bad repute, so that there has been a tendency to believe that nothing good could be associated with it. To some extent the reports of the Commissioners appointed in 1913 to investigate the conditions of life of Indian immigrants in various British colonies served to correct this erroneous impression; but the news that now reaches us from British Guiana bears striking testimony to the fact that indentured labour has not undermined the loyalty of the Indian colony. Many of the Indians working in British Guiana have been keen to enlist in the British Army. On a certain plantation on the west coast of the Demerara River several indentured East Indian labourers offered themselves as recruits for one of the contingents sent by the colony. Three of these were informed that they could not be accepted because they did not know English. After a time they returned to the manager of the plantation, telling him that they had been studying the language for the past three months, and considered that they were now efficient, and wished to be sent to the front, "to finish the war." Two of these had not yet completed their first indenture term of five years, and their desire to go to the front may, therefore, be taken as an indication that the East Indians in that colony appreciate the good treatment which they receive. Another Indian in British Guiana has devised a means of countering submarines, and he is anxious that his plan should be placed before the Admiralty in order that the submarine menace may be overcome.

The long-expected "Life of Sir Charles Dilke," which has just been published, contains numerous references to the politics of the Near East, which were among the multitudinous interests of that unfortunate statesman. Few of these have more than historical interest, for Dilke died before the Balkan League and the Balkan War; but his last conversation, with the late King George of Greece, may be quoted. It took place in 1910, when the King was in London on the occasion of King Edward VII.'s funeral. The King, who was inclined to deprecate the summoning of a national assembly, quoted the phrase once applied to himself, "Bon petit roi, manque d'energie." Dilke answered, "I don't know who said that, sir. Your prestige is exactly opposite to the German Emperor's prestige, but equally important to your country and peace. It may have been a fool who said it, but it was probably chaff." But Sir Charles took occasion to tell a very important member of the (royal) family that "Berlin and Athens were different." It is a pity that the hint so delicately administered was not taken; King Constantine has probably realised its truth during the past few weeks.

One other item is worth quoting. The 1880 Ministry of Gladstone—the "slip and slide Government"—which came into office pledged to retreat from South Africa and Afghanistan, had strongly criticised the British occupation of Cyprus in opposition, and in office had presented a statement declaring that there was no advantage, military or otherwise, in the retention of that island. The statement was underlined with an emphatic negative, the writer of which was Queen Victoria; the British remained in Cyprus. Again in 1885, when the same Government was trying to get out of its Egyptian difficulties, "We were informed that the Queen most strongly protested against our binding ourselves to leave Egypt." One cannot help feeling once again that Queen Victoria's foreign policy was more sensible than Gladstone's, and *a fortiori* better than Granville's; every political biography that is published reveals that more clearly.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 30.

War Gratuities to Government Staff.

The Commission specially appointed to look into the case of the junior Government employees and report on the financial assistance, if any, which should be given them to enable them to meet the increase that has taken place during the past year in the cost of living in Egypt, has made its report, and the Council of Ministers has decided to adopt its recommendations. A war gratuity is to be granted to all regular employees drawing £E16 per month and under, those drawing £E5 per month and under are to receive an addition of one-fifth of their pay, and all other employees one of £E1 per month. The increase is, therefore, on a scale varying from 20 per cent. to 6¼ per cent. Payments are to start from August 1, and will continue without alteration, subject to two months' clear notice in the *Journal Officiel*.

The gratuity is not a very large one, considering how living has increased of late, but all the same it is something, and the decision has been received in a grateful spirit by the officials concerned. A certain amount of relief has been afforded to the situation since the question of the small employees was first taken up by the reinsertion of cereals on the tariff and the rigid enforcement of the latter by the authorities. Prices of maize, rice, millet, etc., have been steadily falling, and that of wheat, which was specially left free, has shown a similar tendency, so that there is every hope that, with the gratuity now granted them the small officials will be well able to make both ends meet.

The Cotton Position.

No further announcement has as yet been made in connection with the project for the purchase of the seed from the 1917 cotton crop by the British Government, but details of the scheme are expected to be published very shortly. Meanwhile it is interesting to note that the decision of his Majesty's Government has had a steadying effect on the local market. It has caused people to wonder whether similar action will not soon be taken with regard to cotton itself, and although there is nothing to confirm this impression, it has been noticeable that speculators have kept off in a remarkable manner. That is all to the good. It is an open secret that the Government, with a view to providing for the cereal requirements of the country during the coming year, has decided to restrict the cotton area in 1918. Here, again, no details are forthcoming, but as the period of preparation for the crops to be sown before cotton is close at hand, it will not be long before a definite announcement of the extent to which the reduction will take place is made. It is interesting in this connection to note that in the first year of the war, when the cotton area was reduced from 1,755,000 feddans to 1,186,000 feddans, Egypt produced sufficient cereals for her own requirements and had still a margin left over for export.

The Question of Co-operation.

One of the more important after-war problems before the Anglo-Egyptian authorities is undoubtedly the introduction of some system of co-operation for the benefit of the agricultural population. A movement in this direction was, as a matter of fact, started some ten years ago, when some Egyptians with the encouragement of the present enlightened Sultan founded one or two co-operative societies. The ventures proved successful, but with two exceptions were only on a small scale. Impressed with the success, which had, however, attended the creation and working of these "syndicates," as they were called, the Government, in 1914, decided that the time had come when some definite step should be taken in the direction of providing the country with proper co-operative organization. A law was drafted, and had actually received the approval of the Legislative Assembly, when war broke out and put a stop to the project, as it did to so many others under consideration at that time. There is no doubt, however, that as soon as more peaceful conditions set in once more the project will have to be taken up again by the Government, for a study of the experience gained in other countries, notably in India, has shown the wide-reaching benefits, economic as well as social, which the introduction into Egypt of a well-organized and properly controlled co-operative system would confer on the Egyptians.

The few years which have had to elapse since the law was ready for promulgation will nevertheless not have been time lost. In the first place, it will be possible to amend the project in the light of fresh experience gained by other countries. Secondly, advantage has been taken of the interval imposed by the war on the introduction of the project to include a series of lectures on co-operation in the syllabus of the Higher School of Agriculture, so that every graduate proceeding thence from now onwards will have at least a grounding in co-operative theory, and thus will assist to spread and explain the object of the movement, when it receives its official impetus by the promulgation of the law. Thirdly, the prosperity which Egypt has enjoyed during the past three years has enabled the Agricultural Bank to recover arrears, and so put itself in a financial position where it could serve most usefully as a central bank for the co-operative movement.

In connection with the question of co-operation a most able book has just been published by Saddik Henein Bey, Director of the Administrative Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lecturer on Co-operation at the Higher School of Agriculture. Henein Bey has made an extended study of co-operation and of the methods employed in those countries where it has met with success. He has collected the result of his studies, together with a resumé and explanation of the various co-operative systems in vogue elsewhere, and a dissertation on the different aspects of the benefits of co-operation to such a country as Egypt, in a book which has attracted considerable attention in educational, economic, and scientific circles. Its outstanding features are the elegance of diction, the lucidity of the arguments brought forward, and the clear and logical manner in which the theme is developed. In his preface the author says that he has been impelled to publish his book by his conviction of the urgent necessity for the introduction of co-operation into Egypt and by the great success which has accompanied its application in countries which, compared with Egypt, have not required such assistance to anything like the same extent. Those who are qualified to speak on such matters consider the book an entirely new departure for this country, and are in agreement that it will be for many years to come the standard work for Egyptian students of co-operation. It is not often that one comes across an Egyptian who takes up a subject so earnestly and deeply, and is able to produce results of such value to the community. The initiative, enterprise, and ability displayed by Henein Bey in the publication of his book merit the highest commendation.

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KHARTOUM NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

September 6.

The Departure of Mr. Bonham Carter.

The chief event of the last week has been the departure of Mr. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., the Legal Secretary, to take up a new appointment in Mesopotamia. He came out to the Sudan in 1899 to assume the duties of Legal Secretary, and organised the whole system of justice in the country, and he has been always looked upon by the natives as the fountain of Justice, not only from his official title but from his personal character. His generosity was very great and added to his reputation; he was regarded as combining British incorruptibility with Oriental generosity. In official circles he was not merely respected for his ability, but was relied upon for his level judgment, which, whilst it was ready to accept new ideas, was not liable to be carried away by enthusiasm for them. As one of those who planned and executed the administration of the Sudan from the beginning, his departure marks the end of a chapter in its history, and those who live there, whilst they cannot but admit the duty that calls him to a wider sphere, must salve the very genuine regret that they feel at his going by the certainty that he has before him a further successful career in a new and wider country, and by the expectancy of his success in that greater scope.

Mr. Bonham Carter spent three strenuous days in Khartoum. He entertained the members of his department at tea in his own house, and was the guest of honour that night at a dinner at the Sudan Club, at which the Governor-General presided in his capacity as president of the club. The following day there was a reception at the Egyptian Employees Club, at which Hassan Bey Ahmed, of the P.W.D., made an address and the Grand Kadi and the Mufti spoke in Arabic, and Mr. Bonham Carter replied. Apart from these social functions, there was inevitably a great deal of business to be done. A very large number of people came to the station to bid Mr. Bonham Carter God-speed, especially from Omdurman, where the inhabitants had had no opportunity of entertaining him or bidding him farewell, and the concourse of natives that had collected to do him honour was evidence, if any were needed, of the esteem and affection in which he was held.

General Stack and almost every official and officer in Khartoum were there to wish him luck, and Mr. Sterry, the Chief Judge, who succeeds him in the office of Legal Secretary, accompanied him as far as Shellal.

Among recent departures from Khartoum must be included that of Mr. Buckley, who has been transferred to the Assiout circle in Egypt, for which he started on the 3rd. He has been for a considerable time in charge of irrigation matters in the Sudan, and had applied for a change, which has now occurred. Mr. A. L. Prowde has taken his place at Khartoum.

Food Stuffs.

Crop prospects, which were a fortnight ago as pessimistic as possible, are now the exact opposite, and the probability is that there will be a very tolerable harvest, and in some parts it should amount to good. The rain of the last few days has been most cheering also to the temperament, and has spread a little freshness through the land.

The visit of Naus Bey to Khartoum to discuss the question of sugar supply has had some effect on the price; at least, as long as he was there it served to alarm the retailers. It is rumoured that the profiteering in the sugar trade is likely to receive a set-back shortly.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 2, 1917.

The debate on the reply to the King's Speech was closed with a long discourse from M. Venizelos, which occupied eight hours. The speech covered the whole period from the outbreak of the war to the present day, and exposed how ruinous to Greece was the policy adopted by King Constantine to gratify his personal feelings and his political ambitions regardless of his country's interests; it also indicated the extent to which that policy and the King's actions affected the whole course of the war. A large part of the speech was devoted to the events at the time when Turkey joined the Central Powers, and M. Venizelos explained how he did his utmost to unite Greece to the Allied Powers by his desire to send a force to the Dardanelles at the beginning of the bombardment, but how his plans, which had the entire support of the Cabinet and of ex-Ministers, were foiled by the military staff, who had assumed a pro-German attitude.

The result of the Dardanelles inquiry in England fully proved, M. Venizelos said, how the adoption of his policy would have resulted in the occupation of Constantinople and eventually in the making of peace with Turkey, and then Bulgaria would have remained neutral or would have joined the Allies. At the time when M. Venizelos was prepared to send a military force to the Dardanelles to co-operate with the naval operations there would have been practically no opposition to the landing. The Prime Minister spoke at great length on this episode, and showed how he had been thwarted by the King and the military staff, and how M. Streit, who was at that time Minister of Foreign Affairs in his Cabinet, was secretly working with the King against the policy of the Government.

The ignoring of the treaty with Serbia and the attitude of Bulgaria took up a good deal of M. Venizelos's attention, and he explained at length the difficulty he had to induce the King to mobilise when Bulgaria did so. It was on this occasion that Constantine said that he recognised that he was obliged to obey the will of his people, so far as the internal policy of his country was concerned, but when great questions of national policy were involved he considered the final decision remained with him. M. Venizelos referred to the negotiations which led to the landing of the Anglo-French troops at Salonika, and said that, after obtaining the King's approval to this course, a message came from his Majesty not to take any steps in the matter, the King's mind having been changed by his Germanised entourage. But his message arrived too late, for the decision had already been communicated to the British and French Ambassadors.

Reference was also made at some length to the illtreatment of the Greeks in Turkey, and particularly to the deportation of the Greek communities from the district of Aivali, from whence they were driven with great suffering to Broussa and elsewhere. Correspondence has been published showing how the Turks laid the blame on the Germans, who in turn used their stereotyped argument that it was a military necessity.

M. Venizelos referred to the republican spirit which some deputies had expressed in their speeches, but he said that he thought it was their duty to make another effort to allow Greece to be governed by a constitutional monarch. The debate closed with a vote of confidence to the Government, the motion stating that the Chamber, recognising the sacred character of international conventions and its obligations of alliance to Serbia, addresses a fraternal greeting to the heroic Serbian nation and, convinced that the whole Greek nation is ready for every sacrifice in order to participate in the universal struggle in favour of liberty on the side of the Allies, and in order to re-establish its national honour, to re-conquer lost territory, and to defend its national interests, approves of the address of the majority and expresses its entire confidence in the Government. This motion was unanimously carried by the 188 deputies present, the members of the Opposition having withdrawn from the Chamber during the delivery of the Premier's speech.

In the course of the debate one of the most interesting speeches was that of M. Politis, now Minister of Foreign Affairs, who, having been previously a permanent official at this Ministry, was thoroughly conversant with the course of events. He referred to the efforts made by Prince George to induce his brother to change his policy, and mentioned a telegram in which Prince George said that he implored King Constantine on his knees, with all his heart and in the interests of the country, to go ahead (join the Allies), and he implored him, with all feelings of devotion to his brother and to his country, to put an end to a situation full of dangers and serious consequences. "Believe me," said the Prince, "it is the supreme moment to save Greece from all her dangers." This was in April, when efforts were again being made to induce King Constantine to join the Allies. German influences, however, prevailed, and he maintained the policy which led him to his fate.

A commission has been formed to examine the laws passed by the illegally constituted Chambers, and it is proposed to commit the ex-Ministers to a High Court to be tried for high treason. In the meantime the process of cleansing is proceeding, and magistrates, ecclesiastics, and other public functionaries who have acted in opposition to the interests of the nation are being removed from office.

There are expressions of general regret that Sir Francis Elliot is not returning to Athens, but at the same time the choice of Lord Granville as his successor is received with much satisfaction.

The new French Ambassador, M. Billy, arrived on Friday, accompanied by M. Goddard, the French Under-Secretary for War.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

Greek Politicians.

Memorials asking for union with Greece have been launched by the Greek members of the Legislative Council, as anticipated. The authors probably profess to hope for success in the near future with more confidence than previously; for, whereas they had always to confess to themselves hitherto that they had a very bad case, they now consider that they have a very good one. At any rate, the object is to keep alive the idea that the Greek majority of the people hope that the island will soon form a part of Hellas. Whether the bulk of the population would really endorse the representations of their leaders is a very different matter. A referendum—if such a test were possible in the order of things, or could be honestly carried out—would probably show clearly that the people were averse from any change of administration, since they have discovered that, perhaps for the first time in history, they now have full security of life and property, and such freedom, in the best sense of the word, as is practicably possible. The bulk of the population remain quite indifferent to "politics," and only "demonstrate" when whipped up to a kind of fictitious excitement, at the bidding of the wirepullers, on some particular anniversary or other rare occasion. Most of the rural classes, moreover, are heavily indebted to moneylenders, and have to follow their lead; and the latter may sometimes impart a political colouring to the ideas of their clients. There is, at any rate, no desire for any change which would render them liable to military service. The Cypriot peasant is not a fighting man, and has never shown any disposition to take up arms; though some of the villagers, as well as townsmen, did indeed go as volunteers to the last Balkan wars. For many years after the occupation very few Greeks even enlisted in the local force of military police, though they have joined by degrees, until they have come to form about half the strength of that excellent force. The island Greeks are, however, it must be repeated, far from being a race of warriors like the Cretans and some other islanders. The Turkish element is, of course, entirely opposed to the despatch and the object of the memorials referred to.

The Censorship.

The Press Censorship has been practically removed, but a watchful eye is kept on Greek papers. Thus the *Kyprianos Phylax* ("Cyprus Guardian") was recently suspended for three months, and a fine was inflicted on the editor for publishing matter to which objection was taken. There seems, however, no valid reason why Greek papers thus muzzled should not be allowed to go out of the island, unnecessary loss and annoyance being now caused to proprietors at home and readers abroad. All sorts of rumours are afloat, *e.g.*, that the island is to be shortly handed over to Greece, that Famagusta is to be retained, and the scheme for a larger harbour carried out at a cost variously stated at from two to eight millions sterling.

At Troödos the absence of the troops is deplored by visitors and peasants alike. Expeditions on horseback are among the chief attractions. One of the best rides for those who can spare the time, and one which takes you through much interesting country, is down the steep valley of the Marathasa "river." After some miles of descent you reach the village of Pédoulas, which has become for Greek families of Nicosia what Platres, on the southern slope of Troödos, is for those of Limassol and Egypt. Here, two hotels have sprung up, and are well filled. Pédoulas and the neighbouring village of Móutulas are the great cherry producing villages, and grafts from English trees having been introduced, the native fruit has been greatly improved. Just below lies the village of Kalopanagiotes, famed for its sulphur springs, which are of great benefit for rheumatic and other affections; the water being also often conveyed to other places. Lower down you pass the "black hills" of slag which mark the site of ancient copper mines; and then, about four miles from the sea, you reach the large village of Lefka, abounding in luxuriant gardens, which supply many parts of the island with lemons and oranges. The water which runs down this valley has given rise to protracted law suits between Lefka, which found its supply and its "rights" seriously affected, and the upper villages, which appropriated more and more of the water for their growing needs. The dispute which arose, after going before the District and Appeal Courts of Nicosia, was finally taken before the Privy Council in London, the costs having, it is said, amounted to over £12,000. To the south-west of Lefka lie the ruins of Soli, to which Solon the legislator is said to have advised migration from other localities. An interesting alternative journey takes you up another valley, enables you to visit Katydhata, near the monastery of Skouriótissa ("Our Lady of the Slag"), where the American Mining Company is at work in copper mines, and back through Evrykhou, the western terminus of the Central (and only) Railway of Cyprus; through the picturesque, but steep, village of Kakopetria, and lastly through magnificent regions of the pine forest. Rides such as this, and many others, enable you to enjoy what is one of the principal charms of Cyprus, viz., the scenery of the wooded heights and valleys of the great Troödos and Adelphi ranges.

SYRIAN NOTES.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The Beyrout Protestant College.

According to information received from a reliable source, on the rupture of diplomatic relations between Turkey and the United States of America, the Vali ordered the closing of the Syrian Protestant College at Beyrout. In view, however, of the great services that this institution has rendered to the country, and thanks to the prestige which its president enjoys with the authorities, the Ottoman Government ordered its reopening, and, a fortnight later, the normal course of college life was resumed. There was no interference with the staff, the students, the college property, or its equipment. Indeed, in spite of the prevailing famine and the impossibility of getting supplies from outside, owing to the blockade, the college continued to supply the needs of the students as in the past, and was able to do so, it is said, on the strength of the facilities which Jemal Pasha accorded to the college. If this should be the case, it will constitute one act of humanity in a somewhat black record. The Commencement Exercises and the ceremony of the distribution of diplomas and prizes took place as usual at the end of June last. The health of the students was good throughout, and while typhus fever raged in the town and claimed many victims, there were only a few cases inside the college, and these were confined chiefly to the servants. Only one Egyptian student died of this disease.

It should be mentioned to the great credit of the college faculty that, in spite of the interruption of the remittances from the parents and the increasing difficulty of obtaining foodstuffs, the Egyptian students were kept on, and the college was satisfied with receipts from them for the amounts due. None of these students was called up for military service. At the end of the academic year the college used to take the students who found it inconvenient to return to their homes abroad to the village of Shweir, in the Lebanon, for the summer vacation. This year, however, owing to the difficulty of getting foodstuffs on the mountain, these students, who are mostly Egyptians, were kept in the college. It has been announced that the college will, as usual, open on October 10 next; but it is thought improbable that any students will be accepted as boarders save those who have no homes in Syria or the Lebanon. The American College has thus been a kind of oasis of peace and plenty in the midst of a desert of misery.

The Maronite Patriarch.

According to news received from reliable quarters, the Maronite Patriarch has at last been exiled to an unknown destination in Turkey. This aged prelate has for some time past been living practically in self-exile in his remote summer residence at Diman, and it was thought that his retirement from public life, coupled with the fact of the infirmity of old age, would have made the Turkish authorities spare him this indignity. It is understood, however, that the Vatican is exercising all its influence with a view to the return of this high dignitary to his patriarchal seat.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

A German Intrigue?

Simultaneously with the Russian disaster in Galicia, and with the extremely powerful effort of Mackensen to conquer the last portion of Roumanian territory, a carefully organised intrigue has been set afoot. Its place of origin can be easily discerned; it is more difficult to survey its aim. News came through first that MM. Carp and Marghiloman had paid a visit to Berlin, "in connection with a weighty political question" suggested Wolff's Agency. We then learned that the German authorities had embarked upon extensive industrial and economic schemes in occupied Roumania, an action which indicated that a thorough reorganisation of the administration of the country was contemplated. And gradually information and suggestion began to abound in the enemy Press, to the effect that the idea of transforming Roumania into a sort of appendix of the Central Powers was being seriously considered. To that end a new Roumanian Government was to be called into being in Bucharest, which should proclaim that the Government in Jassy no more represented the country, and which should make without further delay a separate peace with the Central Powers. Such a policy, it is stated, has met with the support of various prominent Roumanians, amongst others of the Bessarabian Professor Constantin Stere, who remained in Bucharest when that town had to be abandoned. Why continue the present lethargic existence? Roumania had better submit to the inevitable, and enter upon a close union with the Powers of Central Europe.

It is hardly necessary for us to pay serious attention to such vagaries. That MM. Carp and Marghiloman have gone to Berlin is quite possible; but that they have gone there for the purpose of offering their country for sale no one could make us believe, and certainly not Wolff's Agency. The German Press ought really to show more common sense; they ought to know that the genial schemes of the German Foreign Office are not worth a day's life, unless the German War Office has also the power permanently to enforce them. The whole affair is obviously but another of the numerous and very naïve German attempts to sow dissension amongst the Roumanians and to discredit them in the eyes of the Allies. Why waste time and energy in such a way, whilst there are so many things which want attending to in Germany and in Austria-Hungary?

The most amusing incident of this episode is that its only effect has been to scare part of the Hungarian Press. The Hungarians are not at all anxious to add another seven and a-half million Roumanians to the three and a-half whom they already rule, a development "which would turn Bucharest into a centre of anti-Magyar agitation," warns the *Budapesti Hirlap*. The Roumanian question would become an insoluble internal problem of the monarchy, and the Hungarians would lose their directing position in its policy. This, it may be noted, is a somewhat careless avowal that the Hungarian supremacy is not based on any special ability on their part, but on the suppression of the voice of the other nationalities. "For Hungary," continues the paper in question, "the ruin of Serbia and Roumania is the best result of the war, for it has left her a free hand towards the nationalities"—which says a good deal for the future. The best thing, it suggests, is to make of Roumania a present to Bulgaria, otherwise we risk disappointing a friend in order to favour an enemy "who would bring 'the horse of Troy' into the house." The Magyars are a generous people!

The Reforms.

The two Chambers have now passed the final text of the Reform Bill, which modifies Article 19 of the Constitution referring to expropriation, and Articles 56 and 57 referring to the franchise and the organisation of the Legislature.

The extensive domains belonging to the families of great landowners will be cut up in virtue of the new dispositions introduced in Article 19, and will be distributed to the peasants under the following conditions:—

From the 3,180,000 hectares (ha. = 2½ acres) of arable land belonging to 5,300 owners who possess more than 100 ha., 2 mil. ha. of private property will be distributed to the peasants. This will be done in a proportion varying from 30 to 95 per cent., according to the size of the estate, and on the basis of a progressive scale to be expounded in a special law, the details of which are to be fixed in the next session of Parliament. In addition to these 2 mil. ha. of private property, there will be expropriated, in their totality, in order to be distributed to the peasants: the Crown lands, the lands belonging to the State, the estates belonging to various private and public bodies (monasteries, hospitals, companies, etc., etc.), the lands of the "absentees," that is of those owners who have themselves never cultivated their estates, and, finally, the lands of foreigners, whether by birth, marriage, or naturalisation.

The expropriated owners will be compensated in 5 per cent. redeemable Government stock, the nominal value counting as real value. The value of the lands will be determined by specially appointed commissions, against whose decisions the owners will be able to appeal to a Central Commission, and, in the last resort, to the ordinary Courts of Appeal. Recognised oil-lands up to 12,000 ha. will not be divided, but their owners will have to supply an equal extent of arable land, either in the same or in a neighbouring district. The average extent of the largest estates will probably not exceed in the future 250 ha.

The new law will have to be promulgated within six months from the liberation of the occupied territory. As the distribution of the estates will require, however, a number of years for its completion, a provisional division will be first carried out on each of these estates, the cultivation of which will be entrusted to the peasants inhabiting them, who will exploit them on the lines of agricultural co-operative associations.

Article 56, in its new form, provides that the Chamber of Deputies shall be composed of members elected by universal franchise, the ballot being secret and direct. There are, moreover, two interesting innovations. The measure which was rejected by the English Parliament, proportional representation, has been accepted without much difficulty by the Roumanian Legislature. In addition, in order to counteract the apathy of the illiterate and overworked peasant, and to make the franchise really universal, the exercise of the right of vote has been made a compulsory duty. The Senate will consist in future, as until now, of elected members, and of members by right. But the details of its constitution have been left to be determined by the special laws, the elaboration of which will form the task of the next parliamentary session. A revolution has been peacefully achieved in Roumania. The nature of its fruits will depend upon the sincerity with which the new dispositions will be applied, and upon the extent to which the social and economic conditions of the masses will be improved, in order to render them capable of enjoying usefully their new rights and exercising properly their new duties.

GERMAN PLOTS IN ROUMANIA.

Reuter's Agency has received the following official details regarding the disclosures made by Mr. Lansing concerning the diabolical plot against Roumania organised by the Germans in Bucharest. Although only now announced in Washington by the Secretary of State, the facts have been known officially for a long time, and, after exhaustive inquiries, were printed in pamphlet form. This account sets forth that the accredited representatives of Germany in Roumania had been guilty of acts described as "dastardly and devilish." German diplomatic couriers who were exempted by international privilege from the supervision of the Roumanian police had conveyed from the German Consulate at Brasso, in Hungary, to the German Consulate at Bucharest boxes of infernal machines and tubes of bacilli. These had been smuggled into the German Consulate, and on the day before Roumania declared war were transferred to the German Legation, which had been handed over to the American Minister on the departure of the German Minister.

At 11 in the morning of October 5 the Secretary of the American Legation and the Roumanian Prefect of Police went to the Legation, where the porter—a German, who had been in the service of the Legation for over twenty years—said that a box and several cases had been buried in the garden. The man declared that he had helped to bury the cases, which he had been warned to handle very carefully. Digging operations brought to light fifty "Bickford cords," with charges, and then fifty metal boxes. At another spot in the garden, protected by a covering of firewood, was found a box, bearing in red wax the German Consulate seal and the following direction:—"By King's Messenger! Very secret! Not to be thrown! Bucharest.—For Herr Kostoff. To His Honour the Colonel Military Attaché to the Imperial Bulgarian Embassy at Bucharest, Herr Samagieff." Beneath this first wrapper was a second, with the following direction:—"Very secret! By Tela. —To the Royal Colonel and Military Attaché, His Honour Herr von ——." The name had been rubbed out, but traces of the letters H A M . . . T . I N were recognisable (Colonel von Hammerstein was the German Military Attaché). Inside the box was a typewritten note in German to the following effect:—"Herewith 4 (four) tubes for horses and 4 for horned cattle. For use as directed. Each tube is sufficient for 200 head. If possible, administer direct through the animal's mouth; if not, in its fodder. Should be obliged for a little report on success with you. If there should be good news to report, Herr K.'s presence here for a day desirable."

In six little wooden boxes were found test-tubes filled with yellowish fluid. These phials and the cartridges were then sent away to be reported on. The latter were found by the Military Laboratory to be high explosives, with nitrate of ammonium and brotzl of great destructive effect. In the case of the test-tubes the Institute of Bacteriology reported that they contained glanders and anthrax bacilli of very virulent culture.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

RUSSIA'S RELATIONS WITH EUROPE.*

M. Gregor Alexinski is favourably known in this country as the author of a series of works describing the modern evolution of Russia. His latest work traces her relations with Europe since the ninth century of our era. Her plains were sparsely peopled by Slavs descended from early waves of the great Aryan migration. They lived in a state approaching anarchy until the arrival of Scandinavian adventurers, who organised three principalities in Northern Russia; and a few generations later certain Byzantine missionaries introduced Christianity, together with ideals of government borrowed from the Asiatic despotism which had ousted decadent Rome from eastern Europe. At a later date Germans belonging to the Hanseatic League gave Russia the mechanism of commerce, and it was subsequently developed by Jewish immigrants, whose share in the evolution of Russia's economic life has apparently escaped M. Alexinski's notice. Commercial jealousy is a frequent cause of warfare. The petty principalities and republics which came into being were rent with discord, and therefore powerless to resist the invasion of Tartar hordes which swept over Russia in the twelfth century. For two hundred years her people bore a yoke which would have crushed a less vital race. In 1480 their deliverance was achieved by Ivan III., Prince of Moscow, who afterwards destroyed the autonomy of other principalities and assumed the title of Hospodar, or Tsar, with the arms of the defunct Byzantine empire. Personal rule has the enormous disadvantage of depending for its success on the personal equation. A statesman who happens to be born in the purple may hasten the stages of his subjects' civilisation; an ambitious soldier may plunge them into ruinous wars of conquest; a megalomaniac may bring the principles of government into contempt; a ruler without energy or character may become the puppet of an intriguing clique. All Russia's Tsars belonged to one or more of these categories, and the ties of blood which bound their dynasty with Germans have always been used to thwart their empire's normal development. Thus Peter the Great's reforms were vitiated by his servile imitation of German models. Throughout the eighteenth century Russia was virtually ruled by a German colony. Well-meaning Alexander I. fell under the sway of reaction incarnate in the German Metternich. His successor, Nicholas I., established a Tartaro-Prussian despotism which came into disastrous collision with Western Europe. Alexander the Second's effort to set his house in order was well-nigh nullified by German agency. In our own day we find the Kaiser thrusting his cousin into a fatal conflict with Japan in order to give scope to Pan-German designs on the rest of the world. We find German influence in Turkey concentrated on efforts to prevent Russia from expanding southwards and south-eastwards; while her only outlet on the north-east became a Prussian lake. Finally, we see the ex-Tsar, who began a struggle for liberation so nobly, hemmed in by a barbed wire entanglement cast around him by German gold. All Russia's friends devoutly hope that the barriers erected by selfish and unscrupulous policy may disappear under the new regime. For her sons are a northern people instinctively seeking union with Western Europe. The converse of Napoleon's famous dictum applies to them; he might, indeed, have said with far greater truth, "Scratch a German and you will find a Hun." The Russian nature is receptive enough to assimilate every phase of European thought; but it is unfortunately dominated by discordant ideas in rapid succession. These characteristics explain the chameleon-like changes which have swept over the brand-new republic since the memorable revolution of Easter, 1917. M. Alexinski's book should be studied by all who desire to forecast the somewhat nebulous future of our great Ally. Its value would be increased, if he had paid some attention to chronological sequence and provided it with an index. He is deeply indebted to Mr. Bernard Miall, whose translation of our author's MS. shows consummate command of English and Russian idioms.

F. H. S.

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. John Murray will shortly publish the official history of "The Indian Corps in France." The work, which was originally undertaken at Lord Kitchener's request by Captain Sir Frederick Smith, and was completed by Lieut.-Colonel J. W. B. Merewether, C.I.E., is based on Corps and Divisional diaries. Earl Curzon of Kedleston has contributed the introduction to the book.

Considerable light will be thrown on the full extent of German influence in Turkey and the responsibility of German officialdom for the crime of the Armenian massacres in "Inside Constantinople," by Mr. Lewis Einstein, which Mr. Murray also announces for early publication. The author was formerly Minister Plenipotentiary in the U. S. Diplomatic Service, and was sent to Constantinople early in 1915 as special agent at the American Embassy.

Another book dealing with the same subject, and entitled "Two Years of War, Seen at Constantinople. Sketches of German and Young-Turkish Morals and Politics," by Dr. Harry Stuermer, will shortly be published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton.

Messrs. Allen and Unwin are about to issue "Czech Folk-Tales" (translated), by "J. B.," containing a collection of some of the most characteristic Czecho-Slovak tales which have not hitherto appeared in English.

"The Amateur Diplomat: A Novel," by Hugh S. Eayrs and T. B. Costain, is a "Ruritanian Novel," staged in a Middle East State. It is published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton at 5s. net.

"The Everlasting Quest," a poem by Mr. Henry L. Webb, which is nearly ready for publication by Messrs. Macmillan, tells the ancient Babylonian story of Gilgamesh who, refusing the love of the goddess Ishtor, is stricken with leprosy.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Future of the Southern Slavs. By A. H. E. Taylor. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 12s. 6d. net.)

The Great Problems of British Statesmanship. By J. Ellis Barker. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

The King of the Hedjaz and Arab Independence. (London: Hayman, Christy and Lilly, Ltd.)

The Commonwealth of Australia. By Evans Lewin. (Published for the International Information Committee by George Allen and Unwin, Limited. Price 1s. net.)

New Zealand. By G. H. Scholefield, B.Sc. (Published for the International Information Committee by George Allen and Unwin, Limited. Price 1s. net.)

SYRIA AND PALESTINE RELIEF FUND.

Arrangements are being made for collections at churches, chapels, and mission halls throughout the country on Sunday, January 27, 1918, for the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund. Missionary societies of all denominations are co-operating to relieve the terrible distress. Food, medicine, and clothing are already entering Palestine, and goods stored in Egypt will continue to be sent to the country as further access is obtained. So vast is the work that it is estimated the fund will ultimately require £300,000, of which the sum of £50,000 is urgently needed to meet present requirements. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Syria and Palestine Relief Fund, 110, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, from whom all information may be obtained.

NEW MOROCCO POSTAGE STAMPS.

A Paris contemporary announces that the issue of new Morocco postage stamps took place on September 1. The new postage stamps comprise six different types, representing the most interesting monuments of Morocco, viz.:—The Hassan Tower, Rabat, for the values 1c., 2c., and 3c.; Bab Dkaken, of Fez, for the values 5c., 10c., and 15c.; The Chellah Gateway, Rabat, for the values 20c., 25c., and 30c.; The Koutoubia of Marrakesh, for the values 35c., 40c., and 45c.; Bab Mansour de Meknes, for the values 50c. and 1f.; The Ruins of Volubilis, for the values 2f., 5f., and 10f. The stamps have been designed by M. de la Nézière.

*"Russia and Europe." By Gregor Alexinski. Translated from the MSS. by Bernard Miall. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 10s. 6d. net).

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. September. 26	1917. September. 13	Friday	1335. Dulheggia. 11	5678. Tishri. 12
29	16	Saturday.....	12	13
30 October.	17	Sunday	13	14
1	18	Monday	14	15
2	19	Tuesday	15	16
3	20	Wednesday	16	17
4	21	Thursday	17	18

The Sultan of Egypt has returned to Cairo.

Colonel Popovitch, of the Serbian Army, has arrived in London from Petrograd.

Colonel Dragutin Dimitrivitch, of the Serbian Army, has left London for Salonika.

Captain Maximovitch, of the Serbian Army, left London on September 24 for Paris.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough are passing the recess at Bessborough, Piltown, Kilkenny.

The Holy Carpet, with the pilgrims from Egypt, is reported to have reached Mecca on September 19.

According to a Vienna telegram, the ex-Khedive of Egypt is going to Constantinople early in October.

M. Dendramis, Secretary to the Greek Legation at Jassy, has left London for Roumania to resume his duties.

Colonel Koutsis, Military Attaché to the Greek Legation at Jassy, left London on September 20 for Athens.

Sir West Ridgeway underwent an operation at a nursing home on September 26, and is making good progress.

The American Red Cross Mission has arrived at Corfu, and was received by M. Pasitch, the Serbian Prime Minister.

Mr. G. Lionda, Managing Director of Lionda and Co., Ltd., has left England for Greece.

Mr. Sophianos, Greek Consul at Port Said, has been transferred to the Diplomatic Service, and has been replaced by Mr. Chalikiopoulos.

The Roumanian Minister and other prominent Roumanians now visiting London were entertained at dinner on September 24 at the Lyceum Club.

It is officially notified that persons travelling to Greece must now be in possession of passports bearing the visé of a Greek Diplomatic or Consular officer.

The King has authorised Mr. G. H. Morgan, lately an Inspector of the Egyptian Survey Department, to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile.

The Royal Engineers, at a railhead on the Suez Canal, are stated to have been so pleased with the entertainment at a Y.M.C.A. tent given by Miss Lena Ashwell's Concent Party that they "put it through" by telephone to soldiers in the trenches ten miles away.

Mr. Aftab Ahmad Khan, who was recently appointed to the Council of the Secretary of State for India, has arrived from India, and has taken his seat on the Council.

Earl Curzon of Kedleston had an audience of the King prior to the Council on September 24, and Sir J. Rennell Rodd had an audience of his Majesty after the Council.

Judge Amos, Councillor at the Native Court of Appeal, has arrived in Cairo from England, and has taken up his new work in connection with the abolition of the Capitulations.

It is reported that at a Congress of the Committee of Union and Progress on September 18 Talaat Pasha was re-elected President, and Midhat Shukri Bey and Hussein Djahid Vice-Presidents.

The death occurred from malaria on September 11, at Salonika, of Nurse Elizabeth Marjorie Gordon (Elma), V.A.D., eldest daughter of the late General William Gordon, of Anadoul, Croydon.

All male Ottoman subjects born in 1872, whether free from military service or not, have been called to the colours. Those living in Germany have been ordered to return to Constantinople immediately.

Reuter's Odessa correspondent states that General Mavrocordato, Chief of the Military Household of the King of Roumania, has been appointed representative of the Roumanian Headquarters on the staff of General Sarrail.

It is stated that the explosion and fire at the Constantinople terminus of the Baghdad Railway destroyed enormous quantities of war material, which had been collected there for use by a great expedition intended for the reconquest of Baghdad.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Ali Imam, K.C.S.I., to be a Judge of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, in the place of Mr. Justice Sharf-ud-din, who has resigned on appointment to the Executive Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. H. MacMichael, Sub-Governor, Darfur Province; Mr. Francis Atterbury, Inspector, Slave Trade Repression Department; and Mr. A. Hall, Inspector, Darfur Province, who had been holding the temporary rank of Kaimakam since the Darfur Expedition started, have now relinquished that rank.

Sheikh Salem-el-Bishri, Rector of Al Azhar University, Cairo, died on September 21 at the age of ninety-three. He retained possession of all his faculties to the last. Sir Reginald Wingate, the High Commissioner, was present on Saturday at the funeral, which is stated to have been one of the largest ever seen in Cairo.

The marriage arranged between Lieutenant Cecil Mansfeldt Norman, Rifle Brigade, and Helen Leman, daughter of the late Commander W. Aves, Royal Indian Marine, and Mrs. Aves, Normandie House, Cheltenham, will take place on Wednesday, October 17, at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, at two o'clock.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieutenant E. M. Daniel, R.F.A., youngest son of Mr. A. Y. Daniel, Ceylon, and Miss Agnes Sidney Wilkins, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Sidney William Wilkins, of The Quarry, Oxted, and the London Stock Exchange, and Mrs. Wilkins, of 116, Lexham Gardens.

Captain Guynemer, the famous French aviator, who has been reported as missing since September 11, was at one time an employee of the Paris branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, though he had left some little time when war broke out. For his services he has been decorated with the riband of the Legion of Honour, the Military Medal, and the War Cross.

The marriage was celebrated at Bakewell, Derby, on September 20, of the Rev. Arthur Rupert Browne-Wilkinson, son of the Rev. H. Browne-Wilkinson, of Nottingham, formerly curate at Bakewell, and for the last three years stationed at the Missionary College at Trichinopoly, and Miss Theresa Caroline Abraham, second daughter of the Bishop of Derby, Dr. Abraham, and Mrs. Charles Abraham, of the Vicarage, Bakewell. The Bishop of Southwell officiated at the service.

The members appointed in India to the Calcutta University Commission are Sir Ashutosh Mukharji, C.S.I., Judge of the High Court and Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University; Mr. W. W. Hornell, Director of Public Instruction, Bengal; and Dr. Zia-ud-din-Ahmed, C.I.E., of the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh. As already announced, the Chairman of the Commission will be Dr. Michael E. Sadler, C.B., Vice-Chancellor of the Leeds University. With him will be associated also the three other members appointed in the United Kingdom, viz., Mr. P. J. Hartog, C.I.E., London University; Professor Ramsay Muir, Manchester University; and Professor J. W. Gregory, Glasgow University.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Mr. Slater, Inspector, Khartoum Province, has been transferred to Kordofan Province.

Mr. C. H. Page, Assistant Director of Steamers, Sudan Government, has been appointed Acting Director to that Department in succession to the late Lewa W. B. Drury Pasha.

El Bimbashi J. L. Garstin, Sudan Government, has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam, and has been transferred to the Supplies Department, E.A., as Assistant Director of that Department.

According to the *Egyptian Gazette*, Price Bey, Chief Sanitary Engineer, Department of Public Health, is to be kept in the service of the Government for a further period of not more than six months by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Bimbashi J. A. Anketell Jones, A. B. James, and A. C. Frame, D.S.O., recently seconded for service with the Sudan Government, have been appointed Inspectors, Nuba Mountains Province, Berber Province, and Darfur Province respectively.

Bimbashi E. F. N. Burton, Inspector Bahr el Ghazal Province, Bimbashi A. J. Matthew, Inspector Kassala, and Bimbashi T. G. N. Bardwell, Inspector Kordofan, have been appointed magistrates of the first class under the code of criminal procedure.

Said Shoucair Pasha, Director-General of Accounts, Sudan Government, has been granted the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, and Mr. A. C. Parker, Secretary of the Sudan Railways Department, has been granted the Fourth Class of the same Order.

Major F. E. Evans, D.S.O., and Captain H. G. V. Huggett have been attached to the Egyptian Army as special service officers, and granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi. The services of the former have been placed at the disposal of the Sudan Government, and the latter has been attached to a Sudanese battalion.

His Highness the Sultan has been graciously pleased to confer the Order of the Nile, Fourth Class, on El Kaimakam S. M. Castle Bey, Blue Nile District; El Kaimakam D. H. Thorburn Bey, Sudanese; El Kaimakam J. L. Garstin Bey, Department of Supplies; El Kaimakam E. G. S. Hall Bey, Sudan Government; El Bimbashi D. Mills, Eastern Arab Corps; El Bimbashi S. McK. Saunders, Medical Corps; and El Bimbashi E. G. Warren, Sudanese, for valuable services in connection with the operations in Darfur last year.

Mr. Allen Smith, Sudan Public Works Department, and Mr. J. A. Bristow-Jones, Steamers Department, have also received the Order of the Nile, Fourth and Fifth Class respectively, for services in connection with the Darfur operations.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Ellen Streater, widow of Mr. Jasper Streater, of Constantinople, died at Tooting Bec on September 18, aged seventy-three years.

We announce with regret the death of Mr. G. J. Stevens, the war correspondent, who was killed in the air-raid on Monday night. Mr. Stevens, who represented the *Daily Chronicle* in the Græco-Turkish War, was home on leave from Athens, where he was the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*. His wife was also injured in the raid.

Colonel Frederick Firebrace, R.E., whose death occurred recently, was chairman of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company. He received his commission in 1861, and joined the Indian Public Works Department as assistant engineer in the North-West Provinces. He was subsequently manager of the Rajputana State Railway, consulting engineer and joint secretary to Government in the Railway Branch, Bombay, and was promoted chief engineer in 1891.

The death has occurred in London of M. Frano Supilo, the Croatian Deputy, who led the Serbo-Croatian Coalition which prosecuted Dr. Friedjung, the Austrian historian in 1909 for false accusations of treason. M. Supilo had the good fortune to be in Switzerland on the outbreak of war, and thus escaped the persecution to which his friends were subjected by the Austro-Hungarian authorities. He came to England, where he was instrumental in organising the Southern Slav Committee.

Brevet-Colonel Francis Aylmer Maxwell, V.C., C.S.I., D.S.O., I.A., who was killed in action on September 21, was one of the few surviving members of Lord Kitchener's Indian Staff. Of his contemporaries General Hubert Hamilton, Colonel Fitzgerald, Colonel Raymond Marker and Colonel Victor Brooke have already fallen in the war. Colonel Maxwell entered the Indian Staff Corps from the Royal Sussex Regiment in 1893. His active service was seen in the Waziristan Expedition 1894-5, the operations in Chitral 1895, on the North-West Frontier 1897-8, the Tirah Expedition 1897-8, and the South African War 1899-1902. He gained the D.S.O. in the Tirah Expedition and the V.C. in the South African War. In 1910 Colonel Maxwell was Military Secretary to the Viceroy of India.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

ALLEN.—On September 21, at Cockley Cley Hall, Swaffham, Norfolk, the wife of Francis Allen, of a son—Raymond Claude Stafford.

JESSOP.—On September 26, at 9, Rue Maamoun, Moharrem Bey, the wife of A. W. Jessop, the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., of a daughter.

STEPHENSON.—On September 27, the wife of Allan Stephenson, Mustafa Pasha, Ramleh, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

DICKEN-OGDEN.—On September 6, at H.B.M. Consulate and St. Mark's, Shoubra, Charles Vernon, eldest son of Admiral Dicken, of Norton, Winchester, to Alice Mary, eldest daughter of the late Mr. William Ogden, Public Works Department, Bombay, India.

DEATH.

SAWYER.—On September 24, at Mansura, Ronald Sawyer, only son of B. P. C. Sawyer and Mrs. Sawyer.

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EGYPT AND THE WAR.

After a considerable spell of unexampled prosperity Egypt is experiencing practically the first interruption in the normal course of her affairs since the early days of the war. From the time when the initial dislocation caused by the outbreak of the European conflict had been overcome and the Imperial troops proved more than an adequate substitute for the lost tourist traffic, the country until now has been in the fortunate position of having gained much and lost little, if anything, by the war. Save for a shortage of coal and a certain precariousness in her communications due to submarine activities in the Mediterranean, Egypt has experienced few of the inconveniences that have modified existence in other countries within the zone of military operations. But the prolongation of the conflict has found a weak spot in her dependence upon sea-borne traffic for some of the prime necessaries of life. Accordingly, a special department is to be created for the control of supplies, and it is evident that organisation on scientific lines will be required to enable the country to face the immediate future with the least discomfort to itself. The first step has been to ensure that the shortage in imported cereals and flour shall be made good by increased home production. Accordingly, for the second time the area to be sown under cotton—Egypt's most paying crop—is to be restricted; but whereas the embargo of 1914 was prompted by fears which did not materialise and corresponded roughly to the reduction which would have taken place as a result of actual economic conditions, this year the restriction is enforced when cotton is fetching high prices, and the tendency would be to extend rather than to reduce the acreage under the plant. The economic aspect of the subject is dealt with elsewhere in this issue. Here it is only necessary to say that in the reasons given for the restriction the Egyptian Government is clearly on safer ground than it was in 1914. It will have been able to gauge the extent to which it is liable to be confronted with a shortage of foodstuffs next year, and however drastic the measure it has felt obliged to take, it cannot be blamed for refusing to run risks of a very grave character. The announcement that an exceptionally high Nile—the highest for twenty-three years—is anticipated may help to mitigate individual hardships and reconcile the fellahin to this particular enactment.

Egypt's experience during the war has provided a wonderful testimony to the soundness of the principles on which the administration has been based during recent years. The necessity of forgoing part of the large profits which cotton is now bringing in—last autumn it doubled in price within a space of three months—represents practically the only additional financial burden which the people have been called upon to shoulder during the last three years. Various measures were adopted to meet the special circumstances in which the country was placed by the outbreak of war, such as the fixing of maximum prices, the regulation of monetary and banking problems; but there has been no fresh direct taxation, and the greatly enhanced revenue has been obtained without requiring the taxpayer to make any greater direct contribution than the low one which was in force before the war. The danger of a long uninterrupted spell of prosperity lies in the fact that it may induce the belief in the country that the whole financial and economic structure is now resting on such firm foundations that henceforth it can be trusted to look after itself and to be independent of any peculiar wisdom or skill on the part of those who may be responsible for its maintenance. Such a view, however, ignores the potentialities of Egypt and the shortness of the distance that she has covered so far compared with that which is still ahead before a reasonable goal appears in sight. In no respect is this feature more apparent than in regard to public works, many of which are in abeyance owing to the war, and, it is to be feared, cannot yet secure the necessary sanction for their inception in spite of the favourable aspect of the financial situation. In the history of a country as in that of most businesses a stage is sooner or later reached when the more modest achievements of the early days are found wholly inadequate for the new conditions, and expansion on a comparatively large scale has to be faced, if the headway already made is not to be sacrificed. Egypt has approached this stage, and can no longer afford to be satisfied with what she has already accomplished or to accept it as a hard-and-fast model to which the future has to be moulded.

Apart from not regarding what past administrations have done for Egypt as the maximum of her achievements for all time, it is perhaps especially desirable that there should not be a stereotyped tradition attaching to the High Commissionership. In the case of both Lord Cromer and Lord Kitchener their individual prestige was such that it was inevitable that all the reins of government should find their way into their hands, and to none would the position seem more natural than to the Ministers and the advisers who were mainly concerned to carry out the policy of the chief British official. Sir Reginald Wingate has succeeded to the post with practically the same claims to one-man rule; but it is obvious that the supply of this type of representative is not inexhaustible. In the real interests of Egypt it may be doubted whether it is desirable that it should be; and for this reason we shall hope that the present High Commissioner will signalise his tenure of office by a determined effort to secure a wider devolution of responsibility among the higher Government officials. For a country to advance evenly along the road of administrative and economic progress it is better that the motive power should be as widely distributed as possible; and the interests of Egypt require that the traditions of high purpose and successful achievement should not be restricted to the High Commissionership, but should extend to all the Ministries as well. In this connection Sir Reginald Wingate is fortunate in having as Prime Minister Rushdi Pasha, who combines first-rate ability with readiness for responsibility. The return of Lord Edward Cecil to Egypt to resume the duties of Financial Adviser would seem to suggest that the High Commissioner prefers to have in the Government men capable of independent thought, who can be relied upon to state their own views, and will not necessarily look to him for all the motive power in Egyptian administration. If this interpretation should be right, Sir Reginald Wingate will already have set foot on a path which may be expected to link his name as a benefactor of Egypt with those of his great predecessors.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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THE ANTI-MONTENEGRIN CAMPAIGN.

By ALEX. DEVINE.

The series of slanders which have been permitted to appear in the English Press directed against Montenegro and her King present characteristics so regrettable as to be as difficult of English comprehension as they are opposed to all English notions of decency and fair-play. "Cricket" is not played in the Balkans, and it must never be forgotten by English students of Balkan questions that the mentality of many of these peoples cannot be measured by that of London, Paris, New York, or Rome.

The process which the "propaganda" against Montenegro has adopted may be stated briefly to be as follows:

First, the amiable suggestion that Montenegro and Serbia are one and the same, followed by a complete ignoring of the individual claims of the former State, then the spreading of evil rumour; and, finally, owing to the dignified silence of the King and Government of Montenegro (which, by the way, has no diplomatic representative in England), an open campaign full of untruths and calumnies.

The sources of these statements are easy to trace. They emanate in the first place from a certain party of political people and office-seekers (an element always most dangerous in the Balkans), a clique which is spending very considerable sums of money in a campaign for a great Serbia that is to absorb all the Slav peoples. This plan is not by any means to be confused with the legitimate and most desirable project of a federation of the Slav peoples; it aims at the establishment of a huge kingdom under the leadership of Serbia itself (which country, by the way, has only recently emerged from a period of political confusion, which their sufferings and bravery in recent years incline us to forget), under the leadership of the Karageorgevitch dynasty.

Standing in the way of this policy of absorption are many elements, but the chief is that of the older and prouder dynasty of Montenegro, and as a result King Nicholas has been the main object of the propagandists' determined attack. They have enlisted in their campaign the services of M. André Radovitch, the ex-Premier of Montenegro.

With regard to M. Radovitch, I have only a few words that I wish to say. I know him well; he has been my personal guest both in this country and in France and Italy, and I have not the faintest unfriendly feeling towards him. I simply believe him to be a misguided man. His political record is as extraordinary and strange as alone can be found in the Balkan countries. All, however, that need be said here is this: here we have a man who was Chief Minister to Montenegro, from whose lips I have on many occasions heard expressions of loyalty and devotion and the assurance of the loyalty and devotion of Montenegro to the Allied cause. He has now accomplished a complete *volte face*, and is working with all his power for the extinction of her dynasty. That M. Radovitch should stand aloof might possibly be understood, but that he should place his services at the disposal of the enemies of his old King and work against all that he once stood for is amply sufficient in itself to discredit him in the minds of fair-minded, unprejudiced people in this country.

Associated with M. Radovitch is a society of which apparently only he and one or two others are members (a society called "Le Comité Monténégrin pour l'Union Nationale"), using such influence as it can on the Continent of Europe. In addition to a perusal of the society's official *Bulletin Monténégrin*, I have had the advantage of receiving a long personal letter from M. Radovitch, in which he pours out his soul and sets forth all his grievances and all the scandals that he has directed against the King; in fact, a very full and intimate "apologia" for his action and conduct. Between the several publications, therefore, and M. Radovitch we may be said to possess all that the enemies of Montenegro can possibly say against the little country and her King.

I am in a position to state that there is not one single word of truth in the insinuations and charges impugning the absolute integrity and loyalty of King Nicholas towards his Allies, and I am perfectly confident that, despite the ability and strength of his opponents, they will fail simply because they are not "of the Truth." It is not seemly or desirable that these two sister nations (which really but for the machinations of wire-pullers are one at heart) should enter the public lists and engage in controversy and recrimination in the public Press, forgetful of the fact that they are Allied nations. Why at a time like the present, when there are such terrific world-wide issues at stake (compared with which either Montenegro or Serbia loom very small)—why at a time like this, when both countries are faced with the horrible problem of their dying and starving native populations, their equally miserable interned prisoners in Austria, and their refugees in Europe, one ounce of energy or one moment of time should be occupied in repelling or replying to these shameless attacks, it is difficult to justify.

Montenegro has never attacked Serbia or her King. She has not occupied herself in a campaign of intrigue. She has indeed been nobly silent under this constant persecution by Serbian propagandists.

In the *New Europe* of August 2, 1917, in an article directed against Montenegro, occur these words:—

> "The most striking proof of the discredit which he (the King) has brought upon himself is the refusal of the Allies to admit his representative to the recent (Balkan) Conference in Paris. Disregarding all hints, King Nicholas was unwise enough to give to the press a statement to the effect that Mr. Popovitch (the Premier) was the Montenegrin delegate to the Conference, who none the less remained outside."

There is not a single word of truth in this allegation. I have myself seen the invitation to this Conference from M. Ribot, and *Mr. Popovitch was at the Conference and spoke.*

Most of the attacks are of the same petty character, but two or three are of a graver order. But what do their authors expect? Do they consider that his Majesty should enter the lists and condescend to explain matters to them or defend himself and his country within the columns of their publication? Is this the time for such an attack on an Allied nation?

There can be no doubt in the minds of all unbiassed men that these attacks ought never to have been permitted. It is true that they were directed very cleverly against the King personally, but they are in reality and in substance an attack upon Montenegro, and an attempt to dispose of her nationality without the consent of her people. Surely it is the duty of the Government to protect our Allies from insult and from the "loose and mischievous talk" against which Sir Edward Carson so justly protested lately.

Simply as a matter of curiosity—and as a disclosure of Balkan propagandist methods—I will conclude by a reference to the recent declaration known as the "Corfu Agreement," signed by M. Pashitch, the Serbian Premier, and Dr. Trumbitch, of the Jugo-Slav Committee, in which Montenegro is calmly disposed of and placed under the Karageorgevitch Dynasty, *without any reference to the wishes of her people or her present*

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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Dynasty! On the other hand, the attitude of Montenegro towards the whole question of Jugo-Slavia is not only clear, but will commend itself to the intelligence of all unprejudiced people. She is not disposed to enter into any campaign of aggression or attack upon her fraternal neighbours. She takes up the line that the disposition of dynasties and national affairs is a problem for which *the people must find their own solution*, a view which has been reiterated over and over again by our own wisest statesmen. Montenegro has always been in favour of the union of all the Slavs, but not of a union merely of Montenegro with Serbia, or in other words the absorption of Montenegro by Serbia, in whose defence the country of King Nicholas has lost its liberty. At the present moment all attempts towards aggression or agreement appear to King Nicholas as an act not only premature, but unconstitutional and illegal. It is the Skupshtina, or National Parliament at Cettigne which must freely discuss any constitutional changes and alterations that may be imposed by the necessity of the new organization in Europe—and "the time is not yet."

The liberation of oppressed peoples, the right of the peoples to govern themselves without outside imposition, these things are sacred rights, and the Allied Powers must protect and watch these rights, the full liberty and independence of the referendum of the population of Montenegro over its own future national destiny. But in the meantime let there be an end to all these attacks, and let each country stand face front to the common enemy. In view of the fact that Montenegro has no means of expression in this country, and unfortunately not even a diplomatic agent, it behoves those of us who know her glorious past history, a history unstained by blood and undimmed by any treachery, to constitute ourselves as her active friends, determined at all events to see that she has fair play.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

Occasionally among the thousands of papyri of the Early Christian era found in Egypt a manuscript imported into the country may be found. One instance of this is a document in the Cairo Museum which contains a contract concerning a loan, drawn up at Constantinople. It was found at Aphrodite, in the Fayoum, and takes the form of an acknowledgment by two persons named Flavius Victor and Flavius Apollos for a loan amounting to 20 golden solidi. The lender was a banker named Anastasius, and the receipt states that the borrowers were to pay interest at the rate of 8 per cent. This reward for the accommodation is important, as it confirms the literary history of late Roman legislation, because by a law of Justinian confirmed by the 136th Novellus and the ninth Edict, which regulated bankers' rights, 8 per cent. had been declared the maximum. Two of the witnesses are employees or friends of the banker, whilst a third is an Egyptian who was at Byzantium at the time.

J. Offord.

THE SALONIKA RELIEF FUND.

The Lord Mayor's Fund at the Mansion House for the relief of the sufferers by the great fire at Salonika now amounts to over £11,000. This includes £5,000 received from the Joint Distribution Committee at New York for Jewish sufferers, and a sum of £676 collected by Mr. C. G. Montefiore. The Lord Mayor has received the following telegram from Mr. A. Palkis, the director of the Relief Department: "Census just completed shows 73,000 persons, or 14,000 families, homeless. Eight thousand persons are in tents, the remainder being crowded into the surviving houses under bad conditions. The Greek Government are building houses for 3,000 families, which, it is hoped, will be completed by December. Our most urgent requirement is blankets, of which all stocks here and in Old Greece are exhausted. Secondly, we want materials for women's clothes and underwear, men's ready-made clothes, and second-hand clothing in good condition. Tinned milk for babies would be very acceptable."

The aides-de-camp of ex-King Constantine, who remained with King Alexander, having shown discontent with the new régime, are about to be removed.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CAROB-TREE IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I read with interest the letter of "G. L. H." in The Near East of September 14. The importance of the carob crop to the island may be gathered from the fact that the latest Cyprus report, for 1915-16, gave the total value of exports as £650,490, the principal item being carobs, valued at £203,162, just over the value of all other agricultural produce exported in that year, viz., that of barley, wine, raisins, potatoes, pomegranates, oranges, and lemons, amounting to £202,995.

The annual yield of these locust beans cannot be accurately computed, as the available figures relate only to their exportation, and not to any actual assessment of the crop. "G. L. H." gives the yield as from 40,000 to 60,000 tons, say, an average of 50,000, which would indicate that production has increased considerably during the British occupation. In the year referred to the harvest was probably a very large one. Taking the price at 15s. the Aleppo kantar, f.o.b. (or £3 6s. 8d. the ton) a crop of 60,000 tons would yield £200,000.

The letter of "G. L. H." points to the principal need of Cyprus, viz., the prompt and more liberal expansion, on a scientific basis, of the Agricultural Department. The experimental orchards which he advocates should have been established long ago for the carob, as for various other, trees. As regards the carob disease (said to be *cecidomyia ceratonia*), one gathers that some progress has been made; for the report referred to says that research work has continued, that trees have been compulsorily treated in certain infected areas, that remedial operations can be easily performed by any tree owner, that notes were being made, but that "complete results will only be known after the next (*i.e.*, the present) harvest." Let us hope they will be satisfactory.

R. M.

Farnborough, September 21.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—To-day there commences the collection of carobs. For the prevention of disease the instructions contained in the High Commissioner's order and declaration are the same as last year.

Four (4) operations are necessary: the diseased beans have to be knocked off and collected—the young flowers varying in length from half an inch to two inches have to be removed and the bare axes of stunted fruit must be knocked off, and finally the whole mass must be gathered together and either buried in a pit with quicklime or be burnt.

Before considering the practicability of these operations, it may be well to state the view of the Agricultural Department, as expressed in its own journal. In September, 1915, the village of Athienou was by an order of the High Commissioner declared an infected area, and the officials and staff carried out the test. It is stated that 650 trees were treated by six persons in a very limited period of time, and that on examination of the area in the month of October only two diseased beans were found. The Department has also made the suggestion that the good carobs can be picked, and the flowers, stunted carobs, and bare axes be collected and burnt on the same day and by the same gang of labourers.

I have no hesitation in saying that this is an impossibility. Every owner of carob trees is far too busy seeing to the picking of the beans, the putting into sacks, the carriage of the sacks to the carob merchants' stores and the correct weighing of the same, to pay the strict attention necessary in order to ensure that all the flowers are rubbed off between the finger and thumb, the bare axes knocked off with small sticks, and the mass either buried or burnt.

Forty days, however, are allowed, and in many cases that is not too long a period if the work is to be thoroughly done. In the next letter I shall give my own experience.—I am, etc.,

G. L. H.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, August 20, 1917.

"A CORRECTION."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The last two words of the second paragraph of my letter in your last issue should have been "outlasted Venice" not "overlooked Venice." My writing was also doubtless responsible for the substitution of "carted away" for "carried away" in reference to deportations from Serbia. "H. N. Brailsford" should have been "Mr. H. N. Brailsford."—I am, etc.,

Canterbury, September 26. A. H. E. Taylor.

[We regret the mistakes to which our correspondent refers.—Ed.]

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

It is of interest to note that one of General Maude's early acts after the capture of Baghdad was to make provision for the preservation of ancient monuments in Mesopotamia and to regulate dealings in antiquities. By a proclamation dated May 22, 1917, "all antiquities, to wit, all ancient monuments, ancient objects of vertu, relics movable and immovable of ancient times, which formerly were the property of the Ottoman Government, or shall hereafter be discovered, are the property of the Administration of the Occupied Territories." The term "ancient" for the purposes of this proclamation is defined as signifying antecedent to the year 1500 A.D. All discoveries are to be reported to the nearest Assistant Political Officer, and penalties are fixed for unlawful appropriation of antiquities, for damage done to them, or for traffic in them, except under licence.

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But the most drastic clause of the proclamation is the one that states that anyone selling, or offering for sale as antiquity, any article which he has not reason to believe antique shall, on conviction, be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months, or to a fine not exceeding Rs. 10,000, or both; and his stock of antiquities or pseudo-antiquities shall be liable to be confiscated. It is a wholesome deterrent to forgeries, and the new régime has done well to introduce it at this early stage, while Birmingham and Berlin (rightly or wrongly reputed to be the home of the "modern antiquity") are otherwise engaged. Presumably there has been little doing in that line in the past, although it would be surpassing strange if the bazaars of Baghdad were to be wholly innocent in this respect. A necessary corollary to such a law will be the appointment of a Curator of Antiquities, for it is too much to expect that the Political Officers will one and all be archæological experts. Time was when the Athens Museum, under the direction of its Five Ephors, had to plead guilty to housing one or more forgeries.

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A correspondent takes THE NEAR EAST to task for the spelling of Busreh, and cites various other forms of the word: Busra, Busrah, Bassorah—all of which, he contends, are wrong. The correct name, he states, is "Basrah or Basrat, from the Persian" *Bas-rah*, meaning "of many roads." He adds: "The only other town of similar name spelt in Arabic 'Busra' is a small inland town between Arabia and Syria on the way to Damascus." I am indebted to my correspondent for this interesting information. The derivation of the name of the town was new to me. I fear I must plead guilty to the spelling "Busreh," which to my ear seemed to reproduce the local pronunciation more closely than Basrah. The first syllable of the latter would inevitably be pronounced in this country as is the name of a certain ale or the horticultural substitute for string. What THE NEAR EAST has aimed at is to secure the nearest sound in English to the original.

***

There has been a very pretty quarrel in the German and Bulgarian Press over Bulgaria's claims to Macedonia. It originated from an article in which a German Socialist, writing in favour of peace by agreement, suggested that Serbia and Bulgaria should share Macedonia between them. He pointed out that the Slav element does not consciously belong to either nation, but was capable of being assimilated to both. The mere suggestion caused great indignation in Bulgarian circles, and the Bulgarian Minister in Berlin felt constrained to demolish the Socialist's argument. Unfortunately for M. Rizoff, Herr Wendel was speaking by the book, so much so that he could quote the Bulgarian Minister's words, spoken at an early period, in support of his contention. In fact, M. Rizoff appears at one time to have been quite busy in warning Bulgaria off Macedonia. But of course it is very unfair of the German Socialist Deputy to raise the question now. The incident, however, is instructive.

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Our columns have borne witness to the satisfaction felt in Mesopotamia over the arrival of the British. It is not only in the minds of journalists that the enthusiasm exists. I am indebted to a correspondent for a copy of a private letter from an Arab friend at Feluja, and am only sorry I cannot reproduce the letter *in extenso*. But this is the burthen of it: "At last, after the vexations of the last moments and the horrors of the Turks, which have lasted nearly three years, we have been able to see with our own eyes and to salute with joy the British flag victoriously planted at Baghdad, and some days later at Feluja itself." Taking things all in all, it would seem as if the Turks had materially lightened our task for us.

CORSAIR.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

A Palestine Village.

The following description of contemporary life in Khan Yunis, "the largest and most important village in Palestine which the British Expeditionary Force has hitherto occupied," appears in the *Manchester Guardian*:—

The village lies midway between Rafa, our border town, and Gaza, our present objective, separated from the sea by two or three miles of rolling sand dunes. Around it on every side is a belt of trees and orchards a mile or more in depth, and the water which makes possible this sudden blossoming of the plain is pumped from ancient wells lying in the midst of its lanes.

The great meeting-place of Khan Yunis to-day, however, is not the bazaar or the café. Nearly all the older men are assembled from early morning outside the tent of the Military Governor, and squat on the ground for hours. Since the British occupation a remarkable system of communistic production and distribution has been introduced. Many of the fields of the fellaheen cannot be cultivated owing to military movements, but the Governor pools the products of those that are worked and give their yield, and he rations, so far as necessary, the native inhabitants. Time is not precious among the Bedouin, and the distribution is a half-day employment for the heads of families. And while the sheikhs are congregated around the tents of the Kadi, the women and the younger men are gathered around the wells where they draw their rations of water. They come with the empty petrol tins and goolas (large earthen pots), which keep the water cool in arid summer, loaded on their heads or on donkeys, and a few Sinai police, picturesque in their brown head-scarves and jerseys and bandoliers, keep as good order among them as the City constables keep in the traffic outside the Mansion House.

The people are well content with the British occupation. If they have lost part of their harvest beneath the rolling of endless wheels, yet they get unheard-of prices for the produce which remains to them—a big piastre (2½d.) for a single egg in a country where they were sold at 10 for a piastre, 12 piastres for a chicken, and so forth. Their cattle, sheep, and goats were for the most part left to them by the Turks. The kine are well favoured though small—far better than any which Egypt produces. Strict measures are taken to protect the inhabitants and their property from any molestation by our soldiers, and the blessing of British rule is being daily learnt.

In the evening about the hour of sunset the village is at its liveliest. The sheikhs sit in the courts of their huts and discuss the distribution of the day and the news of the war, which no censorship can keep from passing among Arabs. The young gallants march the street, some in their rough sheepskin coats with coloured keffiyeh (head-scarves) held by the black woollen cord, others resplendent in yellow robes and turbans. The herds and flocks come trooping through the lanes, a young child usually heading them on a donkey, and the fellaheen return from the fields with their camels carrying their baskets of figs and grapes.

Peace Congress.

There is an illuminating article in the *Contemporary Review* on "The Three European Settlements"—1814-15, 1856, 1878. The author, Sir John Macdonell, writes with the idea that the examination of past settlements may help to prevent the repetition of some of the chief mistakes committed in all of them. Of the 1856 settlement he says:—

There was again a merely diplomatic settlement. The representative of the Great Powers talked of "systems," and were thinking mainly of military strength. There were provisions for the neutralisation of the Black Sea and the demolition of fortresses. As compared with the proceedings at Paris and Vienna, there was an improvement. There was not the same indecent scramble for territory. There was a genuine desire to help the cruelly treated Christian subjects of Turkey. The spirit of humanity was forcing its way into foreign politics; but no effective provision was made for the performance of the pledges which Turkey had given for the better treatment of her Christian subjects. There was a readiness to accept promises of reform which were never kept, or seriously endeavoured to be kept. Looking back, we now see how much the Treaty of Paris helped to postpone the break-up of Turkish rule and the birth of young nationalities which, but for the Crimean War, might long ago have come into existence and sown their wild oats. The settlement, not very glorious for the Allies, was humiliating to Russia. It imposed upon her restrictions as to the Black Sea, which were in a few years removed. So far, the settlement checked Russian advance into Europe; it turned her energies towards Asia. The conference did not settle—it, indeed, did not even really touch—the Polish question; Lord Clarendon, at the instance of Count Orloff, did not bring it up at the Congress, and in a few years (1862) broke out an insurrection which was cruelly repressed.

It was announced at the Admiralty on September 26 that Vice-Admiral Godfrey H. B. Mundy, C.B., M.V.O., has been placed on the Retired List, at his own request, in order to facilitate the promotion of junior officers (to date September 19). Admiral Mundy, who was born in 1860, entered the Navy in 1873. He served in the Egyptian war, 1882, as sub-lieutenant of H.M.S. Inconstant, and was awarded the Egyptian Medal and the Khedive's Bronze Star.

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CONDITIONS IN SERBIA.

Mr. Vidak Koprivitsa, Lieutenant in the Second Regiment of the Serbian Combined Division, who, as an invalid prisoner, was recently exchanged by the Austro-Hungarian authorities, and who is now in a hospital in France, has written to some Serbian friends in England describing some of his experiences and the conditions prevailing in occupied Serbia and also in the internment camps in Austria-Hungary. He writes:—

Famine and the Gallows in Serbia.

I was taken prisoner along with other seriously wounded Serbian officers in the advance of the Austrians on Vrntsi, where there had been for some time British medical missions. The enemy immediately conducted a search of all houses in all the villages and towns of this district, and requisitioned all available food, leaving only half a pound of flour per head. The copper bells from the churches and all leather things the authorities quickly seized. Some days afterwards the wounded officers who had been left on the road between Kralyevo and Rashka were brought into our hospital; they told us terrible stories of what they had seen on the journey: the road was strewn with corpses of fugitives who had been killed by the Germans by the side of their carts and wagons. We were told how the Germans had done their horrid work to the cries of little children and the wailing of their mothers.

The German general who visited our town asked Prince Lopkovitch why he had not yet erected the gallows. The Austrians quickly took the hint and put up gallows in all the larger towns and villages, and pictures showing people hanging on them were soon circulated and distributed amongst the population.

Before a week was out the population began to feel the lack of bread; in our town there was only one baker to work, and nobody could get more than half a pound of bread.

Veritable Graveyards.

From Vrntsi we were removed to Keczkemet. The hospital where I was put had formerly been an old elementary school, in which many Serbians from Srem and the Banat, interned before we came here, had ended their martyred lives. Some months later we were removed through Budapest and Vienna to the North of Bohemia, to a town called Briks, where was an internment camp for Russians. Here the Chief of Staff of the 13th Russian Division, Colonel Kisselov, who had had a leg amputated as a consequence of wounds sustained in the Carpathians, greeted us very cordially. He collected a thousand francs amongst the Russians to help in the purchase of artificial limbs for Serbians. After five days at Briks we were removed to Heinrichsgrün, where in the earlier days of 1916 there had been 30,000 Serbian soldiers and 200 Serbian officers. In this camp the misery was appalling. When we arrived from twenty-five to thirty were dying daily, and the number grew rapidly. Many of our unhappy soldiers found their graves here through starvation, disease, and hard labour in the mines. It was heartbreaking to see officers as well as soldiers bare-footed in their rags—mere ghosts of men.

The soldiers were given some wretched wash which went by the name of soup. The "bread" we could hardly swallow, it was so bitter. It was made out of horse chestnuts, acorns and potato-peelings. The officers in the hospitals four times a week received as a special favour about a quarter of a pound of horse-flesh and some rye bread. The huts were deadly places, and the nights were bitterly cold, not only because of the wretched shelter, but owing to the lack of covering. Soldiers and officers fell ill suddenly and developed tuberculosis; there were 3,000 men affected by tuberculosis and absolutely without care or attention. Here died more than 20,000 victims.

Our complaints and cries for help directed to the Serbian Red Cross and to the Spanish Ambassador in Vienna brought no response.

Trench-Digging on the Italian Front.

In August, 1916, Bulgarian officers visited this camp, and began to pick out as "recruits" those men who hailed from the territories in Serbia occupied by the armies of King Ferdinand. At the beginning of September, 1916, I was removed to Aschach, where 150 officers and 25,000 soldiers were crowded together. Here also there reigned the same grim horrors. From this camp, as well as from others, the Austrians carried away Serbian soldiers to the Italian front in order that they might work on the construction of fortifications and in trench-digging. These martyrs of ours suffered terribly under the fire of the Italian artillery, and I have seen several of them after they had been wounded and captured.

Serbia's Need.

The following associations receive donations for Serbia, Serbian prisoners of war, Serbian orphans and suffering Serbian civilians: The Serbian Relief Fund (Treasurer, The Earl of Plymouth, C.B.), 5, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.; and the Serbian Red Cross Society, 195, Queen's Gate, London, S.W., where donations in money or material should be sent.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.

The effect of the blockade of Greece by the Allies is well brought out by the Customs returns for Piræus harbour. For the first six months of the current year the movement of goods amounted to 49,417 tons, to which exports contributed 19,696 tons, and imports, chiefly cereals and flour, gifts from America, 24,719 tons. The figures for the corresponding period in 1916 were 474,505 tons. In the same six months in 1917 the number of vessels using the harbour was 182 steamers and 922 sailing vessels, compared with 1,284 steamers and 2,378 sailing vessels in the first half of 1916.

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The annual general meeting of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields was notable for a very interesting address by the chairman, Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, whose knowledge of Roumania entitles him to speak with authority on matters concerning that country. He expressed himself a convinced believer in the future of Roumania, and declared that the country, owing to its geographical position and natural resources, would be entitled to a commanding position in the development of the Eastern part of Europe after the war. "Endowed with a healthy climate and a fertile soil, which for centuries has produced the finest cereals of the world, and possessing unlimited supplies of natural gas and petroleum," he added, "Roumania is situate astride of the mouths of the Danube, the principal highway to the centre of Europe, and also has its ports of Constanza, Braila, Sulina, and Galatz facing towards the east, with easy access to the Mediterranean. Roumania's outlook, therefore, for centuries to come, is one of the most assured."

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In a previous note on the company's annual report I dealt briefly with the prospects before the company in the light of the substantial claims for compensation that will come up for settlement after the war, and it is, therefore, unnecessary to do more than remark that Mr. Watson Rutherford went fully into the question of the claim against the British Government. His view is that the company's position represented by lands and oil rights, which stand at £697,000, and by the claims already sent in for £1,270,000, giving a surplus of £747,000 over the issued shares and debentures, means that instead of the shares standing at 13s. they ought to be worth considerably over double that amount. In estimating the future of the company and of the oil industry in Roumania in general, it would also be well to take into consideration the chairman's statement that "with regard to petroleum, there can be little doubt that the few scattered spots where hitherto this valuable fuel has been extracted in Roumania do not account for even a fractional percentage of the available oil lands.

***

One other point in the Chairman's speech deserves notice, and that is his reference to the destruction of the oil wells and machinery before the German advance. "The destruction last December," he said, "was so thorough and complete that, in spite of feverish exertions on the part of the German engineers, little petroleum has up to now been taken out, and even that cannot be turned to much useful purpose unless and until means can be found for refining, storing, and transporting it." This is particularly interesting in view of the truculent announcement in Berlin a few days ago of the Kaiser's visit to Roumania and his inspection of an oil well which had been repaired, and was alleged to be in full working order. I fancy the visit, if it took place, must have been on a par with the Hamburg incident, when the Kaiser expressed the desire to see an island on which he had played as a boy. There was no island, but the thoughtful Mayor provided one, and at the right moment called the Kaiser's attention to it as they passed. "Ah, how it all comes back to me!" said His Majesty.

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The effect of the shortage of imports in Egypt is steadily becoming more pronounced, and as there is no prospect of any immediate alleviation of the tonnage question, the country will be more and more thrown on its own supplies. The problem before the Egyptian Government is the utilisation of existing resources, and with that end in view it is stated that a special department is to be created to control supplies and to centralise all matters connected with the question. Government control was, of course, inevitable under the circumstances, and it is well that the decision should be arrived at quickly before matters have reached a really critical stage. As things stand, the Government should have little difficulty in coping with the position.

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The situation created by the restriction in the Egyptian cotton acreage is dealt with in an illuminating article by Professor Todd, which appears on the following page. He points out that the restriction will mean that the area under cotton in the Delta will be reduced by nearly 300,000 feddans, while the difference in Upper Egypt will be some 30,000 feddans. The suggestion that the immediate loss to Egypt entailed by the curtailment of her staple industry may not be serious, Professor Todd regards as a very risky assumption, even in these days. In his view, two factors will mitigate the effect of the restriction in the Lancashire industry. In the first place, the consumer will have to pay the increased cost, and, secondly, Lancashire will have to face the question of substitution. "Egypt," he concludes, "must not console herself with the delusion that it pays just as well to sell half a crop at double the price; that as soon as the war is over she will come back to growing cotton again; and that her old market will be waiting for her. It will, but—*at a price.*"

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I wish to draw attention to a most interesting survey of the motor trade in Eastern Greece by Mr. G. P. Waller, the United States Vice-Consul at Athens, which will be found on another page in this issue. The facts he adduces show very clearly the immense scope that exists for the development of this trade. At the present time, of course, imports are naturally severely restricted as the effect of the war, and such is the demand for motor-cars that the exorbitant prices that are now being asked are willingly paid. That of itself speaks volumes for the post-war prospects, and it is to be hoped that British manufacturers, who enjoyed a fair share of the trade before the war, will have sufficient initiative to avail themselves of the opportunity which will then be presented.

***

It is an excellent omen for British trade with the Balkans after the war that endeavours are already being made in various directions here to prepare for the coming struggle. One of the organisations I have in mind in this connection is the General Anglo-Serbian Industrial and Financial Company, Ltd., of 106, Bishopsgate, E.C., whose purpose is to carry on financial, commercial, and industrial operations of all kinds in Serbia and in the Balkan States generally, and to facilitate economic relations with these countries. The company will shortly, it is stated, start a large concern for import and export trading with the Balkans, its primary object being, however, to supply all kinds of merchandise to Serbia both now and especially after the war.

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The question of the Indian Exchange has come very prominently to the fore since the Indian Government's decision a few weeks ago to raise the selling rates for immediate telegraphic transfers to 1s. 5d. This policy led naturally to gold shipments from the United States, but this tendency was checked by the embargo placed by the Government of India on gold imports, except under special licence. The latest development, and one which removes the inducement to ship the metal, is an alteration in the exchangeable value of the rupee to gold as regards imports of the metal. Briefly, the situation is that the selling rates for Council drafts will be based roughly on the price of silver, while the ratio between imported gold and rupees will depend on the rates for Council drafts in London.

COMMENTATOR.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON AREA.

The Government Restriction.

BY PROFESSOR TODD.

Once more the Egyptian Government has announced its intention of deliberately restricting the area to be put under cotton next year. The scale of restriction adopted is apparently the same as was finally arrived at after many changes in the autumn of 1914, namely the entire prohibition of cotton growing in the basins of Upper Egypt, and its restriction to a maximum of one third of all other land. This has unfortunately created a good deal of misunderstanding on this side as to the effect, for many people seem to have the impression that the basin lands of Upper Egypt meant the whole area of Upper Egypt. This of course is not the case. The basin lands represent probably a total of about 1¼ million feddans out of the total of 2¼ millions in Upper Egypt; but as there is practically no cotton at all grown on these basin lands (that follows naturally from the system of basin irrigation which gives no water at all during early summer and an overwhelming flood in early autumn just when cotton would be ripening) the prohibition hardly affects the question of the cotton area at all.

The effect of the restriction is shown in the annexed table. The total cultivated area in Egypt is a little over 5¼ million feddans, of which about 3 millions are in Lower Egypt and 2¼ in Upper Egypt. Omitting the 1¼ millions of basin lands in Upper Egypt there remains a possible cotton area of roughly 3 million feddans in the Delta and one million in Upper Egypt. The restriction to one third will mean that the area in Upper Egypt will be reduced by over 30,000 feddans while the difference in the Delta will be nearly 300,000 feddans. The probable effect on the crop is of course largely guesswork, because it depends on the yield of the crop per feddan for next year, but taking that at the average of recent years (and that is a generous allowance in view of the increasing depredations of the pink boll worm) it means a reduction of the crop by well over a million kantars. That is a very serious business indeed for the cotton trade, especially in Bolton, and it justifies a very careful scrutiny of the reasons given for the adoption of such a measure.

AREAS UNDER COTTON IN EGYPT, 1914-18.

Season.	Area under Cotton (feddans, 000's omitted).			Crop.	Average yield.
	Lower Egypt.	Upper Egypt.	Total.	Kantars.	Per feddan.
1914-15	1,373	382	1,755	6,490,221	3·69
1915-16	937	249	1,186	4,806,331	4·05
1916-17	1,290	366	1,655	5,062,590*	3·06
1917-18	1,294	383	1,677	*6,000,000*	*3·60*
1918-19	*1,000*	*350*	*1,350*	*4,860,000*	*3·60*

The figures *in italics* are estimates.
* Arrivals at Alexandria to August 31, 1917, subject to rectification.

It is satisfactory to know that these reasons are at least entirely different from those put forward in 1914. Then the object of the Government was quite frankly to reduce the supply so as to maintain the price at a higher level than they thought likely under the conditions then prevailing. The Government, acting on "information received," the source of which was never published, came to the conclusion that there was going to be a serious over-supply of cotton, and a débâcle in prices. In this opinion they were not alone; but they were alone in adopting compulsory measures to deal with the expected situation. As a matter of fact, these measures proved entirely unnecessary, for the cotton trade recovered something like its normal equilibrium much sooner than faint hearts expected, and long before the sowing season of 1915 came round it was evident that the situation could be left to look after itself, and the restriction was withdrawn officially, though rather late in the day. The reduction of acreage which followed amounted to just about the Government figure; but that would probably have taken place in any case owing to economic conditions.

As a side issue the Government then founded its action upon the necessity of growing a larger supply of cereals in Egypt for its own consumption, and this time the side issue has become the main reason. The necessity, it is alleged, is now imperative. The local population has been greatly augmented by the armies stationed in and near Egypt, and the difficulty of supplying them from more distant corn countries has become great, owing to the scarcity of tonnage.

To such arguments, if substantiated by the facts, there is, of course, no answer at all, and Lancashire would be the last to attempt to counter them by a plea based on its own expected losses due to the restriction. But, without casting any doubts upon their patriotism, there are certain points upon which the cotton trade in this country may claim to be reassured. In the first place, what is the total gain likely to be derived from the increased area that can be put under cereals in Egypt? Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, of the Egyptian Department of Agriculture, recently published in the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute certain figures of the results of the 1914-16 cereal crops which throw some light on the matter. From these it will be seen that the restriction of cotton by nearly 600,000 acres in 1915 apparently had the following effects:—In the case of wheat, it reduced the imports and increased the exports by about 50,000 metric tons each, and added about the same amount to the quantity available for consumption in the country—i.e., it increased the total production by about 150,000 metric tons. In the case of maize, the saving was a little over 200,000 metric tons, and rice fully 150,000 tons, giving a total of, roughly, 500,000 tons. Assuming, as above stated, that the reduction of acreage next year will be a little more than half of that of 1915, the saving will presumably be reduced in the same way—say, to 250,000 tons. To this must be added the saving in freight space for the reduced cotton crop—say, 50,000 tons.

We leave it to the responsible officials, who alone know all the facts of the position, to estimate the value to our interests of such a saving of freight space. In the present state of public information as to the shipping position it is useless for us to attempt to estimate it. But one point may be stressed; it is not the amount of shipping *to-day* that is in question. It is a year hence—or, rather, it is during the year beginning a year hence, i.e., the year from, say, August, 1918, to August, 1919. Is it to be understood that our present difficulties in the matter of shipping are going to continue, and presumably increase, until the last-mentioned date? That seems to the writer an excessively pessimistic view, in view of recent reductions of U-boat losses and the steady increase of the world's production of new tonnage.

It remains now to set against this saving the loss not only to the Lancashire industry, but to Egypt herself, which the proposed restriction entails. It has been suggested that the immediate loss to Egypt may be regarded as not serious, on the assumption that owing to war scarcity the prices of cereals in Egypt are now relatively as high as the price of cotton. But that is a very risky assumption even in these days, and it would, of course, have been utterly absurd in pre-war days. For there must be no overlooking the fact that under normal conditions cotton is by far the most profitable crop that can be grown in Egypt, and it will certainly be so again in Egypt after the war, whatever it may be now or a year hence. With Egyptian cotton at its present price, it is hard to believe that even at war prices wheat and maize can pay as well.

What, however, is the loss to the Lancashire industry going to be? It will be a very great inconvenience to have the supply of fine cotton still further reduced; it probably means a continuance of the present famine prices, and a restriction of Egyptian cotton to the most necessary uses, such as sewing cottons, aeroplane sail material and the finest white and mercerised fabrics, which will go up in price to such an extent as to reduce their consumption seriously. It will hurt Bolton pretty badly, but it will not be all dead loss to the industry as a whole, because, in the first place, the increased cost must be passed on to the consumer, and, in the second place, Lancashire will be compelled to take up once more the question of substitution; she has already done so, in fact, owing to the recent rise in price of Egyptian. For it must be remembered that paradoxical as it may seem Egyptian cotton was very cheap relatively to American, until its spectacular rise last winter (see NEAR EAST of June 22, 1917). This is brought out in the annexed table, which gives the prices of Egyptian and American with the former expressed in percentages as a premium over the latter. There is a curious history hidden in this table which is worth studying. It will be seen that for ten years before 1909 the average premium of Egyptian over American was about 45 per cent. The failure of the Egyptian crop of that year, disastrous even in comparison with the shortage of the American crop, sent the premium for the season up to 67 per cent., and at one time during the season it actually touched 102. But the result was substitution, in many branches of the trade where such a thing had never before been thought possible, of good American cotton for all but the best Egyptian, and the development of new processes which enabled the manufacturers to turn out American or half-American half-Egyptian fabrics, which, though not quite so good as the pure Egyptian, were quite good enough for the consumer, and were much better value at the money. The ultimate effect of that substitution on the Egyptian market is seen in the table. For six years after 1909-10 the Egyptian premium averaged only 40 per cent., although the Egyptian crops were distinctly smaller in proportion to the American than they had been in the ten years before 1909. Egyptian paid the penalty of its high price in 1909-10 by losing its monopoly of the fine-cotton fabrics, and it was only when Egyptian fell to relatively low levels again that manufacturers went back to it. And the same thing is happening to-day. The high price of Egyptian is driving the manufacturers to substitution on a greater scale than ever, and if, as seems likely, American cotton falls again while Egyptian, owing to the threatened restriction, remains high, substitution will be pressed to a degree and with a success never equalled before. In these days the consumer has to take what he can get, and pay pretty well whatever the producer likes to ask for it; and if he is shown a fabric slightly inferior to the best Egyptian but at half the price he will not only take it now, but he will stick to it afterwards, especially if hard times come again after the war.

AMERICAN AND EGYPTIAN CROPS AND SEASON'S AVERAGE PRICES, WITH PERCENTAGES.

Season.	Crops.		Egyptian percentage of American.	Season's average prices.		
	American.	Egyptian.		American.	Egyptian.	Premium.
	In bales lbs.,000's	of 500 omitted		Middling.	F.G.F. Brown	%
1899-1900	9,440	1,302	13·8	4·87	6·81	40
1900-1901	10,425	1,087	10·4	5·16	6·87	33
1901-1902	10,701	1,274	11·8	4·78	6·25	31
1902-1903	10,758	1,168	10·9	5·46	8·44	55
1903-1904	10,124	1,302	12·9	6·94	8·56	23
1904-1905	13,557	1,263	9·3	4·91	7·44	52
1905-1906	11,320	1,192	10·6	5·95	9·25	55
1906-1907	13,551	1,390	10·2	6·38	10·57	63
1907-1908	11,582	1,447	12·6	6·17	8·81	43
1908-1909	13,829	1,350	9·8	5·50	8·44	53
Average of 10 seasons..			11.2	—	—	44.8
1909-1910	10,651	1,000	9.4	7.86	13.12	67
1910-1911	12,132	1.515	12.5	7.84	10.75	35
1911-1912	16,043	1,487	9.3	6.09	9.56	57
1912-1913	14,129	1.507	10.6	6.75	9.82	46
1913-1914	14,610	1,537	10.5	7.26	9.44	30
1914-1915	15,067	1,238	8.6	5.22	7.34	40
1915-1916	12,953	961	7.4	7.51	10.42	39
Average of 6 seasons..			9.8	—	—	40.1
1916-1917	12,976	1,025	7.9	12.33	21.56	76

The writer would, therefore, impress upon all parties concerned that this is not merely a question of next year's crop. It is a matter which will produce very widespread effects on the operatives as well as the manufacturers, and in the long run, if not in the meantime, on the Egyptian fellah. Egypt must not console herself with the delusion that it pays just as well to sell half a crop at double the price, that as soon as the war is over she will come back to growing cotton again, and that her old market will be waiting for her. It will, but—*at a price!*

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MOTOR TRADE IN EASTERN GREECE.

Scanty Supplies and High Prices.

For the following particulars of the development and future prospects of the motor trade in Eastern Greece we are indebted to a report of the United States Vice-Consul at Athens, Mr. George P. Waller, dated July 14.

In spite of the comparatively large number of self-propelled vehicles that have been imported into Greece during the last five years, it is felt that the use of the automobile is still in its infancy in Greece. Although railway communication is poor and large portions of the country are forced to depend upon hauling their goods long distances, the roadways, especially in the interior, are not much better than trails in many instances, and rural life is by no means highly developed. Absentee landlordism is frequent, and the soil is cultivated by poor but thrifty peasants. In the cities conditions are very different. Large numbers of shipowners have suddenly become wealthy, owing to successful operations in the Balkan and present wars. They desire automobiles for convenience, and in some cases to advertise the fact that they are able to pay the very high prices demanded for cars and for gasoline.

The comparative lightness of the average American product makes such machines peculiarly suitable to the rough roads of the greater part of Greece.

Expensive Motor Cars.

High freight rates, scarcity of ocean tonnage, and a duty of $0.0376 per pound have been given by salesmen in the local markets as the factors responsible for the high prices of automobiles in Greece. When the matter was investigated some months ago it was found that one car costing $695 at the American factory had been sold after three months' use in Greece for the equivalent of $1,700. The seller claimed that the car, with tyres, etc., cost him $1,600 delivered in Greece, and that had he cared to haggle and await a more gullible purchaser he could undoubtedly have sold the car for at least $2,000. Last month the writer had occasion to investigate the situation once more at the request of a friend who urgently needed a car at Salonika. The Athenian market offered at that time two cars. One was of local manufacture, built from the remains of an American 1914 automobile that had been wrecked. This car, which had originally cost $900, was offered for $1,900. The second car was a new American runabout of rather smart design. It had cost about $1,200 in the United States, and the dealer wanted $2,400 for it here.

Effect of the War.

After the entry of Italy into the war the exports of automobiles from Germany and Austria were automatically cut off; and as the Allied Governments had need in most cases of the entire output of factories for war purposes, the American manufacturer would have had a fair monopoly of the local market but for the restrictions of the Allies upon the imports of automobiles into Greece, laid down to prevent the shipment of cars from Greece to Austria and Bulgaria. Only a certain number of cars per month were allowed to be brought into Greece under this arrangement, and the situation was further complicated by the fact that automobiles were not allowed to be imported with tyres. Tyres had to be shipped separately through London under the provisions of the so-called Rubber and Tyre Convention.

Summary of Imports.

In 1912 the value of the automobiles imported into Greece was $51,151, and in 1913 $62,907. In 1914 and 1915, the first years for which detailed figures are available, the imports of passenger automobiles into Old Greece were as follows, by countries of origin :—

Countries of origin.	1914. $		1915. $
France	34,875	..	17,794
United States	23,266	..	32,119
England	16,474	..	12,590
Italy	14,474	..	12,927
Austria	7,720	..	2,026
Switzerland	5,790	..	—
Germany	3,088	..	2,026
Belgium	965	..	—
Total	106,652	..	79,482

Figures for 1916 are available only for the first nine months, and even for this period are thought to be incomplete; they may, however, be taken as minimum figures. According to these incomplete returns for January to September, 1916, the value of passenger automobiles imported into Greece from the United States was $126,605, and the imports of spare parts were valued at $6,295. During this period 24,313 tyres were imported, valued at $136,610, of which 16,001 came from France, 7,166 from England, 939 from the United States, and 207 from Italy. It is thought that if the importation of tyres had been unrestricted the United States could have sold $100,000 to Greece instead of $939 worth.

The following table shows the imports into Greece of gasoline and lubricating oils by countries during 1914, 1915, and the first nine months of 1916 :—

Countries of origin.	1914. $		1915. $		Jan.-Sept., 1916. $
United States	45,046	..	117,080	..	65,725
England	6,727	..	9,329	..	5,854
Russia	3,609	..	—	..	1,341
Germany	21,897	..	465	..	496
Austria	9,256	..	873	..	292
France	2,792	..	1,538	..	32
Belgium	1,075	..	—	..	—
Turkey	514	..	—	..	—
Roumania	—	..	464	..	—
Italy	—	..	296	..	—
Total	90,926	..	130,045	.	73,740

It should be borne in mind that the foregoing import figures do not include oils, benzine, spare parts, automobiles, engines, or tyres imported for the use of the Royal Hellenic Marine, the Army, or Government Departments. The figures represent only private purchases upon which duty has been paid. The duty on automobiles is 3.76 c. per pound; on tyres, 1 c. per pound; on oils, 1.37 c. per pound; and on gasoline, 3.4 c. per pound.

Development of the Trade.

The development of the automobile trade in Greece may be traced directly to the Balkan wars of 1912-13, when the Army and the people realised the importance of the automobile in war as well as in civil life. Road improvement is to be expected in connection with the increasing imports of automobiles For several years before the outbreak of the war of 1914 nearly every Continental manufacturer of tyres had an agency in Greece, with completely equipped sample rooms and agents ready to make sales upon almost any terms. Although there has always been a demand for American tyres, not one American firm, so far as this office is aware, has ever opened an agency in this district.

It is thought that after the war there will be an exceedingly rich field in Eastern Greece for automobiles, tyres, parts, etc. Perhaps the best means of getting in touch with the local market is a reliable commission agent familiar with the language, customs, needs, and preferences of the market. It is exceedingly difficult to do business direct. A commission agent fully accredited and allowed a generous commission on sales can build up a steady market often in a comparatively short time, which may later justify the opening of a branch house in the country. It is hardly necessary to add that it is all-important that such agents be given exclusive territory.

EGYPT'S TRADE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 26.

Good Returns for July.

The Customs returns for July show a continuation of the improvement of the condition of the foreign trade of Egypt. Exports during the month amounted to £E1,919,567, just about double the figure for the previous July, and imports to £E2,820,232, as compared with £E2,594,232 a year ago. For the seven months exports come to £E22,841,522 and imports to £E6,650,509 respectively, an improvement of £E5,527,019 and a decrease of £E355,677 on 1916.

The principal imports during July were preserved meat, £E105,240; flour, £E50,818; coffee, £E70,309; petroleum, £E194,945; olive oil, £E45,791; stationery, £E39,609; coal, £E566,590; drugs, £E21,690, cotton threads, £E40,295; cotton tissues, £E590,862; wool tissues, £E62,949; sacks, £E60,386; worked iron and steel, £E76,171 and tobacco, £E210,680. The chief exports were skins and tanned goods, £E56,634; cotton seed, £E43,631; cotton cake, £E73,909; sugar, £E88,280 and cotton, £E1,490,546.

Chief Increases.

Great Britain's share of the imports fell off slightly, but the decrease was made up by a considerable rise in the proportion of India and Australia due to increased meat, flour, coffee, and textile shipments. America increased by 50 per cent. owing to larger petroleum imports and Greece trebled her share by larger tobacco and oil shipments. Both France and Brazil fell off considerably. Under exports Great Britain increased the amount of her purchases but not in proportion to the total exports for the month. As usual all the cotton seed and cake was taken by her as well as just under 50 per cent. of the cotton. America rose from £E50,027 to £E554,350, entirely due to larger cotton purchases; the same reason accounted for a substantial rise in shipments to France and Japan. Exports to Russia and Spain were nil, whilst those to Switzerland fell to a negligible quantity.

Trade with the Sudan was brisk. Exports from Egypt rose from £E94,872 to £E124,412 and imports into Egypt from £E35,663 to £E211,662. The principal imports from the Sudan were livestock, £E12,390; maize, £E42,224; sesame, £E30,902; gum, £E15,729; and cotton, £E62,948. Chief exports from Egypt were sugar £E35,779, and cotton tissues £E30,050.

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"SPECIAL" YEARS 10 OLD. SCOTCH WHISKY "LIQUEUR" YEARS 12 OLD.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Coal-Gas Development.

According to recent reports and expert opinion the use of town-gas as a substitute for petrol for motor vehicles has been established, and although it can probably only be regarded as a temporary substitute, it is certainly possible to employ town-gas largely for heavy vehicles which run regularly within a suitable radius of gas-producing centres. If this fuel is to be extensively adopted the use of gas stored at a safe pressure will become almost necessary. A description of the gas-container and its accessories at the top of the vehicle, as well as the method of operation, was given in these columns some time ago, when the first vehicle driven by coal-gas appeared in public. Since then improvements have been made, and in recent official trials it was proved that the system is a perfect success. The advantages are stated thus in the report :—(1) The holder or container can be easily and cheaply replenished with gas from any ordinary supply. (2) The holder behaves as its own constant pressure governor, thus obviating the necessity for auxiliary governing accessories. (3) There is no need for gas-compressing machinery. (4) It adds very little to the weight of the vehicle; and (5) the holder is cheap to instal.

The use of town-gas as fuel for motor wagons is of great interest to many public authorities and private owners of motor cars in the Near East, who, owing to the great scarcity of petrol and its high price, have been obliged to discontinue the use of their cars. By the employment of gas as fuel such difficulties will disappear; for it should be easy to provide facilities for replenishment through an ordinary meter of sufficient size at many places, and in certain cases it might be practicable to supply gas through prepayment meters.

At a trial a 35-h.p. or three-tonner wagon was run round a district having just about the average kind of road and variations of level at an average speed of nine miles per hour, at a consumption of 1,000 cubic feet of gas per twenty-five miles.

Trade After the War.

Mr. L. A. Paish, of the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Board of Trade, addressing a meeting of the brass trade in Birmingham last week, spoke of the strenuous efforts being made in Germany to get all manufacturers into syndicates as the only way of regaining "the place in the sun." The Board of Trade was anxious to co-operate with manufacturers, and was prepared to go as far as finding financial assistance in investigating any particular market. If manufacturers were to regain their trade after the war, it was absolutely necessary that they should combine.

The Board of Trade, whose endeavours to organise the country's industries for the forthcoming trade war are very praiseworthy, can do, or say, nothing better than that, and it will be the fault of the manufacturers if they find themselves unprepared when that time comes. It is argued by some that collective action may tend to discourage enterprise in two ways. If it takes the form of a bureaucratic régime, whether instituted by the State or adopted by the governing body of an industry, it almost inevitably results in diminished activity and initiative on the part of the individual. If it involves the pooling of profits, it removes the stimulus of competition, and so reduces the incentive to effort. But there is no reason why it should involve either of these evils. Competent authorities explained to those arguing that point that "voluntary co-operation implies unity of purpose, but not uniformity of method." Success depends upon the energy and ability with which each member pursues the common policy, and collective action need not exclude the element of competition. All manufacturers and exporters are interested in seeing that British goods are widely known and easily accessible in foreign markets. But collective advertising, exhibitions, arrangements for transport and financing shipments are only devoted to winning a market within which British firms may compete with each other. It must be admitted that the value of combined efforts for gaining a market is better understood in America and Germany than here. An instance is provided by the combined efforts of a number of American engineering firms to introduce their productions in the Russian and Eastern markets. They contributed to a scheme of collective advertising, and the distribution of a handbook on the quality and efficiency of American machinery, and on American financial and commercial conditions. This, and the "strenuous efforts" which Mr. Paish mentioned that are being made in Germany to get all manufacturers into syndicates, ought to rouse British manufacturers to prepare themselves before it is "too late."

SULPHUR DEPOSITS IN CYPRUS.

According to the *Cyprus Agricultural Journal*, sulphur has been found in the mines at Skouriotissa. A moderate deposit has already been located and steps are now being taken to extract and refine the sulphur and to prepare therefrom flowers of sulphur of a quality which, it is believed, will be suited for the treatment of vines.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Uncertain Market.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

Business in the market this week has been disorganised by the smart advance in American cotton rates. The big rise of 110 points in Liverpool on Monday last gave business a shock, and although a considerable inquiry has come through in yarn and cloth most of the offers have been impracticable. Much interest has been taken in the scheme of the Government relating to trading in the raw material in Liverpool from the beginning of next week. The new conditions are welcome, and although the new contract is not so satisfactory as the old it is realised that greater concessions from the authorities could scarcely be expected under the circumstances. Fluctuations in Egyptian cotton rates continue to take place. The current growth is said to be doing generally well. In Egyptian yarns rather more inquiry has come round, but sales of any weight have been isolated. In cloth for Egypt a few more offers have been met with, and buyers who have been nursing orders have been more prepared to arrange contracts with manufacturers. It is to be regretted that shipping facilities remain so poor, as the season in Cairo has now begun and larger supplies are wanted. Inquiry for India has broadened, there being more bids for Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras than for a long time back. So far business in grey shirtings has not been feasible, but steady buying has occurred in finishing and bleaching descriptions. China has only given retail support. Purchasing for Java continues on an encouraging scale. Operations for South America have been somewhat checked by the higher prices required by manufacturers. Makers of heavy materials suitable for war purposes are busier than ever. American yarns for home use have been in increased request, but buyers have not readily paid advances, and a large part of the demand has been blocked. Only a miscellaneous business has been done in bundle yarns for India. The undercurrent of demand for France remains healthy.

With the retirement of Mr. A. E. G. Braithwaite the firm of Braithwaite and Kirk, engineers, Calcutta, has assumed the name of Braithwaite and Co.

GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers of Egypt and the Sudan.
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
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GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.
Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.
Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.
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For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP")
WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet*
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
"We recommend your Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla."—MEDICAL REVIEW.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—Sir R. MARTIN.
The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION for (Established since 1829) over THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

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CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS.
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IMITATION LEATHER.

The Greek Market.

The United States Consul-General at Athens, Mr. Alexander W. Weddell, gives some interesting particulars in a recent report with regard to the Greek market for imitation leather and the effects of the war on the importation of this commodity.

Imitation waterproof leathers have been imported into Greece for perhaps ten years, generally from England, Germany, Austria, and Italy, under various names and in varying qualities, widths, grains, and colours. Their sale has increased greatly in the last few years, and it has been estimated that in the year preceding the outbreak of the war imports reached a total value of $135,000. During the war the figure has dropped, and now a generous estimate of the annual imports would be $6,000. On account of higher prices demanded by American producers of imitation leathers, their products have not sold well in this district. American imitation leather is said to have cost before the war 15 to 20 per cent. more than other goods. Because of the large demand, combined with general shipping difficulties, very little imitation leather is found on the Greek market to-day. Any of this product it is possible to deliver could be sold without effort, it is thought.

Pre-War Sources of Supply.

Perhaps the largest and most important producers that made shipments to Greece before the war were the British Pluvinsin Co., Limited, Manchester, and a firm in Austria. The more expensive qualities came from the English company, and medium grades from the Austrian firm, while cheaper styles, particularly for bookbinding, came from Italy. The only practicable method of building up a market for American goods in this district, or in other portions of the Eastern Mediterranean and Levant, is through the medium of a reliable commission agent, fully accredited, having exclusive territory, and familiar with local customs, needs, and languages.

Advertising in this district is very costly, and is of doubtful utility, except in particular cases, in which the agent's opinion should receive careful attention. Reading matter for local use should be in French, or, better still, in modern Greek. Greek customs duties on articles of this class are assessed at the rate of 1.45 drachmae per oke, according to paragraph 332a of the Greek tariff.

Credit Required.

Greek merchants, for many years before the outbreak of this war, were so favoured in the matter of credits, particularly by German firms, that it is still extremely difficult to induce them to consider the comparatively severe terms that many American firms have insisted upon since the cutting off of German sources of supply from the Hellenic market threw a large amount of Greek trade into their hands. A good commission agent, in thorough touch with his customers, should have no difficulty in establishing cash terms, but this is a matter which doubtless would be arranged in individual cases. The Austrian company that has been mentioned was very glad to extend eight months' credit in most cases as a matter of course. Under present conditions, however, confirmed or irrevocable credits could be opened in New York before shipment, if thought necessary.

Imitation rubber products shipped to Greece are generally packed in rolls, in solid wooden cases, each case containing strips from 40 to 50 feet long, and from 46 to 50 inches wide. It is earnestly suggested that manufacturers should not attempt to do business directly with local merchants, but in case they insist on that method they should write to these firms in modern Greek. Inasmuch as there is little or no chance that anyone in Greece will attempt to counterfeit imitation leather, it is not felt necessary that American manufacturers should go through the intricate and costly steps required to register their product with the Government.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

A tug brought in on September 22 to East London the crew of the Greek steamer "Eugenie S. Embiricos," bound for there, which ran ashore thirty-seven miles west of the port.

The Times Cairo correspondent states that everything indicates that this year's Nile flood will be higher than that of 1916, which was the highest for 22 years. The levels of the White and Blue Niles have kept exceedingly high for some time, and the water supply is more than assured. Orders have been given to watch the banks of the Nile closely and to prevent breaching.

It is thought that the cultivation of ground nuts will be taken up more seriously now in Cyprus, owing to the prohibition of the importation of this commodity, as there are several parts of the island where they can be successfully cultivated.

The Madras Government has discountenanced further experiments in the manufacture of soda-water bottles at the Government factory. Investigations are still proceeding with regard to the bangle industry, but it is thought very doubtful whether an indigenous craft could survive without a heavy duty on Austrian glass.

The Postmaster-General announces that the Government of India have decided that the value of British postal orders paid in India to any one individual on the same day must not exceed £20.

For the three months ended June 30 Indian exports and imports were as follows:—Exports: Indian produce and manufacture, Rs.57,29,73,760; bullion, Rs.21,17,315; Government paper enfaced, Rs.45,200; total, Rs.57,51,36,275. Imports: Merchandise, Rs.31,32,42,936; bullion, Rs.4,60,61,715; council bills sold, Rs.15,67,16,000; Government paper written off, Rs.35,20,000; total, Rs.51,95,40,650. 1917-1918 balance in favour of India, Rs.5,55,95,625, or at exchange at 1s. 4d., £3,706,375.

H.M. Consul at Adis Abeba reports, under date August 9, that in dealing with any firm in Abyssinia, especially at the present time, when commercial conditions are unstable, it would be well for British firms to do business cash against documents at Jibuti or Adis Abeba, or to work through the Bank of Abyssinia.

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

A MINISTRY OF COMMERCE.

Views in Industrial Centres.

It was only to be expected that the Government scheme for a Department of Commercial Intelligence would direct renewed attention to the advisability of the creation of a Ministry of Commerce, which would unite under one control all the varied functions at present exercised by a number of separate authorities. In the industrial centres opinion has long been in favour of such a Ministry, and, judging by the following passage from an article in the September issue of the *Middlesbrough Monthly Circular* it is gaining in force:

"It is quite obvious that after the war there will have to be a very drastic reorganization of our lop-sided, overlapping and often competitive Government Departments, and out of this reorganization a really complete, well-ordered and self-contained Ministry of Commerce might well emerge. It is not easy to exaggerate the importance of a real Ministry of Commerce in relation to the innumerable problems which must press for settlement immediately after the conclusion of peace. It is, therefore, in the highest degree desirable that the Chambers of Commerce and all the other organizations concerned for the welfare of British trade should press the matter insistently upon the attention of the Government and refuse to be put off with any partial or incomplete scheme. There was never a more opportune time for bringing about a genuine revision of the whole question of the attitude of the State towards the enterprise of its citizens in foreign countries. In pre-war days successive Governments, immersed in party politics, complacently ignored anything and everything that did not spell votes, but the logic of events since the war began has compelled attention to the shaken foundations of our industrial prosperity. Moreover, the war has given a much-needed stimulus to the organization of trade interests throughout the country, and our politicians are beginning to realize that they already constitute a force which will have to be reckoned with. Moreover, the belief in the eventual co-operation of capital and labour for the maintenance and expansion of our industries is not now confined to mere visionaries, but is, we venture to think, moving rapidly into the sphere of practical politics. This, in itself, should provide an immense accession of strength to those who are determined that trade interests shall no longer be neglected as they have been in the past."

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended September 23, 3 p.m.:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,775
Sailings	2,691

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons gross or over	*13
Under 1,600 tons gross	2
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	†10
British fishing vessels sunk	2

* Including one sunk during week ending September 16.

† Including one attacked during week ended September 9, and two during week ended September 16.

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The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d.
WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1.

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COMPANY MEETING.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

Presiding at the meeting of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin on Tuesday, Lord Rathmore said that so far as they had been able to obtain any reliable information, their railway and rolling stock appeared not to have suffered any serious damage beyond the wear and tear of the uses they had been put to by the Ottoman Government. He added that, having recently seen in the newspapers a report that bombs had been dropped on Smyrna, he had made inquiries of the proper official authorities whether they had received any information to that effect, but he was told that they had no news of the alleged bombing or of any exceptional events affecting the railway. That seemed to confirm their opinion that nothing of an alarming character had lately befallen the line. He went pretty fully in March last into the view which the directors held as to the position and prospects of the company, and also explained the steps they had taken for the safeguarding and advancement of their interests at the termination of the war. He could not usefully add anything now to what he then said on those subjects.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons announce the numbers of 253 bonds, amounting to £73,000, of the Ottoman Four per Cent. Loan of 1891 (secured by Egyptian Tribute), which have been drawn for redemption on October 10.

The Bank of England is prepared to receive the coupons due 1st proximo on bonds of the Greek Guaranteed £2 10s. per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898. The necessary lists can be procured on application at the dividend pay office, 3, Princes Street, E.C.

Coupon No. 40 of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Limited, falling due October 1, on the 5 per cent. debentures, should now be lodged at the Bank of England, E.C., for payment.

Oil Outputs.

Cheleken.—Production fortnight ending August 11 (n.s.), 209 tons; fortnight ending August 25 (n.s.), 178 tons; fortnight ending September 8 (n.s.), 214 tons.

Bibi Eibat.—Production for week ending September 16, 50,867 poods (or 821 tons).

European Oilfields.—Production for week ending September 16, 71,500 poods.

Baku Russian.—Estimated gross production week ending September 15, 76,500 poods.

Russian Petroleum.—Estimated production for week ending September 15, 37,800 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 965 poods from ambars, for week ending September 16, 192,205 poods, or about 3,100 tons; total production for year from January 14 to September 16, 6,173,315 poods, or about 99,570 tons; total production for corresponding period last year, 6,016,655 poods, or about 97,043 tons.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, 20 tons; Hurgada, 1,734 tons.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Sept. 14.		1917. Week Sept. 13.
Cattle markets	593	..	323
General markets	359	..	426
Receipts (£)	952	..	749
Total for year	37,502	..	42,330

The offices of the South Behar Railway Co., Limited, have been removed to 25, Buckingham Palace Road, Westminster, S.W.1.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C.

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samobi, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, etc., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

ON 'CHANGE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
THROGMORTON AVENUE,
London, Thursday.

We have again had a very quiet week, but on the whole the tone has been rather better although business has continued very restricted. The news from Egypt that the Nile flood this year promises to be even better than that of last year, which constituted practically a record, has no doubt contributed to the better feeling.

In Government stocks Unifieds have been dealt in to some extent up to 84, and 3½ per cent. preference have improved ½ to 73, at which price a fairly important transaction took place.

In Bank shares Nationals and Agriculturals are both unchanged, and only small transactions have been effected round current prices. Anglo-Egyptians are ⅛ down at 13⅛, some shares having come on the market.

In Land shares Aboukirs are a firm spot with buyers at 19s., but no sellers under 20s. Allotments are very steady round 3, and the company is believed to have made some satisfactory sales of land recently. In Behéras there has been nothing doing, but some shares are probably obtainable at about 12. Delta Lands have been dealt in to some extent between 12s. 9d. and 13s. 6d., and a fair number of New Egyptians have changed hands round 13s. 3d. Union Foncières were dealt in for some hundreds of shares round 37s. early in the week, but they have since improved 2s. to 39s. on some further buyers coming into the market.

In miscellaneous shares Alexandria Water are ⅛ quieter at 12⅜, whilst Khedivial Mail have been in demand and are 4s. higher at 35s., with a fair amount of business passing. Markets have been dealt in in a small way round 27s. and a fair amount of Salt and Soda shares have been done round 25s. 9d., an advance of 3d. since last week.

In Greek securities 81's and 84's were dealt in in a small way round 60, and closed more or less nominal about 61, an advance of 1½ since last week. On the other hand Monopolies are flat with a drop of 1½ points at 51. Rentes are in some request at about 44 and Currant Bonds are wanted at 91, but there are no sellers of the latter. Bank of Athens shares have been in demand for Athens and closed ⅛ better at 3, at which price some business was done.

Paris Bourse.

Quotations on Wednesday included:—Serbian (1895), 59 (unchanged); Credit Foncier Egyptien, 755 (against 760); Ottoman Bank, 500 (against 492); Suez Canal, 4,580 (against 4,589).

Oil Shares.

Wednesday's markings were notable for a substantial rise of 1s. 3d. in Anglo-Egyptians B to 24s.—25s. Roumanian Consols declined 3d. to 12s. 3d.—13s. 3d.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to July 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to August 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, July 1917		3,058,061	994,000
Do. do. do. 1916		3,140,949	2,538,000
Estimated Receipts for 7 months (Law of Control)		16,858,333	6,241,666
Actual do. do., 1917		18,060,730	6,746,000
Do. do. do., 1916		20,158,119	16,422,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 7 months	1917	+ 1,202,396	+ 504,333
	1916	+ 3,299,786	+10,180,333

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49·1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914.	Price. Sept 21.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77⅜	77⅜
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83½	83½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72½	73
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	59½	61
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	59½	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	52½	51
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55	55
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	60	60
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	5⅜	5⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13½	13⅜
Bank of Athens	£2	2⅞	3
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅛	8⅛
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅛	4⅛	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅝	6⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	15⅛	15⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%.	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	19/6	19/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12	12
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/-	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/3	13/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅜	15/-	15/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	37/-	39/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅞	26/3	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	25/6	25/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	31/-	35/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 8.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	15½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New Privilligiée	Frs.	79
"	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	81
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85½
Privilégiée		75
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		28
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		10½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5⅛
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	164
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		22/3
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	720
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	337
" 1903 "	Frs.	267
" 1911 "	Frs.	274
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅛

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for eleven days ended August 31.

	1916. £E.		1917. £E.
August 20–August 31	5,420	..	6,813
April 1–August 31	72,151	..	86,101

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
September 18 and 19	400,000	390,000
September 20, 21 22, 23	980,000	470,000

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CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

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HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

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MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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THE NEAR EAST

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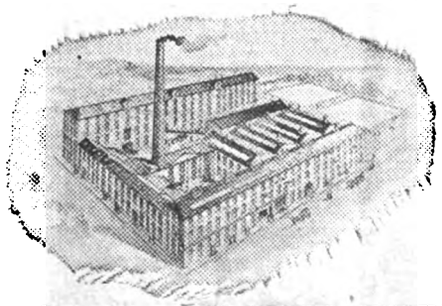
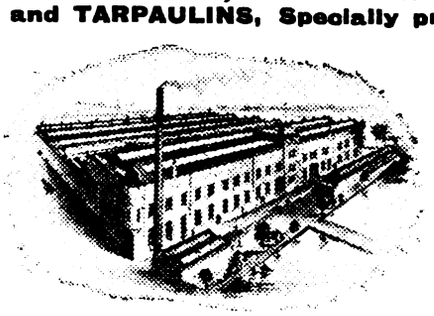

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 335.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The outstanding military event of the week has been General Maude's brilliant success in Mesopotamia. At the moment it is impossible to gauge the full effect of the victory, but it is known that thirteen guns and twelve machine-guns have been taken, while 600 wounded and 3,200 unwounded prisoners are in our hands and two hundred Turkish dead have been buried by our men. On the most conservative estimate, this represents a very substantial gain, which will do much to increase the already considerable British prestige in the Middle East.

Unless the much-advertised rumours of a forthcoming Turkish offensive in Mesopotamia were purely fictitious, General Maude would seem to have anticipated the enemy's blow in a fashion which will make it difficult for the promised threat to be carried out. It was pointed out at the time, however, that, while the German newspapers were talking about Baghdad, they might be really referring to Palestine. Should the Germans have prepared a counter-attack on our troops at Gaza, the action on the Euphrates would hardly dislocate their arrangements, but it might, on the contrary, cause them to hasten their preparations. Turkish prestige reached its height at the surrender of Kut nearly eighteen months ago, but it has now fallen very far from that standard, and it is not perhaps very likely to recover, although it would be rash to assume that the Turk as a fighting factor has been eliminated for the rest of the war.

Peace talk has again been active during the week. The German Foreign Office has continued its tortuous manœuvres, publicly proclaiming that it stands where it did on the matter of Belgium and France, while privately it has offered peace to the Western Powers. Its terms, as reported by the French Ambassador in Petrograd, were that England and France should obtain what they wanted in the west, while Russia was to be sold to Germany in the east. This engaging project, which agrees substantially with the reading of the German peace aims put forward in these columns some weeks ago, was indignantly repudiated by the Western Powers, who remain faithful to the Pact of London. Probably Germany still wonders why we stand by Russia; in similar circumstances Berlin would certainly have joined in plundering an ally long ago.

There remains the rather obscure Papal activity. The Pope, whose sincerity everybody admits (except a few fire-eating German pastors of another persuasion), and whose incidental desire to restore the temporal power can hardly be considered a crime in the head of the Vatican, still remains officially hopeful of success. A curious statement has been issued from Papal sources that Germany is willing to give up Belgium and Northern France, but nothing is said as to the conditions, and it may be surmised once again that the condition would be an open door for Germany in Russia and the Balkans. Although the Pan-Germans would rage at such a decision, or indeed at anything short of annexing the earth, the mass of German opinion would probably consider such a peace satisfactory. The Socialists, tame and otherwise, supported the war originally on the ground of the peril from Russia, and they would claim that their support had been justified, if a peace were concluded which removed that peril from the horizon. The business community, on the other hand, which looks for fresh markets to replace those which have been lost during the war, would be satisfied, if it secured Russia, the Balkans and Asia Minor to exploit. Politically, too, a disguised but effective German control over a divided Russia would secure Prussian dominance in Europe, and leave her in a better position for the "final reckoning" with England and France, which German Professordom would proclaim inevitable in another thirty years' time. It may be assumed, too, that the disarmament proposal, in which Germany echoes the Pope, would be made to apply very drastically to Russia and the Balkan States. For the present, Germany continues to take a suspicious interest in the national movements in Lithuania and Courland, in order to transform the autonomist movement in those provinces into one that demands complete separation from Russia—in which event Germany calculates that these little countries could be made dependent on Berlin.

Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, has found it necessary to imitate his colleagues in the German Government by seeming to discuss peace. After the usual statement that Vienna was unprepared for war, which is an improvement in finesse on the theory that the Central Powers did not want war, although it approaches no nearer to the truth, he proceeded to talk generalities in the now fashionable manner. He is ready for disarmament, for arbitration, for economic peace; in fact, for the millennium. It is perhaps something gained to have made our enemies talk of such things, for this is at least a more excellent song than the other one of conquering the world. But there are certain verses omitted, and those the very ones that the audience want

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to hear. Count Czernin has nothing to say about Roumania or Serbia; he does not even hint at restitution.

It is true that he has dropped indemnities, except as a debating point. He is venturesome enough to remark that "*even* Germany has most emphatically professed adherence to the idea of all-round disarmament"—a phrase which may awaken some susceptibilities in Berlin. But all these generalities about "the new world-order" are no substitute for the plain answer that is demanded as to the destiny of the occupied countries. The Austrian silence on that point, and the official German statement that these matters are kept for bargaining at the peace conference, are sufficient indication that the Central Powers have not yet abandoned their dreams of expansion. This pious language will be rated at its proper value by those who have knowledge of the brutal policy still being pursued in Serbia.

Some further details of that policy have been given in *The Times*. The population of Nish has diminished by 60 per cent., and is now mainly women and children. All the men capable of bearing arms, and even elderly men have been transported into Bulgaria, where they are employed in road-making. Children have been taken from their homes and flogged in order to make them reveal the hidden stores of arms and ammunition which were supposed to be secreted by their parents. Many things have been stolen by the Bulgarians; the present Burgomaster is a Bulgarian café-keeper of a low class, who treats the people insolently.

The Bulgarian Prime Minister has assured a German newspaper that the meeting of the German Emperor and King Ferdinand, "and another important event which is imminent, but which for the present must remain a secret," will once more demonstrate the unity of the Central Powers. The mysterious secret event probably indicates that Berlin has granted another loan to Sofia—it is the sort of thing that the recipient naturally would not talk about too much—in return for which it is quite possible that Bulgaria may pursue a more active military policy than has been evident lately.

From Roumania, or rather from Odessa, comes news of rather serious difficulties in provisioning the population, which is hardly to be wondered at in view of the loss of territory, the difficulty of cultivating the uninvaded districts at the same time that the army was being reorganised, and the disturbance of conditions in Russia. Great sympathy will be felt in this country with our friends in Moldavia, a sympathy which is not the less sincere, because it is mingled with admiration for the plucky way in which Roumania has so far surmounted the unavoidable troubles of the past year, and the great fight which she has put up against the enemy. It is rumoured in Odessa that a fresh offensive is shortly to be launched against Roumania, but it remains to be seen whether the enemy's intentions have been correctly judged. On this side the prevailing impression is that Germany is removing very large numbers of men from the eastern to the western front.

Whatever the future may have in store on the Roumanian front, comparative quiet now prevails, and the Germans are using the interval, after their usual manner, in propagandist work. Regularly every afternoon the minenwerfer throw across the Sereth River the Bucharest newspapers, now produced under German control, and manifestoes are also sent over imploring "our Roumanian comrades" to come back and recover their freedom, and visit their homes; or, if they will not venture themselves, at least to write to their families, the Germans promising to deliver the correspondence. The Teutonic mind is wonderfully constructed, if it imagines that this kind of thing has any effect, but as the same policy has been pursued from time to time in France, and more especially in Russia, it is probable that some professor of psychology has advised it as an effective peace offensive. The weak point of the business is that two can play at the game, and the Roumanians have retorted by exhibiting posters bearing the legend, "If you have had enough of the war, why not come over to us? We will give you decent bread." It is a retort both courteous and effective.

An apparently trustworthy account which has appeared in *The Times* indicates that the economic situation of the Ottoman Empire goes from bad to worse. In Turkey only 60 per cent. of the average acreage of wheat was under cultivation this spring; fruits and figs are available, but bread and onions are scarce. The soldiers are often without bread to eat, and in Constantinople fish is canned by the Germans for German use alone. The German troops are better treated than the Turks, which naturally causes discontent in the Ottoman army, and Enver Pasha is said to have asked that better treatment should be given to his soldiers. Should it be the fact that a Turkish general on Turkish territory has to ask his ally for better conditions for his own men, it shows to what a position of degradation Germany has reduced Turkey. But it seems clear from this statement that not even the Germans can do much to provision themselves from Asia Minor. Rather exalted expectations of importing food from Asia Minor into Prussia by way of the Balkan Railway have appeared in the German newspapers from time to time. But these Press promises will hardly have done anything to satisfy Teuton hunger; indeed, it should have been obvious from the beginning that any large increase of production in Asia Minor—a sufficiently difficult problem at the best, which even in peace time would take some years to bring to a satisfactory solution—would be practically impossible in war time, when the working population was so largely drawn upon for military service.

Some further documents have been issued in connection with the Athens outbreak of last December. It appears that orders were issued by the Greek General Staff on November 29 ordering the Athens garrison to occupy all the commanding positions about the city and all public buildings, and, if the Allied detachments tried to take possession, to offer armed resistance and to fire upon them if necessary. While these orders were being issued, King Constantine was giving assurances to the French Admiral that he agreed to the Allies entering Athens, and would only make a show of resistance. The ex-monarch appears to have studied political ethics at Potsdam with some success.

It seems that Viennese opinion is becoming rather alarmed over the Corfu agreement and the Southern Slav movement. The *Neue Freie Presse*, which has attained its influence by always saying what the average man in Vienna thinks that he thinks, has been discussing the question of Dalmatia. It denounces the Entente for "interfering in our internal affairs, and employing Serbia as a bolt to bar our way to the East." The possession of the Dalmatian coast, says this paper, is a vital necessity for Austria, since, if she loses it, she would be absolutely cut off from the Balkans, and Austrian merchandise could only reach Serbia and Bulgaria by traversing Hungary—which is popularly supposed to have some political connection with Austria.

A contemporary which reflects with unfailing precision the ideas of thirty years ago is very angry because Mr. Asquith put in a word for Greece in his Leeds speech. As a matter of fact, all that the ex-Premier said was that "there are the cases, not to be forgotten, of Greece and the Southern Slavs," which is surely not very strong doctrine, even allowing for our excellent contemporary's dislike of the Southern Slavs. M. Venizelos has admitted that his vision of a Greater Greece has been partially compromised by the late King's policy, but it must in justice be recognised that it was a personal policy, and since King Constantine's removal Greece has played the game. She may not have scored so many runs as if she had had an earlier innings; but it is a little hard, if she is not to be reckoned on the score-sheet at all.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 7.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

The first of the ceremonies preceding the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca took place, as usual, on the Mastaba at the foot of the Citadel on Saturday last. This ceremony, which is called "Al Kiswa," in contrast with the one that takes place a week later, and goes by the name of "Al Mahmal," consists in the official conveyance of the "Kiswa," or covering for the Kaaba at Mecca, from the factory where it has been woven to the Hassanein Mosque, where it remains until the time comes for the caravan to leave for Suez, en route for Jedda and the Holy Shrines. The Kiswa ceremony was this year presided over by the Prime Minister, H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, who represented H.H. the Sultan. An interesting feature in last Saturday's proceedings was the presence amongst the spectators of a large number of British convalescents, who by special arrangement had been accorded a prominent position, from which they were able to follow all the details of this picturesque ceremonial.

The Cotton Seed Crop.

In my letter of August 17 I reported that a proclamation had been issued by General Allenby forbidding all dealings in cotton seed from the new crop, in view of the intention of the British Government to purchase all that was available for export. The negotiations necessary to the elaboration of a scheme of purchase have now been concluded, and on Monday last a notice was issued by the British authorities announcing that a board, to be known as "The Cotton Seed Control Board," had been appointed to effect on behalf of H.B.M.'s Government the purchase, storing and shipping of the 1917-18 crop of cotton seed. The notice goes on to say that the Board is authorised to purchase in Alexandria on the basis of P.T.100 per ardeb for Fayumi and Upper Egypt, P.T.92 per ardeb for Affifi, Assili, Nubari and Abbassi, and P.T.85 per ardeb for Sakellarides seed; these prices are for fair average quality, and allowances above and below the standards, which will be fixed by the Board, will be made. No one will be allowed to purchase seed without a licence from the Board, and special provision has been made to meet the requirements of the local crushing mills.

The only class of seed which is outside the control of the Board is seed for sowing purposes, and it is expressly stated that all arrangements in connection with that seed shall be kept in the hands of the Egyptian Government. Simultaneously with the above order another was issued, with the approval of the General Officer Commanding his Majesty's Forces in Egypt, ordering that until further notice cotton seed may only leave a ginnery, if it is consigned to Alexandria, is issued on licence to the crushers, or is issued for sowing purposes either direct to the Ministry or to cultivators under licence from the Ministry of Agriculture. In other words, all seed for sowing purposes is now placed under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, and no one may issue it without a special permit from that administration.

It is to be hoped that this will mean that an improvement will make itself evident in the crop as the result of the greater attention which the Ministry will be able to give to the quality of the seed issued to cultivators. Of course, for some little time, at any rate until an adequate staff is available, no great improvement must be expected, but all the same the control which is now conferred on the Egyptian Government must result in the elimination of the unscrupulous element of dealers, who have in the past been responsible for the dissemination of inferior and mixed seed throughout the country, and who, under the system of licences, will no longer be able to impose on the fellahin with impunity. I might mention that the Government already controls about one-fifth of the sowing seed used annually, through the distribution of seed which the Ministry of Agriculture makes on credit to the small fellahin land-owners, but the new arrangement affords it a much wider and firmer control over the sowing seed.

The realization of the hopes of the extermination of the pink boll worm, through disinfection of the seed, has once more had to be postponed, owing to the difficulties encountered under present conditions in obtaining the necessary machines. At first it was ordered under the law introduced last autumn that every factory, to be allowed to work, must install a fumigation machine approved of by the Ministry of Agriculture. The installation was to be finished by September 1 this year. Early in the year, however, it was evident that the number of machines required for the whole country would not be obtainable from Home, and it was arranged that the law should only be applied to Upper Egypt, and that it should be suspended in so far as Lower Egypt was concerned. Now, however, it is found impossible to obtain even the small number required for the southern provinces, and in consequence the application of the law has had to be completely suspended until further notice. It is a great pity that this delay has had to be incurred in the execution of a scheme which the experts are sanguine would, together with the destruction of the bolls left on the cotton plants after the final picking, completely eradicate the pink boll worm, but the delay cannot be helped in the circumstances, and we can only hope that in the meantime the ravages of that pest will not increase too much.

The Cairo City Police.

Colonel George Harvey Pasha, who is about to proceed on leave, has definitely decided to retire from the Commandantship of the Cairo City Police on the expiration of that leave. Harvey Pasha, who is one of the oldest officials in the country, has done yeoman service out here. He succeeded to his present position on the retirement of Mansfield Pasha some ten years ago, and he has been responsible for a number of reforms, which have added greatly to the efficiency of the force. He has always been noted for his fearlessness, and he never showed that quality better than during the troublous period just prior to the appointment of Lord Kitchener as British Agent, as the writer can testify from his own personal observation. Few people, moreover, realise what a debt is owed to the retiring Commandant for the bold and able manner in which he controlled affairs and carried on during the early months of the war, when the powers that then were scarcely seemed themselves to know what policy to adopt towards the cosmopolitan element which existed in the city and sheltered a multitude of spies and political agents, and when the Pasha took upon himself the great responsibility of acting as he thought fit. Colonel Harvey has fully deserved a rest from his life of ceaseless activity, and he will be much missed in Cairo, where his striking figure had caused him to become quite a landmark.

It is not known definitely who will succeed to the Commandantship of Cairo, but there is every likelihood of Russel Bey, Harvey Pasha's second-in-command, obtaining the appointment. If he does, it will be a well-merited promotion, for Russel Bey is a most efficient police officer and fully understands how to handle populations such as abound in Cairo, as his conduct during the riots in Alexandria some years ago conclusively demonstrated. Under him the Cairo City Police ought to do much good work and prove an eminently efficient body of men.

The Question of Taxation.

A local contemporary has published a statement that a commission of experts has arrived here in order to study the question of fresh taxation. This information is, however, quite incorrect. It is, moreover, not likely that any scheme such as would require consideration by a commission from outside will be put forward before the end of the war, and indeed it is far more probable that, if fresh taxation is to be imposed, as the Acting Financial Adviser's report leads us to expect, it will be introduced without taking the advice of any experts from home. It is a thousand pities that there is to-day no means of tapping the fortunes made by certain local people through the war, and also that advantage cannot be taken of the present prosperous condition of the agri-

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cultural element to levy now a contribution towards post-war capital works expenditure. The latter expenditure will, after all, be for their direct benefit, and they would to-day not feel any reasonable extra taxation which might be imposed on them to raise part of the sum required. It is true that, theoretically speaking, the money made by the agricultural element will still exist as a taxable asset after the war; but, all the same, it appears highly regrettable that the present opportunity, when the fellah would not feel the levy, should be allowed to slip by.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the balance of trade between Egypt and the world since the outbreak of war is about £E23,000,000 in the former's favour. If to this are added the bank balances abroad, which, owing to the heavy purchases made in this country by the British Army, must be very considerable, one can obtain a fair idea of the wealth that has accrued to Egypt and of the great change that has come over the financial relations of this country with Europe since and owing to the outbreak of war.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 9, 1917.

The Late Cabinets.

The Chamber of Deputies adjourned last Monday for twenty days, and the Premier has gone to Ipati for a well-earned rest.

The last question to occupy their attention was the motion to defer the Skouloudes and Lambros Cabinets to the High Court. The motion was carried almost unanimously by those present, and two commissions were named to inquire into the grounds on which they are accused, which are briefly as follows:—First, for having accepted office knowing that they did not enjoy the confidence of the people; secondly, for having dissolved the Chamber of 1915 because its policy was contrary to that which the ex-King wanted to impose; thirdly, for having prevented by force and by illegal measures meetings of the Liberal Party and for having prevented the people from meeting to give expression to their views; fourthly, for having organised a system of espionage and of terrorising those of an opposite opinion; and, fifthly, for having maintained the people mobilised with the exclusive purpose of carrying out their political opinions and for having employed the reservists to spy upon and terrorise the people opposed to their views. In the reference to the commissions these accusations are amplified and details are given of the acts of which they are accused.

The members of the Skouloudes Cabinet are:—General Yannakitsas, MM. D. Gounaris, S. Dragoumis, D. Rally, A. Michelidakis, and M. Hadjacos; and the members of the Lambros Cabinet are MM. A. Tselos, E. Zalacosta, J. Damianos, J. Hadjopoulo, M. Soultamis, S. Tzanetouleas, A. Apostolides, J. Argyropoulo, T. Eliopoulos, N. Drakos, and E. Charilaou. A motion has also been presented to defer the Gounaris Cabinet to the High Court, and this will be discussed on the meeting of the Chamber.

The King and the Constitution.

The reply to the Address from the Throne has been presented to King Alexander, and on receiving it his Majesty said that the national representation may be certain that they will always find in him not only the guardian of the Constitution and of its national traditions, but also a faithful collaborator in all decisions taken for the success of national aims. He had no doubt that the representatives of the nation, in the face of the great events which the country will have to meet, will show themselves worthy of the hopes of the nation, and, having in view the supreme interests, will do all that their love for their country dictates to realise the historical rights of the nation.

German Intrigues.

The publication of further official correspondence has revealed what efforts were made by Germany to induce Greece not only to renounce her treaty with Serbia, but actually to join Bulgaria in attacking the Serbians. One despatch from the Greek Minister in Berlin to the Greek Government in October, 1914, may be quoted as an illustration of German mentality and expectations.

This despatch describes an interview which the Greek Minister had with Mr. Zimmermann, in which the latter said that the German Government was glad that Russia had declared war against Turkey, because it would necessitate the withdrawal of Russian troops from the German and Austrian fronts, and because, on the other hand, Turkey, profiting from this state of war, would, as they hoped, proclaim a holy war in Asia, India and Africa, and then the rising of the Mussulman world would make a difficult situation for France, and especially for England, who was afraid of her position in Egypt and in India. As for Greece, Zimmermann renewed his assurance that Turkey had no intention of attacking her, and that it was in Germany's interests that Turkey should confine herself to Russia. As regards Bulgaria, he thought she would not intervene then, but that if she did later on it was in Greece's interests not to interfere. On the Greek Minister remarking that they had a treaty with Serbia, Zimmermann replied that treaties nowadays had a minimum value, and concluded by saying, "Try to detach yourselves from Serbia as soon as possible."

General News.

Great satisfaction is expressed here at the evacuation of Epirus by the Italians. Janina has been reoccupied by Greek officials and by some troops of the national army, and Greek officials are also being re-installed in the other towns vacated by the Italians.

A project is to be submitted to Parliament for the purchase by the State of the Greek railways. It is proposed to effect the purchase by means of a loan from the National Bank to the Government, who will issue shares for public subscription.

A fire broke out yesterday in the beautiful pine forests around Pentilicon, and assumed large proportions, destroying many thousands of beautiful trees. These continual forest fires in the summer are a great disaster for the country, and it is surprising that some efficient means are not adopted to try to prevent their occurrence. It is estimated that over 60,000 acres of forest are annually destroyed by fires of suspicious origin. A short time ago the Minister of Agriculture issued a notice to the effect that, as these fires are suspected to be the work of persons wishing to utilise the ground for pasture or agriculture, or especially for obtaining the wood, for which there is now a good sale, from the burnt trees, the use of the burnt districts shall not be allowed for a period of ten years.

In addition to this destruction by fire, many thousands of trees are annually crippled by the incisions made for the extraction of turpentine, which is used in the manufacture of certain wines. No planting of trees takes place to replace those annually destroyed.

The British community, who were scattered after the events of last December, are gradually returning to Athens. The Sunday morning service in the Anglican Church has been kept up since the departure of the chaplain by Dr. Rowe and Mr. Waller, the American Vice-Consul-General, and it is now hoped that the appointment of a new chaplain will not be longer delayed. The Britannia Club for ladies is being reopened through the energy of Mrs. Triandafyllides, much to the satisfaction of the many who made use of it.

THE SERBIAN RED CROSS.

The Serbian Legation states that at a meeting held at 9, Ennismore Gardens, on September 27, a Committee was formed for a branch of the Serbian Red Cross Society in Great Britain, which will take over from the Serbian Legation the representation of this society as the first Serbian charity administered in this country by Serbs with the aid of their British friends. Great stress was laid by the Minister who proposed the creation of this Committee on the close collaboration to be maintained with the British Committees which have been working in this country since the beginning of the war for Serbia and the Serbs. The Committee is formed under the patronage of his Royal Highness the Crown Prince of Serbia. The Serbian Minister and Mme. Jovanovitch have consented to be Presidents, and Prince and Princess Karageorgevitch have accepted the vice-presidency. All communications should be sent to the Hon. Secretaries, Miss A. J. Dickinson or Mrs. Robert Frank, and donations to Dr. P. Vuyevic, at 9, Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7. Cheques may be made payable and sent also to the Serbian Minister, 195, Queen's Gate, S.W. 7.

According to the Milan correspondent of *The Times*, Dr. Benesh, General Secretary of the National Council of Czechs in Paris, in an interview with a representative of the *Perseveranza*, stated that the Czechs and Slovaks wish to see an agreement established between Italy and the Jugoslavs in regard to the Adriatic as a preliminary to an entente between Italy and the Slav States of Eastern Europe.

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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN RELIGION.

BY JOSEPH OFFORD.

The late Sir Gaston Maspero at one time in his career intended to write a great book upon the religion of the ancient Egyptians. In it was to be included the animistic and magical primitive concepts provided in the texts of some 4,000 words preserved in the inscriptions of the Sixth Dynasty Pyramids at Sakkara, of which works he was the premier translator. But his onerous official duties in Egypt took up too much of his time to permit of his composing such a *magnum opus*. Moreover, it was found that many early coffins emblazoned with religious texts gave other recensions of the "Pyramid" texts, and these have been for a number of years in course of publication by M. Lacau, whilst fresh papyri containing variant copies of chapters from the "Book for the Dead" and other theological works were continually being found and edited. Maspero, therefore, postponed the book he intended to write, and it will now never be produced. He collected, however, augmented, and re-edited in several volumes of his vast "Bibliothèque Egyptologique" his many long and important articles upon Egyptian religion, which had mostly appeared in the *Revue de l'Histoire des Religions*, altering them where new evidence rendered his first statements imperfect. He also continued up to the week of his death to review, chiefly in the *Revue Critique*, all the more important books upon the subject that came out, adding his ideas on the subject. In addition to this, he printed a summary of his matured views in the archæological journal, *Memnon*, Vol. 6, 1912, and we have his final summary in the 1915 fourth edition of the "Guide au Musée du Caire." When these essays are collected and published in a last volume of his works, we shall probably possess all that he desired to express of his conception of this intricate subject.

There were some ideas concerning ancient Egyptian religion of which he was a determined opponent, and he never modified his opinion. One of these was the theory enunciated chiefly by Brugsch Pasha and M. Paul Pierret—founded it must be admitted upon an almost unique knowledge of the old Egyptian religious writings—that in the course of time the priests had arrived at a true monotheistic conception of the Deity; that they taught among themselves, and expressed, though often in a mysterious manner, in their sacred books that all the variety of deities were but types and manifestation of the One Omnipotent uncreated God. Maspero would have none of this "esoteric monotheism," and could detect no evolutionary religious progress by the Nile: first, because he showed that the texts relied upon were jumbled together, if they were of the kind wished for, from all ages of the long Egyptian history. Therefore, they could not be utilised as forming a type of advanced religious tenets at any particular epoch. Secondly, he could not accept such views, because he proved that the apparent monotheism of the holy temple books originated from what he termed geographical and political causes. When the priests of Thebes desired to place their special city deity, Ammon, in the place of supreme deity in order that Thebes should be politically and geographically the Egyptian metropolis, they alleged that the other local gods of Memphis, Tanis, Hermopolis, and Abydos, and even those of Syria, did Ammon homage. They made him a sort of suzerain of the territorial gods, and all Egyptian gods were the special divinities of some special site. This one deity was then lauded in Theban theology as the One above all others, and for a time it seemed as if he would become a national god. The Theban hymns to Ammon are in expression fairly monotheistic. But with the fall of the Theban Empire fell the rôle of Ammon as ruler of the gods, and towards the Twentieth Dynasty, when its Pharaohs shook off the political yoke of the Theban priesthood, the ancient polytheism returned, only to become more rampant and the pantheon more prolific until the arrival of Christianity. Even then some members of the old crowd of deities crept into the new church as canonised saints, and Isis and Horus became the mediæval mother and child. For the early century catacomb paintings and other Christian relics and literature knew nothing of her. Mary, Queen of Heaven, with her star-spangled robe, coronet, and infant in arms or upon her knee would have been bowed down to, if placed in bygone days in any shrine of Isis in the Delta.

Maspero, in one of his notes in the Cairo Museum Guide, explains that whilst Egypt never had one single God it was full of *Dieux uniques*. Thus Ra was the one god for Heliopolis, Osiris for Abydos. The one god was the special one of every temple or town or village that had its particular deity, including the crocodile, and even ichneumon deities of Fayoum hamlets. The feudal spirit kept alive the deities of locality, and the inhabitants of each particular district supposed to have within its boundaries one special divine protector never would nor did accept the idea that he or she or it was merely a manifestation of and so inferior to some god, however great his reputation or vast the territory whose people adored him may have been.

There is a proof of this from the mystical and magical religious books never mentioned by Maspero, which may, therefore, have escaped his notice. That is, that in the next world, according to the description of it given to us by the Egyptian Theocracy themselves, there were many gods, and they were territorial. We have the story of the ship of Ra sailing along the celestial Nile, with its crew of gods galore, and as passengers some of the spirits of most saintly Egyptians, or of those who had sanctified themselves by huge donations to the temple Wakfs. They pass through twelve portals, each leading to the separate territorial domain of a deity who owned his piece of the Elysian fields. If the philosophers of the sacred colleges failed to conceive of one single God as deity of Heaven, and parcelled out Paradise among divers divinities, they certainly never achieved the concept of one Lord of All for them here below.

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL STUDIES.

LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY OVERRATED.

It had been intended to issue a quarterly journal at the School of Oriental Studies dealing with Oriental languages, but this project being impossible for the present, it was decided, in order to make the aims and objects of the school better known, to issue a *Bulletin*. This publication, which has just been issued, is admirably calculated to achieve the desired end. In addition to a summary of the various movements leading to the establishment of the institution, and an account of the opening ceremony by the King, there are a number of articles of Orientalist interest, such as papers by Mr. J. D. Anderson, I.C.S., retired, on "The Phonetics of the Bengali Language" and "Metre and Accent." Summaries of a number of lectures delivered at the school and book reviews complete an excellent work, which shows very clearly the high standard that will be set when the school is at length in a position to undertake its project of a quarterly journal.

In an introduction to the *Bulletin*, Mr. Edward Denison Ross, the Director of the School, states that two great obstacles have hitherto impeded the spread of Oriental studies: (1) the difficulties which are supposed to attend the acquirement of Eastern tongues, and (2) the absence of proper incentives. The average Englishman has an exaggerated view of the difficulties which attend the study of Oriental languages as compared with Western tongues, and this is much to be regretted, for, although all Eastern languages have a strange appearance to those who do not know them, it is in practice only the first step that costs. The number of persons who have any idea of the languages spoken by our fellow-subjects east of Suez is lamentably small, and not till such misconceptions are dismissed can we hope for the spread among our own people of that knowledge of the East which is so essential to the happy relations which should exist between European and Oriental races.

As to the absence of proper incentives, Mr. Denison Ross points out that no prospect of a livelihood could reasonably be held out to anyone taking up these subjects in the past. Positions commanding a decent salary in the various Universities in England did not number in the British Isles a dozen all told, and the encouragement of language study in the Civil Service and in the Army has never been sufficient to arouse general enthusiasm. It is especially this want of practical encouragement that has so long delayed the establishment in this country of a School of Oriental Studies. In this connection attention may be drawn to the study of Hindustani. It is greatly to be regretted that a language which is understood throughout the length and breadth of India, and which is spoken, though seldom correctly, by thousands of English men and women daily during their sojourn in that country, should so rarely be an object of serious study outside the small band of those who seek for rewards.

It is by no means universally recognised, he continues, that a beginning of this, as of all Eastern languages, can best be made at home. This is, of course, self-evident in the case of travellers, but it also applies to those who intend to reside in an Eastern country. For, apart from considerations of climate, which in most Oriental countries tend at the outset to reduce the energies, it is certainly the case that during the first year or so of residence in a totally strange country a man's time is fully occupied in learning his new duties and in adapting himself to unwonted surroundings. Such are not the conditions in which to embark on the acquisition of a new language. On the other hand, if the newcomer arrives with a definite linguistic stock-in-trade, if he has mastered the alphabet, the rudiments of grammar, and even a limited vocabulary of the language spoken in the country of his adoption, he is not only able to adapt himself more readily to the new conditions, but also to profit in a far greater measure by the language teaching which may be available locally than one arriving without such equipment. It may now be confidently presumed that with the creation of the School a fuller recognition will be given to the importance of Oriental studies, and that with this recognition better prospects will be held out both in the academic and in the practical spheres of activity; and it is to be hoped that the facilities now offered will bring about a marked and permanent increase in the number of Oriental students, and that the common interests, both human and literary, which have hitherto reposed on all too slender foundations may be correspondingly strengthened.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper only.

THE ANTI-MONTENEGRIN CAMPAIGN.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The unfortunate differences between Serbia and Montenegro, touched upon by Mr. Devine, are of very much older standing than he indicates. A brief outline of them may be of interest, for the South Slav question is of great importance.

In 1900, when I first visited Montenegro, the Montenegrins reckoned themselves as the most important of, and the leaders of, the South Slavs. During the next few years I used to hear the reconstruction of Tsar Dushan's mediæval Empire talked of with the Petrovitch dynasty as its head. Montenegro was seen at that time by West Europe through the glamour of the Gladstone-Tennyson myth. I saw it so myself, and did not at first perceive the rottenness at the core, although at the time a sharp attack was made on the country in the American Press by emigrant Montenegrins.

In 1902 I was in Serbia, and then, rather to my surprise, learnt that there was a movement on foot, which had but few supporters, to put Prince Mirko of Montenegro on the throne of Serbia. I was in Cettigne in 1903, when King Alexander was assassinated. There was wild excitement, and the report at once ran round that Mirko would be King. There was some disappointment over the result, but the nation as a whole rejoiced greatly at the change of dynasty. I went to the gala performance at the theatre, and King Peter, being son-in-law to King (then Prince) Nikola, his election to the throne was held as the next best thing.

Prince Nikola himself expressed his satisfaction to me, and stated that King Alexander's death was a necessity. The parting of the ways soon came. It was in 1905 that I first heard Montenegrins complain bitterly against the government of their country. Especially in the outlying parts there was evidently an anti-Petrovitch party. The Prince granted a constitution suddenly to the country. This was taken as a sign of reform. But soon I was told that the Parliament had no power, and things were no better. Things came to a climax in 1907, when a large number of the leading men of Montenegro were arrested on a charge of plotting to assassinate the Prince and several members of his family by means of some bombs which had been manufactured in the Royal arsenal in Serbia. I do not pretend to decide the rights and wrongs of the affair. I was in London when the arrests took place. When I returned to Montenegro, in 1908, I found the whole country torn into parties and the wildest accusations flying round. A number of persons were found guilty, including M. Radovitch. Some were shot, others condemned to long terms of imprisonment. Some saw the hand of Austria in it, some of Russia, some of both. There was intense bitterness, spy-mania flourished. The net result was much hatred between Serbia and Montenegro, and a distinct *rapprochement* between Montenegro and Bulgaria. In 1910, when Prince Nikola assumed the title of King, it was remarked that the King of Serbia was not present at the fêtes. In 1911 I spent quite three months in Podgoritza, where men concerned in the bomb affair were imprisoned, and found that feeling on the subject ran very high, sympathy being with the prisoners. People even expressed the opinion that no united Serbia could be formed until the two reigning dynasties had followed that of the Obrenovitches. Further tension between Serbia and Montenegro soon followed. The Serbian Metropolitan of Prizren was deposed for malpractices, and in his stead a Montenegrin obtained the post—by what means I do not know. I was in Scutari at the time. The one Orthodox priest there received letters from a Serbian source bidding him refuse to recognise the election of the Montenegrin. The Montenegrin Consul, M. P. Plamenatz, was very wroth about this, and explained to me that the Serbs were attempting to claim the district, whereas in case of the break-up of Turkey it should by right fall to Montenegro. I was in Montenegro when the Balkan War broke out, and heard a very great deal of what was going on. It was generally believed that the Montenegrin army was very far superior to that of the Serbs. I had heard of an agreement between Bulgaria and Montenegro before hearing of anything about one with Serbia. The Montenegrins declared war a fortnight, in fact, before any of their allies with the intention of sweeping up all the territory they wished for before the Serbs took the field. They would then be head of Great Serbia. I had all my meals with officers, soldiers, and officials, so saw the fluctuation of opinion and events at very close quarters. Briefly, Montenegro's plan failed completely. The anti-dynastic party rejoiced. The other was bitterly disappointed. The pro-dynastic party, however, did not lose hope of even yet being head of Jugoslavia, and when it compromised with Austria in 1915 Prince Mirko, whom I had seen dissembling his disappointment at the Cettigne Theatre in 1903, remained in Montenegro and visited Vienna, with the result, as has been already published, that it was suggested that he should occupy the coveted post.

Into the rights and wrongs of this lamentable state of affairs I will not enter, and I studiously avoided when in the country identifying myself with any party (there were at least three). I record the facts as I saw them.

There is, it is true, no diplomatic agent to explain matters, but Montenegro has a Consul-General in England, who I found, when I applied to him, was not able to offer any explanation of the state of affairs. Which I took as a very bad sign.—I am, etc.,

M. EDITH DURHAM.

[The subject is dealt with in our leading article. Here, perhaps, it may be stated that Miss Durham's information confirms the contention that propaganda is the life and soul of the Balkans. A foreign observer in any country is almost inevitably bound to be brought into touch mainly with one element to the exclusion of others, and as a rule that element will be the most restless one. Our correspondent probably heard in Montenegro exactly what an energetic investigator might hear nowadays *mutatis mutandis* in the United Kingdom, if attention were paid only to the statements of Sinn Feiners, Pacifists, Shop Stewards, and King Charles the Martyrists. It is not always easy to determine national tendencies from individual expressions of opinion, and it may be doubted whether even the fact that Miss Durham saw Prince Mirko dissembling his disappointment would be accepted in a court of law as evidence of a widespread conspiracy in Montenegro to absorb Serbia.—ED. N.E.]

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GLASS HOUSES IN THE BALKANS.*

The Serbian Society will one day wake up to find that it is high time to save Serbia from some of her friends. It is possible to have too much propaganda, and there is a distinct danger lest excessive championship of a country which has already made good in the eyes of the world may result in injuring the cause which it is intended to promote. No one disputes the fact that before the war Britons failed to realize how closely their Imperial interests were linked up with Serbia and the Balkans generally. But the same Britons were equally oblivious to even more vital interests much nearer home. They know it now, and they know something of what Serbia stands for. No doubt they have more to learn; but they know just enough to be able to criticize or, at least, to check the statements of their teachers. Of one thing they have every right to be suspicious, and that is of any non-Balkan would-be teacher who supports the doctrine that there must needs be for all time antagonism in the Balkans. Of course, Serbians and Bulgarians hate one another—very naturally; but the British public will do well to suspect anyone of their own nationality who is found nowadays preaching the doctrine of Balkan enmity and encouraging the peoples to go on hating one another. It might almost be thought that these propagandists know nothing of their own history and have never heard of mortal enmity between Scotsmen and Englishmen. They render no service to the people whose cause they champion by adding fuel to Balkan fires, but they stultify their claims to be considered the friends of Serbia.

To anyone who knows the Balkan peoples and approaches his subject without prejudice, it is a matter of keen regret to see the multiplication of partisan literature, all as provocative as the village politician in his own café. The future of the Balkans depends on the ability of the component parts to hold together, and any English writer ought to hesitate before he pens a single word that is not calculated to promote that end, or that does not have that end in the background. A book that falls short of this standard may be readable, but it is likely to be unequal, if not unreliable, as a serious contribution to history.

So much for the subject of Balkan propaganda, whether Bulgarian or Serbian. If from these general reflections one turns to Mr. A. H. E. Taylor's book we are struck at once by the fact that his choice of title proclaims his propagandist intentions, and, to some extent, the text confirms them. "A Plea for Serbia" may have been a legitimate title

* "The Future of the Southern Slavs." By A. H. E. Taylor. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. Price, 12s. 6d. net.)

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for a magazine article in 1897, but it rings false to-day. Nor is the average reader reassured when he is told that the article of twenty years ago was "disfigured by the anti-Russian prejudice common at the time which, with fuller knowledge, I abjured soon after." The natural instinct is to see whether the author has abjured *all* bias, and when it is found that most obviously he has not the discovery may prejudice his reputation as an authority on the subject with which he deals. He begins his book with a collection of unpleasant things said by British writers about Serbia at various dates, and one is tempted to ask *Cui bono?* No doubt these things were said, and perhaps they were very stupid things to say. But there were some remarkably unpleasant people in Serbia at the time, and it is by no means certain that the saying of harsh things about them was not beneficial in the long run. At the worst, it only proves that there were propagandists in those days, who, we may feel confident, have now very solemnly "abjured" their anti-Serbian prejudice.

To anyone who has never been a propagandist, and, consequently, has no very violent denunciations to withdraw, it is obvious that a people or Government who could acquiesce, say, in a trial which led to the conviction on absolutely no evidence of M. Pasitch and others to various terms of penal servitude, were far from being "a credit to civilization." To-day the world knows what the Serbians have since achieved, but it is a wise nation which can look back thoughtfully on the past and take note of errors that have to be avoided in the future.

For his anti-Russian prejudice of twenty years ago Mr. Taylor would seem now to have substituted an anti-Italian prejudice. On page 161 he gives a summary of the Adriatic agreement between Italy and the Triple Entente, concluded on April 27, 1915. As the official text of the Treaty has not been published, there is no means of knowing whether this version is accurate in all its details or not. If it should be, many will agree with Mr. Taylor that the agreement entails a grave injustice to Serbia, and they will sympathise with any Serbian who kicks against the pricks. The part to be played by an English publicist, however, in a work claiming historical value, ought surely to be to make a revision of the Treaty easier by doing all that is possible to improve the relations between Italians and Serbians, rather than to exacerbate both parties. If the terms of the Treaty are as stated, they should be modified, and it may be expected that the Serbian Prime Minister will have done more towards securing better terms by maintaining friendly relations with the Italian Government than by adopting an intransigent attitude.

If the destinies of the world were always settled by newspaper articles, there would be much to be said for all the extracts with which this book is embellished, and for our author's insistence upon Bulgarian hostility to the Allies. What would one expect but to find that "the Bulgarian papers are full of abuse not only of Russia but of the other two Powers of the Triple Entente as well," and that "they are equally insistent on the unanimity of Bulgarian feeling"? How could they write otherwise? But the point to be borne in mind is that sooner or later, for the peace of Europe, Serbia and Bulgaria must live in amity. This consummation may seem impossible to-day. It remains, however, the goal which all those who are sincerely attached to the Balkans ought to have before them; and, having it before them, they ought to avoid anything that may help to keep the peoples apart after the war. To cite Bulgarian outrages is really no argument, for the reason that the Bulgarians would retort by asking what became of the Bulgarian population in certain districts in Serbian military occupation after the second Balkan War. The subject, in any case, is a thorny one for a foreigner to handle, for battle, murder, and sudden death have hitherto had a different value in the Near East from that accorded to them in English armchairs.

But although Mr. Taylor is a propagandist and makes no secret of his bias, it must not be overlooked that his main object is to give an historical sketch of Serbia and of the Jugoslav people. In this connection he has compiled useful data, and his book will certainly contribute to a better understanding of the advantages that are likely to accrue to Europe from a prosperous and peaceful Jugoslav State.

HECATOMB.

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THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),

1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C. 2

A RUSSIAN ANTHOLOGY.*

There is an Italian proverb which brands translators as "traitors," implying that people who attempt to render foreign idioms in their mother-tongue are more anxious to write it correctly than to preserve the spirit of the original. This judgment, harsh though it be, is not without justification. For a nation's literature, and especially its poems, are the outpourings of a collective soul. Now, the doctrine of metempsychosis has never taken root in Europe; no Westerner believes that souls can be transferred at will from one earthly tabernacle to another. Hence a translator has to choose between the lilt, the atmosphere, the colour, the sound of two languages; and he naturally gives preference to his own. Mme. Jarentzov has taken a new departure in boldly asserting that no one save a Russian is capable of clothing his country's poetry in an English garb. Her erudite Introduction, extending over thirty-nine pages, demonstrates the enormous difficulty of the task. While British poets are eternally hampered by the paucity of rhymes in their vernacular, their Russian fellow-bards have an immense range of assonant words to play with. For example, there are eighteen Russian expressions rhyming with *dyaivetsa*, "maiden," and fourteen with *liubet*, "to love." Nor is this all. Most nouns, pronouns, and adjectives have from six to eight declension-endings, and many verbs have twenty terminations, all of which command a similar set of rhymes, and each variety yet another set. What would not our Shelley have accomplished with such a literary tool as Russian—Shelley, who had to drag in a "pale portress" in order to find a jingle for "fortress"? Opinions will differ as to the success of Mme. Jarentzov's daring experiment; but most British readers will admit that her renderings of Pushkin's "Bronze Horseman," and of Lermontov's "The Demon" are not unworthy of their splendid originals. Her version of Pushkin's prophetic "Ode to Liberty" is, perhaps, a fair sample of Mme. Jarentzov's work. It ends:—

"Hark to the Truth, ye Tsars and Kings!
Neither rewards nor prosecutions,
Nor prisons' gloom nor altars' wings
Can shield you safe from revolutions.

Come, first abase with bended knees
Your heads 'neath Law's protective entry—
And at your thrones shall stand as sentry
The nations' liberty and peace!"

This anthology proves a power of assimilation which argues well for Russia's future. Lermontov's "Bronze Horseman" owes much to "Paradise Lost," and Krylov's "Two Dogs" was evidently suggested by poor Burns's delightful lyric which bears the same title. This characteristic is, perhaps, explained by heredity. Jukovski had a Turkish mother, Pushkin a negro great-grandfather; Lermontov was descended from a Scottish immigrant named Learmouth; and mixed ancestry is revealed by all the fine portraits which add to the charm of a remarkable book.

F. H. S.

BOOK NOTES.

Hachette et Cie are the publishers of a pamphlet in defence of the French treatment of German prisoners in Morocco, entitled "Les Prisonniers Allemands au Maroc," the price of which is 2 francs.

Messrs. Allenson have just published "With the Anzacs in Cairo," by the Rev. Guy Thornton, C.F.

Mr. Humphrey Milford has issued "Muhammedan Law of Marriage and Divorce," by Ahmed Shukri, at the price of 4s. 6d. net.

Among Messrs. Kegan, Paul, Trench and Co.'s latest publications is "Roumania's Cause and Ideals," by Mr. Leonard A. Magnus. The work gives the history of Roumania, Transylvania, and Bessarabia, with an account of the negotiations between Austria and Roumania preceding the war.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Main Currents of European History, 1815-1915. F. J. C. Hearnshaw, M.A., LL.D. (London, Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d.)

A la Suite du Gouvernement Serbe: De Nich a Corfou (October 20, 1915—January 19, 1916). By Auguste Boppe. (Paris, Editions Bossard. 3 francs.)

*"Russian Poets and Poems." By Mme. N. Jarintsov, author of "The Russians and their Language." Vol. I. "Classics," Oxford. (Blackwell and Co., 1917. Price 10s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. October.	1917. September.		1335. Dulheggia.	5678. Tishri.
5	22	Friday	18	19
6	23	Saturday.....	19	20
7	24	Sunday	20	21
8	25	Monday	21	22
9	26	Tuesday	22	23
10	27	Wednesday	23	24
11	28	Thursday	24	25

Princess Ghica arrived in town on September 28 from Jassy.

Colonel Vaescu, of the Roumanian Army, has left London for Paris.

M. Comsa, a Roumanian member of Parliament, left town on September 28 for Paris.

M. Stavridis, Greek Consul-General in London, has been appointed Counsellor of Legation in London.

Captain Dr. David Albala, of the Serbian Army, has left London for Washington on a medical mission.

General Demostene, of the Roumanian Army Medical Corps, has arrived in London from Petrograd on his way to Paris.

Mohamed Shukri Pasha, Under Secretary for Justice, has returned to Cairo and resumed his duties at the Ministry of Justice.

Monday next, October 8, is the anniversary of the birthday of King Nicholas of Montenegro, who was born in 1841 at Niégoch.

Thursday next, October 11, is the birthday anniversary of the youngest son of King Nicholas, Prince Peter, who was born at Cettinje in 1889.

According to the *Ahram*, Colonel Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo City Police, will officially leave his post during the first week in November.

We regret to learn that Captain Sterling, R.A.M.C., late of the Church Missionary Society in Gaza, is in a London nursing home very seriously ill.

The appointment is gazetted of Captain Lord C. A. Carnegie, Scots Guards, as Aide-de-Camp on the personal staff of the Viceroy of India, vice Second Lieutenant E. B. Baring, Hampshire Regiment, resigned.

Mr. Richard Whately, of Bath, formerly Chief Engineer of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company, left estate of the gross value of £21,949.

Next Wednesday, October 10, at 5.30, Dr. Ronald Burrows, Principal of King's College, London, will deliver a lecture at the college on "Greece as an Ally." The Greek Minister will preside.

On the occasion of the Name Day of the King of Greece, Ali Zulficar Pasha, Governor of Cairo, and Colonel G. Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo city police, paid a visit to the Greek Consul-General.

A divisional commander in the Punjab has sent from Simla £100 to the Church Army Hut Fund, to defray for twenty weeks the upkeep of a Church Army recreation hut in France, where his own son, a gunner, is on active service.

It is reported that the Nile flood has now exceeded last year's exceptional levels, though it is not yet dangerous. In the Sudan the flood has beaten all records, and at Khartoum energetic measures have been taken to keep out the water.

M. Victor Antonescu, the ex-Finance Minister of Roumania, has been appointed Roumanian Minister in Paris, M. Alexandre Lahovary, the present Roumanian Minister in the French capital, having been placed in charge of the Roumanian Legation in Rome.

The engagement is announced of Mr. Charles Robert Plant Cooper, I.C.S., Burma, son of the late Mr. J. C. Cooper, of Cheltenham, and Dorothy Evelyn, younger daughter of the late Captain R. J. Pollen, I.M.S., and of Mrs. Pollen, of Bath and Maymyo, Burma. The marriage will take place in Maymyo in October.

Senor Mitjana, the present First Secretary at the Spanish Legation in Constantinople, has been appointed Minister to Colombia.

It is reported that the leaders of the Serbian National Party in Bosnia and Herzegovina, G. Yeftanovitch and V. Shola, have been released from prison.

The marriage was celebrated recently at the Garrison Church, Kasr El Nil, Cairo, of the Rev. A. J. White, C.F., and Grace Winifred, daughter of Mr. H. S. Green, of Dulwich.

In a speech at the Congress of the Committee of Union and Progress, Talaat Pasha is reported to have defended the Turkish treatment of the Armenians, and to have said that the Ottoman Government had sent several commissions of investigation, and that those who had been guilty of misdeeds had been condemned to the severest punishment, even to death.

The Greek Legation has been instructed by the Greek Government to notify to all concerned that no sale or transfer of a Greek merchant ship of whatever description or size is permitted either to a Greek or a foreign subject without the prior express permission and sanction of the Greek Government, and that any contravention of this decision would entail the severest material and personal penalties.

The second session of the School of Oriental Studies, Finsbury Circus, was opened on October 1. Last session there were 150 students, and it is expected that the number this session will be at least as high. Among the students are candidates for the Indian Civil Service, Government officials who are to take up appointments in Eastern possessions, missionaries, and employees of commercial houses having dealings with the East.

According to Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, a semi-official Sofia telegram, referring to unconfirmed Washington reports alleging that the Bulgarian Minister at Washington, M. Panaretoff, had declared "that Bulgaria desired peace, and that the termination of the war was an imperative necessity for the Central Powers," states that the Bulgarian Minister at Washington has been instructed to declare that Bulgaria certainly desires peace, but only in union with her Allies, as indicated in her reply to the Pope.

The Consul-General for Montenegro is officially informed that the Russian Government, on behalf of the Montenegrin Government, have recently forwarded to the First Commissioner of his Majesty's Works, as a present for the Armoury of the Tower of London, a sword of Montenegrin pattern. The Consul-General has been asked to convey to the Montenegrin Government the cordial thanks of his Majesty's Government for this gift, which it is proposed to place among the collection of swords presented by the Allied Nations now in course of formation at the Tower.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent states that the *Vossische Zeitung* publishes an interview granted to its Sofia correspondent by Dr. Radoslavoff, the Bulgarian Premier, with reference to the meeting between King Ferdinand and the German Emperor. Dr. Radoslavoff remarked: "This meeting, and another important event which is imminent, but which for the present must remain a secret, will once more give the Entente forcible and solid proof of the unity between our Governments and reigning houses, already shown by the common spirit of our replies to the Pope."

An application has been made to the Chancellor of the Diocese of London (Sir A. B. Kempe) for a faculty to authorise the carrying out of certain work in the church of Holy Trinity, Brompton, as a memorial to the late Sir David William Keith Barr, K.C.S.I., a member of the Council of India. The proposed memorial includes the erection of new choir stalls and the affixing of a tablet on the wall of the south aisle of the church. Included in the inscription on the tablet is the following:—"Single-minded, courageous, gentle, just, he was the example of what a British political officer should be, teaching the Indian Princes and peoples the inspiring lesson that East and West may be one."

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,

THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lieut. C. A. M. van Millingen, the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor van Millingen, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

The Sultan has been pleased to confer the First Class Order of the Nile on Mr. E. Bonham Carter, C.M.G., Legal Secretary, Sudan Government, on the occasion of his retirement from the Sudan Civil Service.

The Sultan has conferred the Second Class Order of the Nile on Henri Naus Bey, general manager of the Sucreries and Raffineries d'Egypte, in recognition of the eminent services rendered by him to Egypt, both in connection with the cultivation of the sugar cane and the supply of sugar to Egypt and the Sudan in his capacity as general manager of the sugar company as well as in other directions. He is a member of several commissions and is taking an active part in the economic development of Egypt. Naus Bey has recently returned to Egypt from the Sudan, where he was on a visit in connection with the sugar supply.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred in London on September 24 of Colonel Graham Claude Herbert, late Royal Fusiliers, second son of the late Hon. Robert Charles and Mrs. Herbert, of Orleton, Wellington, Shropshire. Colonel Herbert served in the Afghan War of 1880, taking part in the defence of Kandahar and the sortie on Deh Khoja. He retired in 1910.

Second Lieutenant C. W. S. Littlewood, M.C., R.E., who was killed in action on July 10, was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Littlewood, of Cairo. He was born in 1897, and was educated at Stonyhurst College and Downside School, passing direct to the Royal Military College, Woolwich, in 1915. He was gazetted second lieutenant in February, 1916, and in October, 1916, he went to the front and saw a good deal of fighting. He was awarded the Military Cross in April.

The death occurred on August 25, at Alexandria, of Captain Miller, Inspector, Sudan Civil Service. At the funeral, which took place the following day, the High Commissioner was represented by Captain Alexander, A.D.C., and the Sirdar by Lieut.-Colonel Carroll, D.S.O., P.M.O., Egyptian Army, while others present were Lieut.-Colonel L. K. Smith, D.S.O., O.C., Khartoum District; Major Worthington Wilmer, D.S.O., Major Pattisson, Arkache Bey, and Mr. R. K. Winter (representing the Civil Secretary, Sudan Government).

Major (Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Norman McDonald Teacher, D.S.O., Royal Scots Fusiliers, who was killed in action on September 26, was the younger son of the late Mr. Donald Teacher and Mrs. Stiles. He was born in 1878, and was gazetted to the Royal Scots Fusiliers in 1898. Colonel Teacher was employed with the Egyptian Army from 1904 to 1913, and was D.A.A.G. from 1908 to 1909. For services in Egypt he received the Orders of the Osmanieh (4th Class) and the Medjidieh (3rd Class), and in the present war he had been awarded the D.S.O. Colonel Teacher served in the South African War, taking part in the actions and operations that preceded the Relief of Ladysmith, and afterwards in many of the other important actions, and received for his services the Queen's and the King's medals with seven clasps.

The funeral of M. Frano Supilo at the Golders Green Crematorium on October 1 was attended by many personal friends and sympathisers with the Southern Slav cause. The Serbian Minister and Mme. Jovanovitch were present at the religious service in the chapel, and also Colonel M. Nikolaievitch (Military Attaché) and other members of the staff of the Legation. Others present were Sir Edward Boyle, Lady Boyle, Dr. Seton-Watson, Mr. Wickham Steed, Mr. and Mrs. Mitrovitch, Professor Popovitch, Professor Gjoigjeretch and Dr. Sultotitch. The Southern Slav Committee was represented by Dr. Micic, Dr. Gregorin, Dr. Vasilyevitch, Dr. Manditch, and Dr. Trinestitch. The coffin and hearse were draped with the British, Serbian, Croatian, and Slovene colours, and there were wreaths from the Serbian Legation, the Southern Slav Committee, and the Southern Slav National Defence in South America.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS FOR THE TROOPS

The Postmaster-General announces that letters and parcels intended for delivery to the troops in Egypt, Salonika, etc., by Christmas should be posted in time to reach London as long as possible in advance of the dates given below:—

	Parcels.		Letters.
Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force	Oct. 18	....	Oct. 30
East African Expeditionary Force.....	Oct. 18	....	Oct. 30
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.....	Nov. 12	....	Nov. 27
Salonika Force	Nov. 12	....	Nov. 27

Special attention is drawn to the following regulations:—

(1) Letters and parcels must be fully addressed.

(2) Parcels must be very strongly packed.

(3) Fruit, perishable articles, bottles, pudding basins and the like are prohibited.

(4) The name and address of the sender must be written on the outside of parcels; parcels which do not comply with this rule will be refused.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

ANAGNOSTOPOULO.—On September 22, at Buckley, Alexandria, Egypt, the wife of John Anagnostopoulo—a daughter.

MACMILLAN.—On September 27, at Rutlam, Central India, the wife of Hugh Macmillan—a daughter.

PALMER.—On September 29, at Ratnagiri, Bombay, the wife of Charles Edgar Palmer, I.C.S.—a daughter.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

GIBBS.—Killed in action, on September 20, 1917, Major Stanley Gordon Gibbs, A.S.C., D.A.Q.M.G., Anzac Corps, the greatly-beloved younger son of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Gibbs, 17, Abingdon Court, Kensington, W. Aged 31. Australian and Egyptian papers, please copy.

GRIFFITH.—On September 20 at Colaba Hospital, Bombay, from hemorrhage of the brain contracted while on service in Mesopotamia, George Herbert, Colonel Royal Engineers, second son of the late Colonel J. H. Griffith, Royal Engineers, and husband of Alice Mabel Griffith, Highfield, Lymington, Hants, aged 47.

TEACHER.—Killed in action on September 26, Major (Temp. Lt.-Col.) Norman M. Teacher, D.S.O., Royal Scots Fusiliers, younger son of the late Donald Teacher and of Mrs. Stiles, and husband of Dorothy Teacher.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1917.

MONTENEGRO AND SERBIA.

Montenegro's misfortunes have given rise to somewhat violent recriminations within a section of the Serb brotherhood, and, unless care is exercised, a minor controversy may have results out of all proportion to its real significance. For a long time the quarrel was confined, as far as the public Press was concerned, to Swiss organs; but its recent transference to the pages of an English publication suggests that an attempt is to be made to prejudice, if possible, the solidarity of the Grand Alliance. It is one thing for Montenegrins and Serbians to strive among themselves; it is another to force their quarrel upon the notice of the Allied public in such a way that one party or the other stands to be prejudiced, even if the nations themselves are not held up to contumely. Any trouble of this nature is to be regretted, and there can be no justification for magnifying an incident occurring in, so to speak, a very small corner of the Alliance into a matter calling for the official notice of all the Allied countries. For it is obvious that for the time being neither the Montenegrin nor the Serbian nation can associate itself as a whole with the controversy. If, when the peoples come together again in freedom in their own country, they refuse to recognise that any ground exists for a quarrel amongst themselves, the attempt to make an international affair of personal bickerings will be seen to be particularly reprehensible. We do not claim to be able to lay bare the true record of what has happened in Montenegro since the outbreak of the war; we only know what has been said on one side and the denials that have followed on the other. But when these are set forth in their entirety, it is not difficult to see that nothing is to be gained by an attempt to extend the controversy outside the ranks of the Montenegrins and Serbians.

The attack, which is ostensibly directed against King Nicholas on account of the part which he and his family are alleged to have played in the war, is now being directed openly by M. Radovitch, who accepted the post of Prime Minister to King Nicholas, when official Montenegro became domiciled in France. For the moment then we may leave out of consideration the question of the extent to which he may be serving the ends of outside propagandists, the latter, if they exist, having clearly taken cover behind the person of an ex-Prime Minister of Montenegro. M. Radovitch, we understand, repeats some of the charges brought against King Nicholas or his sons in the *Gazette de Lausanne*, but does not mention the denials that subsequently appeared in the same paper. The burden of the indictment is that one or more of the King's sons contrived to maintain relations with Austria-Hungary while Montenegro was at war with her, that there have been negotiations in Switzerland for a separate peace, and that Prince Mirko was purposely left behind in Montenegro to reinsure the country and the dynasty in the event of the Central Powers winning the war. As already indicated, some of the charges have been met, detailed explanations being given of the circumstances on which they were based. It is beside the point here to inquire whether the refutations satisfied the critics of the Montenegrin Royal Family; but it is obvious that there ought to be no reference in an English publication to the charges unless the answers to them are also recorded. M. Radovitch, however, has now shifted his ground from the criticism of past shortcomings to a consideration of after-the-war problems. On his own showing, he took advantage of his appointment as Prime Minister to urge King Nicholas to eliminate himself, in order to allow Montenegro to become incorporated with Serbia. It was a part of M. Radovitch's scheme that King Nicholas and King Peter of Serbia should both abdicate in favour of Prince Alexander, and that the succession to the throne of the united state should be assigned after the latter to Prince Danilo of Montenegro, who incidentally is the prince charged by M. Radovitch with having entered into negotiations with the Central Powers for a separate peace! Even the fact that Prince Danilo's wife is German does not seem to affect in M. Radovitch's eyes his candidature for the throne of a Greater Serbia. Now it may have been a perfectly proper and statesmanlike course for the Montenegrin Prime Minister to make such a recommendation to his sovereign, and if the latter refused to act upon his advice, it was open to him to resign, as in fact he did. Whether it was exactly polite on M. Radovitch's part at once to form a society having as its object the forcing of King Nicholas to adopt the course recommended him is another matter. The fact remains that, unless those who may be behind any movement that the controversy represents can show a more important issue, the precise quarrel of which the Allies are being urged to take note is one between the King and his ex-Prime Minister. King Nicholas, it is fair to add, does not seem to have "hit it off" with M. Radovitch's successor, and evidently a band of Montenegrin "intellectuals" is resolved upon sinking their country's separate existence in that of Serbia.

Here, plainly, we have a purely Montenegrin question. If King Nicholas sets any store upon being regarded as a constitutional monarch, his first instinct must be that such a question concerns the nation as a whole, and ought not to be decided by a mere handful of people who may be grouped round his Court. Quite a number of well-wishers of Montenegro might possibly be prepared to argue in favour of union with Serbia; few, if any, would think of urging that the step must be taken now when, for all intents and purposes, neither Montenegro nor Serbia exists, and when the act of union could not be given practical effect. But we are not concerned with the pros and cons of the course which is the subject at issue between King Nicholas and his ex-Prime Minister. The Allies are concerned to see that no bone of contention is thrown among them; that no quarrel between Montenegrins should be used, for instance, to encourage Serbia to contemplate action which, while it might seem to simplify the federation of the Southern Slavs, would most certainly prejudice her in the eyes of her Allies, and, therefore, jeopardise the future of the Southern Slav State. From every point of view it can be shown to be the duty of Allied publicists to refrain from lending themselves to partisan quarrels in the Balkans. The task of learning the whole truth is often impossible of achievement. There may be the strongest evidence for accusing Prince Peter of having the Bulgarian National Anthem played by a Montenegrin regimental band, until he points out that Bulgaria was not then at war with the Allies; it may seem a terrible reproof for King Nicholas that the Tsar of Russia should confer the Order of the White Eagle on a Prime Minister whom he has dismissed, until, indeed, it is realized that the decision in regard to the decoration was taken while M. Radovitch still basked in the sunshine of the King's favour as a loyal and patriotic Prime Minister. It matters little what the precise nature of the charges may be; outsiders who are asked to hold King Nicholas guilty of charges brought mainly, if not entirely, against his sons, will inevitably be given *ex parte* statements. In the present instance King Nicholas does not appear to have taken much notice of his detractors. His defence, if he considers one called for, may be for the ears of the Allied Governments alone. Few can have followed the fortunes of Montenegro and its ruling House without realizing the difficulties of the King's position. The future of Montenegro will probably be determined in her own interests and in those of the Southern Slavs and the Allies without the help of Press attacks.

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PERSIA AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

By MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

TABRIZ, August 10.

First Effects.

The echo of the Russian revolution has reached Persia, and its first effect has been to loosen the hands, the tongues and the pens of the people of that country. Persian mashroota had apparently been killed by the former Russian régime, but in reality it was slumbering. Now that that old régime is no more, the eleven-year-old freedom of old Iran has arisen from its slumber, shaken itself, looked around, and thought it is time to celebrate the anniversary of its birth for the first time in its life. And it was celebrated with all the glory, pomp and ceremony that liberty can bring to a nation. It was celebrated not only by the Persians themselves, but also by others—by Armenians and Jews and by the Russians, who made fiery speeches. A Russian military officer, for instance, declared in his speech, " You Persians are more cultured and more intelligent than we are; for you fought and got your liberty and Constitution eleven years ago, while we Russians are only just getting ours. We are—as a nation—eleven years behind you. Long live the Persian Constitution, long live the Persian people." Another Russian officer said, " You Persians have been for eleven long years under the fear and pressure of the old Russian régime, and have not dared to celebrate your freedom every year; but now you need no longer fear us, for the old régime and with it that fear and pressure have gone down to Tartarus; you need not fear us any longer. We—officers and people—also are a liberty-loving people, for we also have been crushed under the heel of the old serpent Tsar as much as you have! Hereafter we are not only neighbours, but brothers in freedom, and we are glad to be permitted to join you in celebrating the eleventh birthday of the old Persian Constitution and freedom. Long live Persia, long live Persian freedom! " Both speeches were followed by long and hearty cheers. Knowing the old Russian régime, and knowing and remembering how Persia was being pressed under its heel up to only a few days ago, one can hardly persuade oneself to believe the sincerity of these speeches, but then we have no palpable reason—at present—to suspect insincerity, and we accept their good words at their face value.

The first result of the removal of northern pressure was a change in the Cabinet. Sipahdar's Ministry had to go and with it its promises—control over Persian Finance by Russia and England—were " scrapped." The new Cabinet began a very bold policy, demanding that the Russian Army should leave Persian territory, on the ground that the Russians were fighting for the freedom of other smaller nations, and had no intention of appropriating other people's territory. This was, or seemed to be, a very good and patriotic step at first, but the Cabinet soon found out that they had acted foolishly. Soon afterwards America declared war against Germany, and this fact struck the Persians dumb! For up to that date German agents had persuaded the Persians—both people and Cabinet—that America would soon join Germany and declare war against England and Japan, and then, as the Russians would be forced to double their forces on the German front, they would withdraw their troops from Persia, and the Persian army would have a glorious chance to avenge itself upon the retreating Russians. Germans knew, of course, that America would not fight England, but Persians, blinded by the intensity of their hatred of Russia, were deceived by them. The Cabinet then regretted both its refusal to recognise the validity of Sipahdar's promises and also their haughty demand that Russians should clear out of Persian territory. In regard to the former, it was realised that the machinery of government would not move without the oil of British finance, that even the Ministers themselves would have to work without salary. On the subject of the Russian troops reflection showed that, if they left Persia, their places would soon be filled by Turkish and Kurdish hordes, as happened when the Russians evacuated Azerbaijan in December, 1914, and the Kurds and Turks overran Tabriz.

The Reaction Against Russia.

During the first days of liberty in Russia, the new Government informed their diplomatic and consular officers in Persia by a circular notice that for the future they were not to interfere or meddle in Persia's purely domestic affairs. The Persian inhabitants of the province of Azerbaijan were duly informed, and their joy was extreme. They were satisfied that now they had real liberty, but unfortunately they mistook liberty for licence. They began to assert themselves everywhere and in everything, whether they were right or wrong, without considering whether it was lawful or not. They had liberty and power, and were going to exercise it to the full. The Russian rouble went down in price, and even in some places it was not accepted. And Persians came forward daily with a new demand. They refused to sell bread, hay or wheat to Russians, or to the Armenian and Jelo Syrians, who had taken refuge in the western part of this province (Urumiah, Salmast, Khoi) from the Turks and Kurds. They demanded that these " foreigners," these refugees, should leave Persia and go to their own lands, of course, to be massacred, as they knew well enough. Some murders of these refugees took place in Urumiah. This had to be stopped, and it was stopped. Americans in Urumiah protested against these outrages, and the Russian Consul was forced to do something, for these murders of Christians by Persians reacted on the prestige and dignity of Russians, who had been the " protectors " of the Christians in Persia from the time of the last Russo-Persian War (1827). A notice was posted by the Russian Consul in Urumiah in every part of the city in four languages—Russian, Persian, Armenian and Syrian. It ran as follows:—

" To the Persian people of Urumiah.

" The new Russian Government gave notice some time ago that henceforth there was to be no interference in Persian affairs. That notice seems to have been misinterpreted or misunderstood as conferring upon Persians liberty to commit murders and atrocities upon Christians. Russia, however, has not declared that she will not interfere in Christian affairs. The murder of fifteen Christians without provocation cannot be tolerated. Persians seem to have acquired boldness and ' face ' from our first notice. I declare that hereafter any Persian, of whatever position or rank, who dares to insult or murder a Christian, or to cause even a single nose to bleed, will be punished by the Russians in their own Persian manner."

This notice put an immediate stop to the malpractices, and quiet reigned everywhere once more, even in the remotest villages. Bread, wheat and hay, which had been unprocurable, became at once plentiful in the bazaar, and life assumed its peaceful course once more.

While these things were happening in Urumiah a different state of affairs obtained in Khoi and Dilman. There the people, finding that they could not vent their feelings against the Russians by forcible means, resorted to other methods. The wealthy closed their shops, landowners kept their grain stored away and refused to bring it to the bazaars for sale, while the women were instructed to pour into the bazaars and make demonstrations against the landowners, the pretext being the scarcity of bread and the non-existence of grain. The ruse did not deceive the Russian General who had succeeded General Chernazooboff. He at once informed Petrograd of what was happening in Dilman and of the Persian propensity for mischief, and received orders to

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take whatever steps might be necessary to restore order, to maintain public security and to safeguard the prestige of the Russian army. The General—a Pole, by the way—that same evening called a meeting of the chief citizens, at which the Governor was present, as well as a representative of the Armenian community and His Beatitude Beniamin Mar-Shimon, the Patriarch of Jelo-Syrians from Jolamerik. The General's speech was to the following effect:—"Gentlemen,—It is some days now since the bazaar has been closed; there is no bread, no grain, and women are making demonstrations; you refuse to sell grain to Christian refugees from Turkey, and have hidden your wheat. I have informed Petrograd, and the orders I have received are to bombard Dilman, if you do not behave like men and neighbours, and if you continue to close your shops and do not open the doors of your grain stores and sell them at bazaar prices to the starving people. Accordingly, I put the following demands to you:—1. You must open your bazaar and attend to business. 2. You must open your stores and sell grain to the Armenian and Jelo-Syrian refugees. 3. You must stop your demonstrations. 4. You must stop your threats to massacre or expel the Christian refugees from Turkey. If you agree to these demands, we will remain friends; if not, I have orders from Petrograd to bombard your town and to raze it to the ground. We have declared that we would not interfere in Persian home affairs, but that does not mean that we will permit you to starve us to death or to starve us out of Persia. You have misunderstood our meaning. In future you must never dare to insult in word or deed any Russian or any Christian, and you must sell in the bazaars to a Christian whatever is for sale to a Persian. If you agree to these suggestions all will be well; if not, to-morrow morning at eight o'clock I will give my orders to bombard the town. If the shops are not open by seven o'clock, I shall start my work at eight o'clock punctually."

Defeating the Boycott.

The Persians present in the meeting apologised profusely for what had taken place, and gave various reasons for the demonstrations and the closing of the bazaar.

The next day the bazaar was opened, and the women had disappeared, but bread and wheat were not forthcoming. The Russian General, however, had decided not to do his work by halves. He at once ordered parties of soldiers under a minor officer to search every house and building for grain. Eight large stores were found, each containing 20 kharvars of grain (kharvar = 1,200 English pounds). The Persian Governor, who had declared positively that there was no grain in the city, was dismissed, and the store-owners were forced to open their stores and sell the grain to the people at the price that the bazaar fixed, which was at from 18-22 krans a Russian pood; at the same time the Armenian Relief Committee from Tiflis bought 20,000 poods of grain in Maragha, and had it transported into Dilman across Lake Urumiah in Russian boats. This grain the Committee sold at cost price, which was just one-half of the Dilman price, to the Armenian and Syrian refugees. By this means the price of grain was reduced to 9-10 krans a pood, but as soon as this quantity was disposed of the Persians again raised the price of their grain to 16-18 krans. The Armenian Committee again brought over another 20,000 poods, and this was sufficient to make the refugees independent of the local supply. The result was that the price of grain went down, because there were no more buyers, and the Persians regretted that they had not sold theirs when it could command a good price.

A more sinister episode than the boycott was brought about by the rapid fall of the exchange value of the rouble, which before the war was worth from 105 to 110 shahis, a year ago was worth 54 shahis, four months ago had gradually declined to 34, and suddenly dropped to 16 shahis. A quarrel arose in the Urumiah bazaar over the refusal of a shop-owner to accept a 100-rouble note from a Russian soldier. A native policeman sought to smooth over the difficulty, but both he and the shopman were shot by the soldier. What followed is not clear, but later in the day the bazaar was fired and enormous damage done to the richest quarter of Urumiah.

THE MARTYRDOM OF SERBIA.

Serbian Prisoners in Austria.

A Serbian officer, Colonel Nikola Tomassovitch, who a short time ago was exchanged as an invalid from the internment camp at Mutthausen, gave the following report to the Serbian Minister in Berne concerning the Serbian prisoners of war in Austria-Hungary:—

". . . The feeding of our prisoners is extremely bad, especially in the case of our soldiers, who are enduring true martyrdom in the prisoner camps. They die systematically of hunger because the quantity of food they have is not only insufficient, but harmful. In the morning they receive some kind of hot water mixed with coffee or tea—quite unfit to drink; at midday and in the evening they have a soup made of the peelings of potatoes and other vegetables, mixed with roots and leaves, so that it is impossible to tell exactly what it is composed of. There is meat only once a week—a mere mouthful. In the winter we watched our soldiers on one occasion passing our barracks on their way to the next camp. They met a load of turnips guarded by sentinels, but they threw themselves on the cart, seized the turnips and began to eat them without stopping to clean them, and paid no attention to the blows given them by the guards. We often saw them searching the refuse heap for bones or scraps of food. They just rubbed the bones a little before beginning to gnaw them. Sometimes we would see them pulling up grass for food.

"In general the food of the officers is better than that of the men, and especially recently, when some food was sent from abroad by charitable committees. The men are much more numerous, and only a few of them receive any of this food. It should also be remembered that there are in the camps, besides the prisoners of war, many interned civilians, women and children. The parcels which arrive are distributed amongst those people, and everybody gets only a very little, because those who send the parcels are hardly aware that there are civilians as well as soldiers in the camps, and what a great number there are to be helped. The greatest relief, especially for the soldiers, was the bread which was sent by the Red Cross in Berne, two or three times a month. If it is in any way possible, these consignments should be sent regularly, as it is the only help of this kind sent to the prisoner camps.

"The nursing of the men is done in the camps themselves; but, according to the statements of the doctors, any nursing is useless, the food being so bad and so scarce that the soldiers are slowly dying of starvation. It is not only the sick, but also the unwounded, who are so exhausted by hunger and suffer so much in the winter from insufficient warmth that the morning finds them dead or frozen. So far there are in Austria-Hungary at least 50,000 graves of Serbian soldiers.

"There are no sanitary supplies; for instance, medicated wool is lacking, and instead of it some kind of soft paper is used."

An Enemy Admission.

The Serbian Press Bureau in London issues the following statement:—

"The terrible sufferings of the Serbian people are now beginning to be realised even by the Press of Germany. The following passage is taken from the *Vorwaerts* of September 17, the leading organ of the German Socialists:

"'No single people have suffered in this war anything like so terribly as the Serbs. In the giant graveyards between the Danube and the lakes of Ochrida and Doiran lie buried the youthful strength and manhood of Serbia; her women and children, too, have perished by tens of thousands in the bitterness of the Albanian mountain winter during the retreat of 1915. Considerably more than one million Serbians have been swept away since the end of July, 1914; of every four Serbians then living, whether man, woman, or child, to-day at least one is dead. That is the same as if 17,000,000 Germans had been removed from the land of the living.'"

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

We are encouraging one another to believe that the world will be a better and more moral place to live in as a result of the war. If it is, the change will have been brought about by the application of the homœopathic principle that like cures like. The war has hardly been a synonym for goodness in itself, and it has certainly prompted a wonderfully large number of people to produce the very worst that could possibly be in them. If, therefore, the Ethiopian is thinking of changing his skin, he would do well to start getting busy about it. The war at best, I fear, is only a surgical operation, and not an alchemist discovery for turning base metals into gold. It will not alter the familiar aspect of the leopard, but may perhaps remove his teeth and claws, which, so to speak, are the officially dangerous part of him. After all, the world suffers more from official than from unofficial acts. Society has done much to protect itself against the individual wrongdoer, but it has been hopelessly at the mercy of the Government malevolently inclined.

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The allusion is not solely to Germany, although she has specialised in official villainy more than any other nation. But if all the secrets of all diplomacy could be laid bare there would be a wonderful record of international nastinesses, one imagines. Not all will have been centrally inspired, but they have been under an official ægis. They may not have been so aggressively immoral as the acts of Swedish diplomacy or the poisonous devices that Germany planned for Roumania's hurt. But up and down the world, from Tangier to Teheran, and still more from China to Peru, some nations have rarely lost an opportunity of doing one another an ill-turn, it may be only by giving the protection of naturalisation to the evildoers among the other's nationals. Germany is not the only nation that has made international espionage a fine art. Is all this to stop at the end of the war? Its worst features will, it is to be hoped. Of the most promising augury is the better understanding now subsisting between the United States and Japan. Viscount Ishii's speeches in America will have gone far to allay the suspicion of Japan that has hitherto existed on the American continent, and the Tokio Government will be well advised to see that its official attitude is clearly understood by all its nationals abroad. Modern Japan owes everything to the promoting of its intellectuals, who are also its rulers, and for this reason, possibly, foreigners are apt to imagine that no Japanese is ever "on his own," that every Japanese hawker or trader, for instance, who has been responsible for the Japanese penetration of India, is in some way or another on Government business as well. Viscount Ishii's speech, if it means anything, means that all such fears of Japanese activities are baseless.

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Such reflections, I suppose, are prompted by the disclosures regarding Bolo Pasha, in the background of whose activities flits the sinister shadow of the ex-Khedive, Abbas. In many respects the latter is the most pathetic of the war's derelicts, although, goodness knows, he has forfeited all claim to pity. Constantine of Greece was by nature and instinct merely a family man, who by mistake became a king; he will revert without difficulty, and possibly without regret, to the virtually private life that was his in his earlier days as Crown Prince. Already he seems to have settled down in Switzerland to the new existence, and is pleased enough to pose with his family before the camera. The ex-Khedive, on the other hand, is more strenuously engaged as Germany's flunkey, hurrying between Constantinople and Switzerland, interviewing agents and haggling over terms, content after protracted negotiations to draw his 10 per cent. commission, which he must needs share with someone else, and to return perhaps to the Bosphorus until shortage of funds compels him to do some fresh work for his living. What is to be the frame of mind of such people at the end of the war? Will they accept the world's verdict and mend their ways, or are they to be allowed to remain nuclei of intrigue and unrest, who will always have to be kept under surveillance? *Qui vivra verra.*

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I have been interested to read the proposal of a Professor of Meteorology at Harvard University, Mr. Alexander McAdie, who is also director of the Blue Hill Observatory, to scrap the Fahrenheit and Centigrade thermometers and to start with a new one. The Professor elaborates his scheme in the *Geographical Review* of New York. His main concern is for low temperatures, and for this reason he would start with 0° as absolute zero, the zero of no molecular motion; 1,000° would be freezing point (32° F. or 0° C.), and 1,100° (practically 80° F.) would meet the popular conception of warm. The new everyday thermometer would presumably be graded between 900° and 1,350°. Without doubt the elimination of the two readings Fahrenheit and Centrigrade would be a considerable advantage. The ordinary mortal, who is accustomed to one, has great difficulty in thinking rapidly in terms of the other. The article also reminds us that "at a height of four kilometres (13,124 ft.) and above, temperatures are below zero of the Centigrade scale, even in midsummer and even over the Equator, and at a height of six kilometres the same is true for the Fahrenheit scale."

CORSAIR.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Salonika Fire.

The best description of the great Salonika conflagration that has reached this country is contained in a letter from a British officer, of which extracts were published in the *Morning Post*. After dealing with the efforts of the people to escape, he continues:—

I returned to camp about 7.45, after coming to the conclusion that nothing could stop the fire on the leeward side, that it would sweep right across the town to the eastern wall, and that the main business part of the town, south of Rue Ignatia, and the upper part of the Turkish quarter, together with the residential suburb of Kolemania, would be safe. From the camp, which is on high ground, we had a good view of the scene. It looked like some Promethean furnace; the flames licked up scores of feet into the pall of smoke which covered the scene of the fire and stretched over the dome of starlit sky as far as the eye could reach, like the smoke from the funnel of an enormous steamer. The upper part of the Turkish quarter, spread up the steep side of the hill, was lit up, and the details of its quaint little white red-roofed houses could plainly be seen. Here and there the graceful white minarets and the domes of the mosques stood out in relief against the flames, and that wonderful old, historic building, the Church of St. Demetrius, was very clear.

Then occurred the most disastrous event in the whole affair. The wind, which had hitherto been blowing from W.N.W., suddenly veered round to N. Up to then the very force of the wind had tended to keep the path of the fire narrow, the width varying, but probably never being much more than about 300 yards. With that change in the wind's direction this front was increased *to a mile*, for the distance the fire had travelled was now the measure of its breadth. Between this new front and the sea lay the most valuable part of Salonika, its principal stores, banks, shops, offices, and hotels. Nothing could save this part of the town now; the front was too broad for anything to be done.

For some time the British and other fire engines had been on the quay ready to do what was possible within their radius, limited as it was by their enforced position at the water's edge. And they did most excellent work, one British fire engine work-

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ing for eighteen hours without a stop with the same crew and officer, pumping 500 gallons a minute. They concentrated on saving the docks and one or two important buildings adjacent thereto, and this they succeeded in doing, credit being largely due to the above-mentioned fire engine, helped by several naval pumps. These were the only mechanical pumps available, the local ones being manual. During the night the fire swept down to the sea, demolishing everything in its path except one building, which has been out of bounds for months on account of its German ownership. This, with their usual beastly but laudable foresight, was built of ferro-concrete, and had fireproof shutters. Even the glass of this store is not cracked.

Unfortunately, the destruction extended far enough to include St. Demetrius and stopped dead—the houses on the other side are practically undamaged. Its substantial structure and the change in the wind saved the Prefecture, but for the rest nothing remains but ruins. The houses were all built of rubble plastered over and whitened, and there was a good deal of timber in the walls. All the stuff was as dry as tinder, so that with the narrow streets it is little wonder that the fire spread.

The Red Cross at Work.

A report on Red Cross work in Mesopotamia appeared in our columns a few months ago. From a fuller history of the society's activities which has appeared in *The Times*, the following extract, dealing with the work at Salonika, is taken:—

With the abandonment of the expedition at the Dardanelles much of the Red Cross machinery which was employed there was diverted to cater for the Allied Armies which were established at Salonika. Here again a separate Commission was set up. It was inaugurated early in 1916 by the creation of a big depot for stores, the original consignment of £20,000 worth of goods and material being the largest single "despatch" which had up to that time been made from the headquarters in London. These goods filled 2,000 cases and bales and weighed 250 tons. They were the groundwork of an undertaking on behalf of the Red Cross in which all the experience of previous Commissions was available, and a service which has been of enormous value to every Army—British, French, Italian, Russian, Serbian, and the Greek forces of the Provisional Government—engaged on the Macedonian front. Under Major H. L. Fitzpatrick, this Commission has never lacked in energy, nor in opportunities to employ it. It has maintained an admirable ambulance service right up to the front lines, which in July last had to its credit a mileage of 5,218 for the month; a convoy of 30 ambulances provided specially for the Serbian Army covered in the same month 16,620 miles, and carried 2,878 men, and the stores branch, with an addition in May last of 30 more units drawing its supplies, has now well over 400 units on its books—units which, in the single month of July, made as many as 409 requisitions, many running to a hundred different articles. The invalid kitchens and canteens, which here, as everywhere else, are in a large degree the special province of women workers, are kept continuously busy, and supply from 120,000 to 200,000 diets a month; four new kitchens, making 13 in all, were opened in July. There are canteens on the quays and in the advanced zones of operations, and, of course, all the usual provision for inquiries for the wounded and missing and for the distribution of gifts, newspapers, magazines, and books. As all the special "comforts" work is additional to the ordinary business of transport and treatment of the wounded, and as all the different branches have won very high appreciation from the British and Allied Army Commanders, the Salonika Commission can at the end of more than a year and a half of sound, solid endeavour and achievement claim to be in all respects thoroughly representative of Red Cross efficiency.

A Master Builder.

The Morocco correspondent of *The Times* in a recent article gave a most vivid description of the building of the palace of the Bahia by Bou Ahmed, the Grand Vizier of Morocco. An opportunist by nature, Bou Ahmed seized the occasion presented by the death of the Sultan in 1895 to obtain the chief power for himself. He achieved this end without much difficulty, and, having done so, set himself to the work of the building of the "Bahia":—

With stone and mortar and the money and blood of men, by every exaction and cruelty, by murder and sudden death, he built it, raising court after court—grandiose and fantastic—to please his own pride or the fancies of some woman. Every favourite had her courtyard and her apartments, and little it mattered to her, or to the man who for a time cherished her, how many might die, how many might starve, that the ceilings of carved cedar-wood might be paid for, or the marble fountain basins be brought from Italy. The Vizier's revenues were prodigious, for every coin that came to the Moorish Government passed through his hands, and a few went on to the Imperial Treasury, but only a few. He was alone and omnipotent. A sort of superstitious romance encircled him and his wealth. His name was whispered in the streets and in the byways.

He started largely. He took a whole quarter of the town and razed it to the ground. It covered many, many acres. No householder could resist his onslaught. Where necessity arose, he compensated, according to his own ideas, the owners of the houses he destroyed. In other cases he found it unnecessary to do so. Whole households were turned loose into the world. Beyond were gardens, great groves of olives and oranges. He became possessed of them, tearing down the dividing walls and laying out the whole as a great park.

By the irony of fate Bou Ahmed's enjoyment of the monstrous palace was shortlived, for he died in 1900.

The Sultan wept the loss of the man of iron will who had set him firmly on the throne. On foot he followed his body to the grave, and returned to sign the edict of the confiscation of all his property. In the Bahia reigned confusion and lamentation. The great courts rang with the wailing and the shrieks of the women—and the palace, deprived of the iron hand of its master, became a pandemonium. Its inmates knew that a great crisis was at hand, and each strove to steal as much as he or she could in the few hours that yet remained. Safes were broken open, jewels were torn from their settings, the more easily to be concealed, the doors of the treasure-rooms and the store-rooms were torn from their hinges. Wives, concubines, and slaves fought and looted—and, it is said, killed—for how many jealousies found their chance of revenge; and in the midst of it all came the Sultan's emissaries and the soldiers, to continue the loot and pillage in the name of the Sovereign. For days caravans of mules passed through the streets bearing Bou Ahmed's treasures to the Sultan's Palace. Then the women were driven forth—the older ones to hunger, and perhaps to death; the younger to live as best they might. The slaves fled, or were passed on to new masters.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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It is not an easy matter to obtain any reliable information regarding the economic position in Turkey, but such news as comes through is fully corroborative of the view that the Sublime Porte is in the last stage of financial exhaustion. Before the war Turkey was on the verge of bankruptcy, so the effect of her war liabilities can be well imagined. Some interesting light on their incidence has recently been given by a neutral who lately arrived at Geneva from Constantinople and was interviewed by a correspondent of the *Temps*. Paper has naturally displaced coin, and two-piastre stamps are a medium of circulation. In Constantinople itself Turkish paper money is stated to be 50 per cent. below its gold value, and in the provinces lower still. Then Turkey has incurred liabilities to Germany of £T142,000,000 and to Austria-Hungary of £T10,500,000; while the usual item for unpaid salaries now amounts to £T27,500,000.

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The picture of conditions given by this neutral enables one to form a fairly clear idea of the desperate economic position of Turkey. The position, indeed, must be such that its very hopelessness is no doubt one of the determining factors in inducing Enver Pasha and his colleagues to continue a losing struggle on the principle that so far as they are concerned nothing that can conceivably happen can make matters worse than they are. They realise that when the war ends the Allies will certainly give Turkey no assistance while they are in a position to prostitute the destinies of the country for their personal ends, and so they fight on for a further brief lease of power. But, with the economic position what it is, they may not be in a position even to do that very long, for it would not take many Ramadiehs to undermine the last props of the falling structure.

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In estimating the future of oil undertakings in Roumania it will be necessary to take into consideration the operation of the new Reform Act, particulars of which were given by a correspondent in last week's issue of THE NEAR EAST. The section of the Act which will affect oil companies is that which modifies Article 19 of the Constitution referring to expropriation with the object of putting an end to the tenure of large estates in the country. "Recognised oil lands up to 12,000 ha.," says the correspondent, "will not be divided, but their owners will have to supply an equal extent of arable land, either in the same or in a neighbouring district." It remains to be seen what will be the actual effect of this restriction on existing oil companies in Roumania.

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The British Empire Producers' Organisation calls attention to yet another instance of the way in which Germany contrived to profit by acting as middleman between two countries. In the present case Indo-Russian trade provided the opportunity for Germany's activities. "Germany's big slice of the general import trade into Russia of manufactured articles," says the organisation, "was notorious; her grip on the supply of tropical raw material to Russia was less known, but is equally significant. For instance, taking fifteen articles of Indian produce, from beeswax to tea, of the total import of such produce into Russia before the war—13¾ millions sterling in value—Germany is credited with 5¼ millions sterling, or over 38 per cent.! To this has probably to be added a further 1½ millions, representing Germany's transit trade, making 6¾ millions sterling in all. When it is remembered that by far the largest Indian import into Russia is tea, and that Germany's share in this particular trade is infinitesimal, the significance of the figures is still more marked."

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Despite the preoccupations of the war I note that the French have been steadily pursuing the task of improving and developing communications in Morocco. Of course, matters have not advanced as quickly as they would under more happier circumstances; but all the same sufficient progress has been made to ensure the country's rapid economic advance after the war. As showing what has been accomplished it may be mentioned that in 1916 out of a total of 2,000 kilometres of first-class roads which had been sanctioned 800 kilometres had been completed, and 900 were in course of construction. During the year the coast road from Mazagan to Casablanca, Rabat, and Kenitra was finished except for the larger bridges, the construction of which cannot be undertaken until after the war; while the road from Casablanca to Marrakesh was completed except for some 15 kilometres, which have since been finished.

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It is not often that British traders come in for praise for catering for the requirements of a market, and on that account some notes from the *Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco*, which are given elsewhere in this issue, are of exceptional interest. The Morocco market, it is stated, has been carefully studied by British exporters, and if trade has been lost it has been over the question of price, and not because the goods were not what was required. If this be so, it is indeed good hearing. I only wish it were possible to draw the conclusion from this pleasing example of competent trade enterprise that our export houses as a whole were acquiring a new outlook as regards the necessity for meeting local needs. But this, I fear, is not yet the case, though British traders generally have undoubtedly progressed far in this direction in the last few years.

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I am glad to note that the *Journal* is of the opinion that British firms are fully awake to the necessity of preparing to meet the post-war requirements of the Morocco market. As I have pointed out before, Morocco presents one of the most promising opportunities for British trade after the war, given adequate organisation, and as British firms are alive to the situation it should be possible largely to replace enemy trade in this market. The principal difficulty, apart from the question of shipping, would seem to be the fact that cheapness is the ruling factor, but this ought not to be an insuperable obstacle. Surely it should be possible for British manufacturers to produce goods cheaply enough to withstand the competition of other countries there.

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From January 1 there is to be an increase of 2 fr. 50 c. per ton of 40 cubic ft. in the dues for ships in ballast passing through the Suez Canal. This increase will bring the dues for laden and empty ships to the same level—8 fr. 50 c. Previously the company has lent encouragement to the outward passage of ships in ballast, and this change of policy is, no doubt, due to the fact that the company holds that discrimination is no longer justified under the changed circumstances. It is an interesting fact, incidentally, that, despite the various increases in the Canal rates during the war, the receipts have shown a serious decline. As a matter of fact, the receipts for the period from January 1 to September 27 last were less than half that for the same period in 1913. The figures then were 92,310,000 fr., and the receipts for this period in the following years show a steady decrease. In 1914 the receipts were 88,090,000 fr.; in 1915, 68,220,000 fr.; in 1916, 57,850,000 fr.; and in the present year, 44,340,000 fr.

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The report of the Gharbieh Land Co. is, on the whole, rather encouraging. The means adopted to meet the shortage of fuel, which had been one of the great sources of anxiety to the company, have proved equal to the situation, and next year it is hoped to introduce improvements which will reduce the expenditure on irrigation and at the same time ensure a better water supply. Various factors exercised a detrimental effect on the sale of property during the year, but all the same the company disposed of about 30 feddans of land at an average price of about £E85 a feddan.

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THE WAR SETTLEMENT AND THE TRADE OF SERBIA.

I.—The Position Before the War.

British economic relations with Serbia, as with other Balkan countries, have been in the past, as we have only too good reason to know, of an almost negligible character, thanks largely to the reluctance of British traders to enter what they considered small markets, where competition was keen, and where it would have been necessary to abandon many of their old-fashioned methods in favour of a more flexible attitude as regards local requirements. It is one of the few things for which we have to thank the war that trade conditions in the Balkans will in the future be infinitely more favourable from the point of view of the British trader. German and Austrian competition, with the inevitable corollaries of long credits, cheap prices, and inferior wares, will still be present, but it will be tempered by a strong reluctance on the part of the inhabitants to accept enemy goods where those of the Allies are accessible. In Serbia this tendency towards an economic *rapprochement* with the Allies will be found at its strongest, for of all the Balkan countries none has suffered more during the war at the hands of the Central Powers, while in the past the shadow of the Dual Monarchy and its partner loomed over all the activities of the country, cramping its natural development, and, above all, preventing it from obtaining the desired outlet to the sea, which would have conferred economic, and therefore political, freedom. It is, indeed, as certain as anything can be, that if Serbia has her way her trade relations with the enemy Powers will be kept after the war at the smallest possible dimensions. But Serbia's desires in this respect will avail nothing if British and other Allied traders are not ready to afford her the opportunity of inaugurating a new era of trade relations. The problem, in fact, resolves itself into the question of how far our traders are willing to prepare now for the future.

Serbia Before the War.

As a prelude to a consideration of the probable nature and extent of the Serbian market after the war, and the measures that are being, and will be taken to bring about intimate trade relations between this country and Serbia—important plans have already been made with this end in view—it will be advisable to give a brief sketch of the economic conditions of the country before the war, in order that probable developments may be accurately estimated, for in this, as in other cases, the past may be made to serve as the mirror for the future.

Perhaps the best idea of Serbia's pre-war position may be gathered by saying that in some respects it was not unlike that of this country prior to the industrial revolution. While a large proportion of the three or four million inhabitants were still engaged in agricultural pursuits or in simple cottage industries, the era of the factory and of commercial concentration was already at hand. Industries such as the manufacture of sugar, of cotton and woollen manufactures, and of straw and felt hats were well established, and their development and the creation of new industries was proceeding apace. Mining, however, was backward, despite the fact that there is plenty of copper, lead-quartz, antimony, and other mineral ores in the country. Of these only copper had been mined on an extensive scale. Development in this, as in other directions, was hampered by a variety of factors, principally financial in character. They are one and all handicaps of the type which naturally confront a country on the eve of its development, and as showing the conditions which will have to be faced, it may be well to enumerate them.

The Financial Question.

Finance, as we have noted, has been the chief retarding influence. Here the difficulty has been twofold. In the first place, it has never been easy for Serbia to attract foreign capital; and, secondly, money rates have been inconveniently high, 10 to 12 per cent. being paid. Then there have been the added handicaps of bad communications, both as regards railways and roads; and, lastly, an absence of sufficient skilled labour.

For some little time before the war, as a matter of fact, capital had been easier to obtain, and French capitalists in particular had shown themselves ready and willing to participate in the development of the country. The explanation of this change of attitude is to be found in the fact that for some years Serbia's finances had been on the up-grade. Until towards the end of the nineteenth century the financial situation can only be described as indifferent, the causes of this being in general bad financial administration, heavy expenditure on the army, and a system under which every change of government entailed a series of pensions. How heavily the last item counted in the balance-sheet may be seen from the figures for pensions in 1907, when 4,481,197 francs were allocated under this head. The improvement in Serbian credit when it began was steadily maintained, and while the Serbian 4 per cent. Unified Loan was quoted on the Paris Bourse at 68-69 in 1896, it had risen by 1911 to 93. This appreciation is the more notable when it is borne in mind that Serbian indebtedness was on the increase. In 1911, for instance, the Serbian debt amounted to 659,056,000 francs, a sum which entailed the setting aside of 32,304,500 francs to provide for the interest and a sinking fund. In other ways, mainly through expenses entailed by wars and the maintenance of a larger army, the expenditure was increasing, but the development of the State was such that the revenue was keeping pace with the demands made upon it; and while in 1881 it amounted to only 23,419,835 francs, it reached in 1911 over 120,000,000 francs.

Exports and Imports.

The growing material prosperity of the country before the war may be even better estimated from the increasing value of its exports and imports. The figures for the two years 1910 and 1911 will illustrate this point. In the former year Serbia imported goods worth 84,695,641 frs., while her exports amounted to 98,388,028 frs. In 1911, however, the imports had increased to 115,425,415 frs., and the exports to 116,916,357. Serbia's chief customers were, of course, the Central Powers. In 1911 the Austrian imports from Serbia amounted to 48,433,392 frs., and the corresponding exports to 47,447,981 frs.; while the figures for the same period for Germany were 28,932,926 frs. and 31,346,860 frs. Great Britain's imports from Serbia were infinitesimal, while her exports in 1911 amounted to only 9,524,278 frs. To this figure, however, should be added the imports of one or more commodities, which Germany, acting in her favourite capacity of middleman, took from this country to place on the Serbian market.

Geographical considerations, reinforced by the policy of peaceful penetration, is the explanation of the commanding position that the Central Powers occupied with regard to the trade of Serbia. Cut off entirely from the sea, Serbia was bound to be more or less in a position of economic dependence on the Dual Monarchy and its Ally. And from the economic state a measure of political dependence was bound to arise. Under similar conditions a recurrence of this dependence is inevitable, and it is no exaggeration to say that Serbia's future is entirely bound up in the nature of the war settlement.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended September 30, 3 p.m.:—

Arrivals 2,630
Sailings 2,742

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons gross or over *11
Under 1,600 tons gross 2
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines..... †16
British fishing vessels sunk 0

* Including one sunk during week ended July 29 and one during week ended August 12.

† Including three attacked during week ended September 16 and four during week ended September 23.

GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN CATALOGUES

In order that British manufacturers may have an opportunity of familiarising themselves with German and Austrian methods of advertising, the Board of Trade have collected over 8,000 specimen catalogues of German and Austrian origin, and these may be inspected at the Department of Commercial Intelligence, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2. A new index has been prepared, in which the catalogues are classified both as regards articles of manufacture and names of manufacturers, thus rendering identification of any particular catalogue a simple matter. Copies of this index may be obtained by United Kingdom manufacturers on application to the Comptroller-General, Department of Commercial Intelligence.

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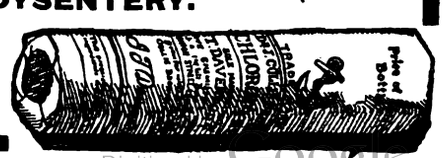

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ADEN'S EXPORTS OF SENNA LEAVES.

Increased Trade with United States.

We are indebted to a report of Mr. Addison E. Southard, United States Consul at Aden, for the following particulars of the development of Aden's export trade in senna leaves:—

Among the exports to the United States for the second quarter of the calendar year 1917, declared at the Aden consulate, those of senna leaves take a more prominent place than ever before in the history of American trade with Aden.

The local article of commerce known as senna consists of the leaves of some species of Cassia which grow wild in several parts of this commercial district. It is used for medicinal purposes. The native name is "senna makki." The supply in the Aden market consists chiefly of two kinds or grades, known as "Yemeni" and "Jibuti." The Yemeni grade is much the better and comes to Aden from the Yemen and other Red Sea Arabian Provinces, while the second grade is collected in Abyssinia and French Somaliland, and is shipped from Jibuti to Aden.

Senna reaches Aden in large bales weighing from 12 to 16 maunds each. Recent prices for the uncleaned senna have been 5 rupees and 8 annas ($1.78) per maund for the Yemeni, and 1 rupee less per maund for the Jibuti grade. These prices are approximately 2 rupees higher than the normal figures.

The senna is cleaned in Aden. Indian women are employed to pick it over and throw out twigs, discoloured leaves, etc. Leaves of other plants which resemble the senna leaves are often mixed with it in the districts of production to increase the weight. Considerable skill, therefore, is said to be needed by the women who do the cleaning, in order to find and throw out these foreign leaves. If rain falls while the senna is being sundried in the districts of production, the dried leaf turns black, and these also must be removed when the senna is cleaned for export. An uncleaned bale often gives less than half a bale of cleaned and picked product fit for foreign markets.

Export Trade of Recent Growth.

Only recently has it become an article of export to Europe and to the United States, although small quantities occasionally have gone to Egypt and to India. During the past fifteen months a demand has developed in the United States, and the first exports of senna recorded at this consulate were shipped during the second quarter of 1916, when 31,273 pounds, valued at $7,946, were sent to American importers. During the third quarter of 1916, a small amount, valued at $1,613 went to the United States. The next shipments were made during the second quarter of the current year, and they amounted to 82,868 pounds, valued at $42,407. During this quarter senna leaves ranked next to skins in the value of Aden exports to the United States. American importers apparently are paying fancy prices for the product. The total exports of all commodities to the United States during the second quarter of the current year reached a value of $869,609, which is about 70 per cent. of the total value of the exports during the first quarter of this year.

Three Months' Exports.

Exports to the United States during the second quarter of 1917 also were considerably smaller in amount than those during the second quarter of the preceding year. The declared exports from Aden to the United States during the second quarter of 1917, compared with those for the corresponding quarter of the preceding year, were:—

Articles.	April-June, 1916.		April-June, 1917.	
	Quantity.	alue. $	Quantity.	Value. $
Civet .....ozs.	—	—	4,505	5,502
Coffee ....cwt.	4,116	84,188	1,110	25,933
Gum .....lbs.	11,200	1,672	62,720	8,095
Mother-of-pearl shells.lbs.	—	—	129.920	26.341
Senna .....lbs.	31,273	7,946	82,868	42,407
Skins ....scores	86,024	1,078,169	46,762	761,331
Total	—	1,171,975	—	869,609

During the past twelve months there has been an unusually active demand for senna leaves from the United Kingdom. Local dealers now say that both the American and the English demands seem to be at least temporarily satisfied. Accordingly the market is inactive, and there are no new shipments coming in from the districts of production. The possible supply, however, is large and local dealers say that they can furnish considerable quantities if desired. Lack of shipping facilities is an obstacle to any immediate further development of this trade.

THE MOROCCO MARKET.

Enterprise of British Traders.

It cannot be said that Morocco has been badly catered for by United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters in the past, says the *Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce for Morocco*. With regard to the principal imports, especially those intended for the native trade, British exporters have studied the needs of Morocco very carefully, and with very satisfactory results. Where trade has been lost in an article, as in the case of woollen cloth, it has, as a rule, been entirely a question of price, and not of failure to make exactly what was required. There are, of course, some articles in the supply of which British manufacturers have not shown themselves adaptable, but most of these have been in comparatively small demand, or have only become important in recent years. In the history of British trade with Morocco there is not much evidence of inability to meet the special demands of the market.

After the War.

In the matter of preparing for trade after the war, there are welcome signs that United Kingdom firms, especially those new to Moroccan trade, are mindful of the need of making preparations in anticipation of the time when they will be able to export much more freely. Nevertheless, more requires to be done in order to keep importers of British goods in Morocco informed of the position in the United Kingdom—of the present difficulties as regards manufacturing and exporting, and of the prospects of manufacturers being able, after the war, to supply Moroccan demands, the filling of which during the war has had to be left to other countries. If the position can be made plain to importers, the temporary arrangements which have had to be effected in order to obtain supplies from other countries will not be so likely to become permanent, and many trade opportunities will thus remain for the benefit of United Kingdom firms.

So far at least as the native trade in Morocco is concerned, cheapness is likely to remain for long a deciding factor. It is most desirable, therefore, that the ability of the United Kingdom after the war to produce cheaply, as well as the willingness of manufacturers to adapt their goods to the requirements of Morocco, should be made known to importers at once.

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In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Pirœus.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

One-Wheel Tractors.

With a view to eliminating the possibility of minor collisions which so often take place in narrow and restricted thoroughfares, and to enable a vehicle to be readily extricated from congested areas, a one-wheel tractor of a simple design has been brought out, which seems to meet with much favour. The outstanding feature of the tractor is implied by its name. It has only one wheel, which is steered through conventional-type gearing. The power unit is an engine with a bore and stroke of 3¾ ins. by 5⅛ ins. respectively. High-tension magneto is used for ignition, and the cooling water is carried in a tank which has a 56-gallon capacity. It is so disposed as to counterbalance the weight of the engine. The drive from the engine is transmitted through a clutch to a three-speed gear-box. There are the usual two brakes, the service brake being carried on the cross shaft, and is externally operated, while the emergency brake is, internally placed. Stability is given to the tractor by attaching the rearwardly-extending main frame to the front axle of the wagon. The weight is balanced on the single wheel, so that the wagon axle is not overloaded; it simply gives support to the tractor. The attachment to a wagon need not be permanent. For the narrow streets and roads of many towns in the Near East the one-wheel tractor will be found very suitable.

Coal Gas for Motors.

The use of coal gas for motor cars is evidently increasing. In previous engineering notes we described the method of operation and the necessary gas equipment. The announcement of motor-car manufacturers that they are now supplying gas equipments specially prepared for their vans and cars is a sign of the popularity of the new system. They are so designed with their set of fittings as to be readily adapted to the car by any garage mechanic or even the car owner. The prices vary between £10 and £20, according to size.

Mineral Wealth of the Sudan.

The reports made by various prospectors to mining syndicates, and the records of competent travellers who have made notes on the mineral resources of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, have already proved that the area is rich in mineral deposits. Coal, copper ore, gold ore, graphite, gypsum and alabaster, iron ore, lea dore, limestone and marble, natron and salt, are mentioned as the principal substances the existence of which is indisputable. With regard to coal, however, an official report refers to it as an occurrence of impure lignite in Dongola, of which no indications of a workable deposit are known, and it is stated to be unlikely, so far as one can judge from the geology of the Sudan, that any large deposits of coal will be found! But against this view there are reports of German mineralogists, who assert that the deposits of coal in the Sudan are abundant. Gypsum and alabaster occur in enormous quantities on the Red Sea coast, north of Port Sudan. Surface iron ore is abundant, covering an area of 80,000 square kilometres in the Bahr-el-Ghazal province alone. However, in spite of all reports and successful technical investigations, generally speaking, very little has been done, up to now, for the exploitation of these mineral deposits on a practical basis. Yet all the substances that are mentioned above are in great demand at the present moment.

Lignite, or Brown Coal.

In view of the possibilities for the exploitation of the Sudan lignite mines, referred to in the above notes, and the enormous use of that kind of coal in the Near East since the war began for all purposes, it will be of interest to those concerned in such mines to know that lignite is only the "despised brown coal," of limited use and indifferent value. In previous engineering notes we alluded to its utility as fuel for suction-gas plants, but recent reports reveal that much greater value has been discovered in it. The Germans, in their incessant efforts to relieve their difficult position from the effects of a stringent blockade, have succeeded in developing a process of treating brown coal in a producer which, in addition to furnishing power gas with recovery of sulphate of ammonia, also makes use of the previously worthless tar by extraction of burning oil for the use of the Navy, lubricating oil, and paraffin; whilst from the residue is produced coke suitable for the manufacture of carbon electrodes for electro-chemical purposes. The extraction of oils from brown coal, which, according to the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, is now being thus carried on in two large plants erected at Rositz and Regis, is of great importance for German war needs. A process recently discovered enables the yield of ozokerit to be increased from 12 per cent. to nearly double that amount, and in addition a quantity of low-grade fat suitable for leather treatment is obtained as a by-product. The output of gas from the distillation of brown coal has also been improved, and is transmitted over considerable distances for power and lighting purposes, though it is found that under existing conditions it does not pay to transmit gas beyond a twenty-five-mile radius, though this is likely to be improved upon in the near future. Thus the mines of lignite in the Near East are of much greater value than they hitherto were to the country and their owners.

Information has reached the Serbian Red Cross in London that in Dalmatia flour is fetching 21s. 6d. a lb.; wheat from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. a lb.; and even maize flour as much as 5s. a lb. Coal is already being sold at 30s. 6d. per cwt. In one village alone, with a pre-war population of only 1,100, there have been seventy cases of death through starvation.

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AGRICULTURE IN EASTERN GREECE.

An Agricultural Society.

In view of the existing food shortage throughout the world the Greek Government is taking active steps, says the United States Consul-General at Athens (Mr. Alexander W. Weddell) in a recent report, to bring under cultivation every available acre of land in Greece. As a means to this end plans are now being perfected for the formation of an agricultural society which will have a capital of 40,000,000 drachmae, and in which the Government, individuals, and banks will be stockholders. It is estimated by competent authorities that there are now available in Macedonia some 900,000 stremma (222,300 acres), belonging in large part to the Government. For the use of this Government land and the land of individuals not now under cultivation the society will pay 2 drachmae per stremma per year.

The Royal decree chartering the society has not yet been prepared, and it is therefore not possible to give details concerning its powers and activities, but it is evident that its promoters, with active Governmental assistance, are preparing to undertake the development of this considerable domain with zeal and intelligence. As an earnest of this it may be mentioned that a $700,000 credit has already been opened in the United States, and that orders have been given through an American company for the purchase and forwarding of 200 tractors, 600 ploughs, 2,000 pitchforks, 500 three-disc harrows, 2,000 two-drum rollers, 1,000 one-horse hoes 1,000 hand hoes, and 3,000 scythes. The company has also been requested to arrange for sending out 50 mechanicians, adjustors, and conductors, to remain for a period of four months in Greece, teaching local workmen in the upkeep, repair, and operation of this equipment.

The Ministry of Revictualing of Greece estimates that the first year's yield from the land to be placed under cultivation should equal 100,000 tons of wheat; in addition, it is proposed to plant other crops than wheat.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent states that the Sultan of Egypt has signed decrees creating a new department for the control of all supplies, appointing as Controller Mr. James Ireland Craig, at present Controller of State Statistics.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Unsettled Market.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MANCHESTER, Wednesday.

The market has been very unsettled during the past week. Considerable interest was taken last Monday in the re-opening of the futures market in Liverpool but the necessary revision in official quotations caused some confusion. The scheme as a whole however is now working smoothly and traders are well satisfied with the new contract. Official reports relating to the American crop have been unfavourable and prices have again advanced. It has been extremely difficult for spinners and manufacturers to secure adequate advances, business to a large extent being blocked. The recent improvement in the inquiry for Egyptian yarns has been maintained and although operations have again been somewhat irregular certain sellers have had a very fair week. Some of the stock-taking results of Bolton Spinning Companies for the six months ending September are very encouraging. In cloth for Egypt the higher prices have checked progress and although some necessary buying has occurred there has not been any general flow of orders. Some advices relating to the Egyptian cotton crop have been rather better and there seems to be a disposition to increase estimates of the yield. In cloth for India more activity has shown itself in mulls and jaconets, but shirtings and dhooties remain very quiet, and producers cannot obtain relief. Chine buyers have given very little support. Dealings for Java, Singapore and South America have been on a rather restricted scale. In American yarns for home use prices are distinctly dearer on the week and although the undercurrent of demand continues healthier buyers have hesitated to place anything more than small orders. An encouraging turnover has again transpired in yarns suitable for France.

The report of the National Bank of India for the six months ended June 30 last states that the net profits, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amount to £143,771, £106,689 is brought forward, and the available total is, therefore, £250,460. The directors have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, payable 28th instant, leaving a balance of £170,460 to be carried forward.

COMPANY REPORT.

THE GHARBIEH LAND COMPANY.

We give below some extracts from the annual report of the Gharbieh Land Company.

Lands.

The company's estates, the area of which on February 28, 1917, was 7,899 feddans 16 kirats 13 sahms, figure in the balance-sheet for the sum of £E441,631, which includes, besides the cost price, all expenditure on improvements, etc., up to the date of closing the accounts.

Irrigation and Drainage.

The irrigation and drainage of the company's lands has, since the war broke out, been a matter of grave and constant anxiety. In the last report an account was given of the various means adopted from the outset to deal effectively with the coal crisis. These means, having given excellent results, were, during the past year, extended and improved, and it is thanks to them that it was possible to ensure the normal working of the company's lift machinery and provide for all the needs of the estates without any appreciable additional outlay. Moreover, this matter continues to receive all the attention it demands, and it is hoped to realise during this and next year certain improvements which will considerably reduce the expenditure on irrigation and at the same time ensure a better water supply in the future.

Cultivation was on the whole satisfactory and showed marked progress as compared with the agricultural results of the two previous years. There was a shortage in the Egyptian cotton crop, but the deficiency was amply compensated by the enhanced price of cotton in 1916. The cotton crop at Ras-el-Khalig was early in general, and the pink boll-worm, which was fought with the greatest energy, did not cause as much damage to the crops as in certain districts in the immediate neighbourhood of the company's lands where considerable losses were sustained. During the past two or three years, by special selection of the seed and careful picking, the company has succeeded in improving the quality of its cotton and in substantially increasing the ginning outturn. Similar progress is shown in the yield of the other crops raised on the company's lands, especially cereals, the cultivation of which since the war has been somewhat extended. Although the cotton crop derived from the company's lands was not sold at the highest prices attained, the actual sale proceeds enabled many tenants and purchasers to pay their 1916 rents and instalments, as well as a portion of their arrears. The rents for the current year have been increased and, if the prices of cotton and other agricultural produce remain approximately at present levels, it may be possible to collect some of the arrears which had hitherto been considered irrecoverable.

Land Sales.

Since the war the number of forced sales has considerably increased and the numerous expropriations, due especially to the agricultural set-back in the years 1914 and 1915, had entirely stopped transactions in landed property. The company's lands were particularly affected in this respect by reason of the large area of lands expropriated. An extensive agricultural estate adjacent to the company's lands was put up for sale by order of the Courts, and the exceptionally low prices at which this property was sold have necessarily the effect of turning away from the company's property purchasers intent on securing land at bargain prices. During the year the company was, however, able to dispose of some 30 feddans of land at an average price of about £E85 a feddan, and there is reason to hope that, as the above deterrent has now been removed, sales in the current year will be more active, provided the crop is a good one and prices are favourable.

The company's indebtedness to the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company has been increased by the interest accrued and the additional advances made during the year. As stated in the last report, the company was able, thanks to the intervention of the Egyptian Enterprise and Development Company, to obtain from its debenture

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holders time for the payment of the half-yearly coupon due December, 1915, and the two coupons due last year. The December, 1915, coupon has already been paid, and the June and December, 1916, coupons, together with interest thereon at 5 per cent. per annum, are to be paid in December next.

Profit and Loss Account.

As already pointed out, the 1916-17 rents were fixed on the basis of prices ruling in 1915. The rise in prices having occurred much later, its effect will be felt only on future rents. The agricultural profits amounted to £E9,642, and the gross profits of the company to £E16,204. The general expenses, debenture services, interest, and sums written off amounted, on the other hand, to £E20,901. In this figure are included certain exceptional and temporary charges, such as those incidental to the deferred debenture coupons, which will cease shortly. With the estimated increase of income this year there will in all probability be a surplus, and it is to be hoped that the company will soon be in a position to begin to pay off its debts and thus gradually diminish interest charges.

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah, week, 21 tons (previous week 20 tons); Hurgada, 1,876 tons, against 1,734 tons.

Baku Russian.—Week ended September 22, 74,400 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended September 23, 49,817 poods (804 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended September 23, 69,800 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended September 22, 884,120 poods (14,260 tons); week ended September 29, 878,350 poods (14,167 tons).

Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 2,245 poods from ambars, for week ending September 23, 196,680 poods, or about 3,172 tons; total production for the year from January 14 to September 23, 6,369,995 poods, or about 102,742 tons; total production for corresponding period last year, 6,159,225 poods, or about 99,342 tons.

Russian Petroleum.—Week ended September 22, 41,700 poods.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Ottoman 4 per Cent. Loan on the Egyptian Tribute.—The half-yearly coupons for interest due 10th inst. will be paid on or after that date at the banking house of Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., 67, Lombard Street.

TRAIAN ROUMANIAN OIL.

Company's Claim for Compensation.

A circular has been issued by the directors of the Traian Roumanian Oil Company stating that the company's stocks of oil, wells, plant and installations were destroyed, in common with those of other Rumanian oil companies, in the months of November and December, 1916, by the British Military Mission in order to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy, and the directors are, therefore, not in a position to submit accounts for the past year. A provisional claim has been forwarded to the British Government for the property destroyed, amounting to £277,625, but that figure does not include the extra costs which will be entailed in the erection of buildings, etc., after the termination of hostilities, as compared with pre-war prices.

THE PRINCE LINE.

The twenty-third ordinary general meeting of the Prince Line, Ltd., which concern is so largely interested in the shipping trade of the Near East, was held at Newcastle-on-Tyne on Saturday, Lord Furness (the chairman of the company) presiding. The profit for the year, after making the necessary provision for taxation, etc., amounts to £430,816 16s. 4d., as against £495,328 7s. 8d. last year. It is proposed to pay the same dividend as last year—namely, 30 per cent. An interim dividend of 5 per cent. was distributed in March last, and a final dividend of 25 per cent. will be posted to the shareholders within the next few days.

ON 'CHANGE.

THROGMORTON AVENUE,
London, Thursday.

Business this week has been practically at a standstill. In Government stocks there is some inquiry from Egypt at about half a point under prices on this side, and consequently no business results.

In Bank shares there have been a few small transactions in Agriculturals round 5 15-16, and a few Agricultural Deferreds changed hands at 460. Bank of Athens shares have been in strong demand at 3 for account of Athens, but sellers on this side are scarce, and nothing has been done.

A few Delta Light Railway Prefs. were done at 6⅛. In Land shares, apart from some transactions in Delta Lands and New Egyptians round 13s. 3d., and in Gharbieh Lands at about 1⅝, there has been nothing doing at all.

Alexandria Waters are ⅛ lower at 12½, but, on the other hand, Khedivials have been quietly in demand, and finished 6d. up at 35s. 6d. There have also been some transactions in Salts and Sodas round 25s. 9d.

In Greek Government stocks, Rentes have been done at 44½ ex div., a rise of about one point, and Monopolies are nominally one point up at 52. The 1890 Loan is also half a point up at 55½. On the other hand, there are some sellers of Funding at about 54.

Oil Shares.

Roumanian Consols were unchanged on Wednesday. Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 6d. to 23s. 9d.-24s. 9d., and Spies declined 3d. to 10s. 3d.-11s. 3d.

Paris Bourse.

Wednesday's quotations were as follows:—Credit Foncier Egyptien, 750 (unchanged), Suez Canal shares, 4,600 (against 4,590).

EGYPT'S REVENUE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
CAIRO, September 2.

Excellent Returns for May.

The State accounts for May show that revenue to the extent of £E3,274,438 was collected, as against £E2,920,451 in the same month a year ago, and that expenditure amounting to £E3,716,547, as compared with £E3,818,441, was incurred. The position of the country's finances so far is £E455,881 better than it was at the same date in 1916, i.e., a deficit of only £E442,109 compared with one of £E897,990 at the end of the previous May.

The chief items of revenue during the month were:—Land tax, £E505,648; Customs, £E176,970; tobacco dues, £E137,889; mixed courts fees, £E81,665; native courts fees, £E35,450; railways, £E343,354; rent of land, £E48,235; Ghaffir Cess, £E128,988; interest on investments, £E39,972; extraordinary receipts, £E175,580. So far, land tax is up by £E157,774, mixed courts fees by £E26,689, domains receipts by £E24,438, and extraordinary receipts by £E175,580. The principal decreases are:—Customs, £E31,109; tobacco dues, £E162.846; and railways by £E38,247. On the expenditure side the most noteworthy items during the month were:—Irrigation, £E75,608; railways, £E194,597; War Office, £E56,626; Ghaffir service, £E56,452; pensions and indemnities, £E62,991; and police, £E41,193.

The offices of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., have been removed to Finsbury Pavement House, E.C.2.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27, 1914	Price. Sept 28.	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	77½	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83¾	83¾
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73	73
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	61	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	51	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	44½
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	55	55½
Do. 5 % Fmg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	60	60
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	79½
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅞	67⅞
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71
Do. 4% Unified.....	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	5⅛	6
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	13½	13
Bank of Athens.....	£2	3	3½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8¾	8¾
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7¾	7¾
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4¾	4¾
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅞	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	15⅛	15⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	19/6	19/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12	12
Do. Pref.	4½	4 3/32	4 3/32
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/3	13/4½
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	1⅝	1⅝
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/3	13/3
Sidi Salem Co.	1/8	15/-	15/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	39/-	37/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12⅜	12⅜	12¼
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1 3/16	26/9	26/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1/8	25/9	25/9
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	35/-	35/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON SEPTEMBER 14.

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National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	15½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New	Frs.	80
" Privilégiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	81
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85½
Privilégiée		75
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6 1/16
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅛
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		28
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		10½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	165
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda		23/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	720
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	337
" 1903 "	Frs.	269
" 1911 "	Frs.	274
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		½

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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AS G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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"Two hours ago I was in the Bab Tuma quarter, distributing what had been sent me from Beirut, and there I saw thirteen bodies in the street, one of them having been murdered, and all surrounded by their loved ones. One day's harvest of death.

"One cannot walk anywhere in Damascus and not see hundreds of such sights. In an interview with the Mayor of the city as to the best method of distribution of relief, I learned that the number of inhabitants was supposed to be about 400,000, but that 120,000 had died during the past two years.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 336.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Although General Maude's victory in Mesopotamia was somewhat overshadowed a day or two later by the successful operations of the British Army on the Flanders front, the further details that have been received from Baghdad emphasise the importance of the action at Ramadieh. The number of prisoners is larger than was at first reported, and the booty greater, including railway material, steam launches, and a quantity of engineering material. After a victory so decisive no counter-attack by the Turks will be possible for some considerable time, the whole of their forces in the neighbourhood having been captured. It remains to be seen whether the enemy attempts to avenge the day by moving further troops eastwards to oppose General Maude. To do so would take some considerable time in any case, and would necessarily weaken the Turkish forces elsewhere; but to accept the defeat as final would in the end be as severe a blow to Ottoman prestige as the defeat itself.

The remaining Turkish front, in Palestine, has witnessed nothing out of the ordinary, according to the usual laconic British report; the Turks on their side have reported an intense artillery activity. (It seems to have become a tradition of the British Army not to mention these bombardments, which are usually the prelude to action.) But neither side has yet attacked, and the world is left to wonder where the anticipated Turkish offensive is to be made. It was rather loudly advertised in Germany a couple of months ago, and Falkenhayn's visit to Jerusalem was significantly mentioned. It may be, of course, that the whole thing was a plan to delude the Entente, but in that event it must have deluded a number of Germans as well.

The week has been relatively quiet on the Eastern European front. The Roumanian battle has died down, but a curious statement has been issued that General Jancovescu, the Roumanian Minister of War, has expressed the hope that von Mackensen's expected offensive will not be carried out, "owing to the infection of the Russian troops on the Roumanian front with Maximalist ideas." He is reported to have added that the Roumanian troops would, notwithstanding this infection, put up a stout fight. If this utterance is genuine—and Ministers do not usually reveal their weaknesses, or urge their opponents not to fight after admitting that the conditions are favourable to them—it throws a sinister light on the recent Russian activities. The difficulty in the Russian army, it has been said, is that the troops have no will to fight, and that their discipline has been corrupted by the notorious Order No. 1 and the intrigues of agitators and pacifists in the ranks. It was natural, of course, that these gentry, not all of whom are above suspicion of being in German pay, should endeavour to spread their revolutionary doctrines among the Roumanian ranks, which have hitherto been sound, but it would be extremely disquieting were it discovered that their efforts had been successful. Fortunately, there is no reason to believe that the situation is really serious at present, and it is to be hoped that energetic steps will be taken to combat this propaganda.

From Russia itself there is no news that can be construed as really improving the situation. A new Provisional Government has been formed, and its acts are impatiently awaited. If it imitates its predecessor in issuing manifestoes and delaying action, Russia will almost begin to despair of itself. The position is admittedly critical, and anarchy stalks the infant Republic, but constructive work is still to seek. The publication of General Korniloff's justification, while it does not explain his fall, disposes of the slander that he intended to restore the old régime—a slander that was industriously propagated in pacifist circles here and elsewhere—and it leaves an uncomfortable suspicion that some treachery was used towards him; but the true story of this unhappy episode is unlikely to be published for many a long day.

Meantime, further indications of the separatist spirit have been announced. Finland is preparing, or has prepared, to proclaim itself a republic, united by the weakest of ties with Russia, if united at all; the proposed bond is so fragile as to be almost invisible. The movement in the Ukraine seems to be following the same course, and every manifesto which comes from that quarter lays all the stress on local rights, and practically ignores the central tie. The restraining hand of M. Kerensky and his colleagues, although it is no doubt exercised, does not appear to have the effect in these quarters that might be anticipated.

In these circumstances, the German newspapers naturally continue to speculate on the dissolution of Russia, and Austria's desire for peace is probably ac-

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centuated by the dual consideration that Russia will no longer menace her as a Great Power, and will leave her a free hand in the Balkans. German writers are proclaiming the necessity of annexing or controlling Courland and Lithuania—a sermon which follows naturally on the text of Riga—while Austrian publicists dilate on the congenial theme that the collapse of Russia deprives the Southern Slav movement of all its moral support, and leaves them nothing to hope for but the clemency of Vienna. If that were the case, their condition would indeed be desperate. But the assumption that Russia is permanently *hors de combat* is rather daring, even in an Austrian writer; and while the present difficulties of our Ally do undoubtedly tend to affect the position of the Southern Slav movement adversely, that movement progresses notwithstanding. The Corfu pact came after, and not before, the troubles of Russia had become manifest; the *rapprochement* with Italy followed the Corfu pact. And one result of the Russian upheaval has been to demonstrate the fact that the Jugoslavs rely mainly on themselves, and only in a secondary degree on outside encouragement. The latter is admittedly important, but the former is vital. Despite the Russian revolution, the Jugoslav cause has progressed more in the last six months than it did in the previous six years, and probably it is precisely that consideration which troubles the Austrian writer. A movement which flourishes in spite of adverse circumstances has proved its strength.

There have been certain mysterious comings and goings in the Near East which merit notice. The German Emperor, after weeping over the destruction which the Russians had caused in Galicia—in the same way, possibly, that his heart "bled" for Louvain, in order to impress the credulous—had the opportunity of a conversation on the Imperial train with the Emperor Charles, and this is to be followed by a consultation with King Ferdinand and the Sultan at Sofia. No statement has been issued as to the subjects to be discussed, nor has any further light yet been thrown on the important agreement which M. Radoslavoff announced had been arranged with Bulgaria. It would be idle to speculate on the topic, but it is at least probable that the discussions at the Sovereigns' meeting will envisage the whole future of Balkan politics, as understood by the Central Powers.

It is curious that at the very time when this meeting of monarchs was announced the rumour that Bulgaria was anxious to conclude a separate peace should again obtain currency. The report, which appeared in the *Morning Post*, was to the effect that Bulgarian emissaries in Switzerland have been in touch with "a well-known individual," whose identity is not mentioned, but who is said to have intimate relations with the Roumanian delegates concerned with the Roumanian prisoners. The suggestion is that Roumania was to restore the new Dobrudja to Bulgaria, and to profess herself disinterested as regards her claims in the Balkans and all the claims of other Powers in the Balkans. In other words, Roumania was to give up her gains under the Treaty of Bucharest and to abandon the Roumanian population of Transylvania; in return for which she would presumably obtain—although this is significantly not so stated definitely—the restoration of her territories at present in German occupation. It would mean for Roumania the *status quo* of 1912.

These overtures have, of course, been contemptuously rejected. Were they accepted, Roumania would become a third-rate State on sufferance; her independence would be merely nominal, and she would in fact if not in name be a vassal of the Central Powers. That is not the destiny of a fighting people which has borne misfortune and suffering with the fortitude of the Roumanians. M. Také Jonescu has stated in the last few days that the idea of peace at the present time is ridiculous, and while hinting that these peace proposals were not unconnected with the Kaiser's visit to Sofia, he rejects the whole idea on which it is based. It may be remarked that these proposals appear to have emanated from the envoys who, it was announced some weeks ago, were sent from Bulgaria to Switzerland, Germany and Sweden to instruct the European public regarding the justice of the Bulgarian territorial ambitions. If this is the way they have fulfilled their mission in Switzerland, it will be interesting to hear what proposals they put on foot in Stockholm.

The report which has been received from Odessa to the effect that a series of massacres of Arabs has been carried out in Asia Minor by Djemal Pasha lacks confirmation at present. But unfortunately there is nothing improbable either in the story as a whole or in the details which have been received, to the effect that a number of well-known persons, among whom were members of the Arab Committee working in Paris before the war, are among the victims. If, as is feared, the massacres rival those in Armenia two years ago, both in extent and savagery, the present régime in Turkey will have provided one more argument for its elimination from the world's Empires at the peace settlement. Further news of this outbreak will be awaited with anxiety.

The news of renewed German activity in Morocco, which is sent by *The Times* Tangier correspondent, is disquieting, but scarcely surprising. Spain has not yet made her rule felt over more than one-tenth of her area in Morocco; the remaining nine-tenths offers full scope to German plotters, and we know, too, from experience that Berlin is by no means averse from compromising a neutral and officially friendly nation, should it suit her purpose to do so. That she cares no more for Spain than for Sweden is proved by the escape of the interned submarine from Cadiz, and we shall probably hear before long of the existence of a concerted system of agitation in Morocco. The legitimate economic interests of Germany there before the war were practically nil, and they have certainly not increased since 1914, but gamblers who have nothing to lose and may, therefore, have something to gain are not deterred by that consideration. It is Germany's business to stir up trouble wherever she can, on the off-chance that it may turn out to her advantage.

Mr. Montagu is to be accompanied on his visit to India by Lord Donoughmore and Mr. Charles Roberts. The former is a capable Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords; the latter, who is best known in temperance political circles, was for a short time Under-Secretary for India in the House of Commons. As a speaker he scarcely impressed the Chamber, but as Chairman of the Putumayo Committee he was a distinct success, and his firm and masterful handling of that controversy was in welcome contrast to the proceedings of the Marconi Committee, which sat in the neighbouring Committee-room during the same session. Mr. Roberts is understood to favour the advanced political school of thought in India.

The full exoneration of Sir Edward Barrow, which has been announced by the War and India Offices, will come as no surprise to the readers of THE NEAR EAST. In commenting on the Mesopotamia in our issue of June 29, we remarked that "if we were tempted to cavil with any of its findings it would be with the prominence given to General Barrow's name," and it is very satisfactory to find that after full consideration of the papers in the case the authorities have decided that there is no case to submit to the Army Council. We imagine that this verdict will be endorsed by instructed public opinion, although it will, of course, be cavilled at by those who are calling for everybody's head on a charger—unless the latter impulsive critics at large have forgotten what the case was about, as is not improbable, seeing that three months have elapsed since the report was published.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 14.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

The final ceremony in connection with the departure of the Holy Carpet for Mecca was celebrated on Saturday last in the presence of the Prime Minister, who as usual represented the Sultan, and Lieutenant-Colonel J. K. Watson, who represented the High Commissioner. The Carpet, with its escort and the pilgrims, left Suez on Tuesday for Jedda. The number of pilgrims this year is smaller than usual. It is not known whether the King of the Hejaz will go down to Jedda to receive the Mahmal, as he did last year; but in any event its safe passage to and from Mecca has been guaranteed by him. The Egyptian Government has sent a medical mission to Jedda to superintend the sanitary arrangements.

The Restriction of the Cotton Area.

The Egyptian Government has at last come to a decision with regard to the cotton area in 1918, and a decree was issued on Sunday prohibiting cotton sowing in the basins of Upper Egypt, and restricting its cultivation in the other areas to one-third of every holding. Certain lands in the basin areas are to be exempted from the total prohibition and are to come under the limitation clause, whilst other lands which cannot grow cereals are not to be interfered with at all. Heavier penalties than usual are to be inflicted for disregard of this order, and in addition to a fine and imprisonment offenders will also have their crop pulled up. It is expected that the reduction in the area will amount to about 300,000 feddans. That is to say the cotton area will be in the neighbourhood of 1,400,000 feddans, as compared with 1,745,000 feddans this year. The reduction is not as great as in 1915 owing to the above-mentioned exceptions, which were not allowed in the first year of the war. The preamble of the decree states that this reduction has been decided upon, because it is not possible to count on any imports of flour or cereals from abroad, and the country does not in the ordinary way produce sufficient for its own needs. It is confidently hoped that the reduction in the cotton area now decided upon will result in an extra production of cereals that will meet all the requirements of the local population. The measure has been generally well received by the agricultural element, which recognises the seriousness of the situation necessitating its adoption and which, as it happens, has been somewhat reconciled to the substitution of cereals for cotton by the fall which the latter has undergone in price of late.

The Medium of Instruction in Higher Schools.

It is stated that it has been decided that instruction at the Higher School of Agriculture shall, except in one or two minor subjects, in future be given in English. This is an excellent departure; for, albeit, it may be very desirable that students should receive instruction as much as possible through the medium of their own native tongue, nevertheless, in scientific subjects and those akin to them, it is imperative that graduates shall be able to keep themselves abreast of the times after they have left their college by following the technical, professionl, and scientific records and publications made from time to time by foreign experts, who one and all write either in English or French, or whose works are translated into one of those languages.

But in order that it may be possible to give instruction in the higher colleges in English, and that the student may be able to follow the course from the start, it is essential that he shall start with a good grounding in that language. In this connection it is interesting to recall what Sir W. Brunyate wrote in his last report. Speaking of the School of Law, he said:—

The examiners and the Principal once more complain of the candidates' defective knowledge of European languages, and it has now been found necessary to establish lectures in the English language at the School itself. This is, of course, the inevitable result of the change of policy adopted some ten years ago, in pursuance of which the Arabic language is now almost exclusively used as the medium of instruction in the primary and secondary schools. If I am not mistaken, Egypt is not the only country in which the question has given rise to controversy, and the controversy is one in which I have no desire to participate. I can only record that, for the purpose of the Ministry of Justice, it is a serious disadvantage that our future magistrates should be, to a measurable extent, in less direct touch with European thought.

Considering that English is fast ousting French in official and commercial circles, and that it is becoming next to Arabic the predominant language in Egypt, it is on the face of it necessary for every Egyptian who wishes to make his way in life to have a thorough knowledge of that language, and for his studies in the secondary and primary schools to be so directed that on leaving he may be qualified to follow higher instruction equally well whether it is given in Arabic or in English. If this cannot be done in the primary schools, and it is quite possible that there are inherent difficulties in the way, there should be no such difficulty in the case of the secondary schools, and every effort should be made to turn out pupils who are capable of following lectures in English, and who do not, as has been the case of the Law School entrants, have to be given further instruction in that language, before they are able to take up satisfactorily the studies for which they are primarily attending the Higher Schools.

In regard to this very question of the linguistic medium of instruction in scientific and other kindred subjects, it is interesting to recall the experience of the American College at Beyrout. When the college was first started it was decided by the committee to give instruction in all scientific subjects, including medicine, through the medium of Arabic. A lot of expense and trouble was incurred in having books written on the various subjects and in arranging to keep them up to date. After a short while, however, it was found that science was making such rapid advances that it was quite impossible to keep track of all the new developments and theories, if Arabic were adhered to as the medium of instruction, and the committee recognising that, if they were to do their duty by their graduates, they must give them courses which embraced all the latest discoveries and theses, reluctantly decided to adopt the system of teaching all sciences, including medicine, in English. This experience of what is generally recognised as one of the most important educational institutions in the East certainly goes a long way towards strengthening the position of those who maintain that instruction in science and other kindred subjects to be of any real use must be imparted to Orientals through the medium of a European language.

THE VICTORY OF RAMADIEH.

The War Office states that Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude has sent the following telegram in reply to the King's message of congratulation:—

"Your Imperial Majesty's gracious message has been received by the troops concerned with loyal enthusiasm and gratitude. All ranks in Mesopotamia are imbued with confidence in the future and a firm resolve to prosecute this campaign to a successful conclusion."

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THE LATE SULTAN HUSSEIN.

The news of the death of the Sultan of Egypt on October 9 has been received with genuine regret in this country by all who have followed his work in the interests of Egypt and of the British Empire during his short reign.

Hussein Kamel was the second and favourite son of Ismail Pasha. He was born in Cairo on December 20, 1853, and at the age of thirteen years was sent to Paris to complete his education. The outbreak of the Franco-German War caused him to return to Egypt, where, for the next few years, he occupied high official posts. When Ismail was deposed in 1879 Hussein Kamel accompanied him into exile, and was absent from Egypt for three years. On his return he at once developed that keen interest in the welfare of Egypt that has characterised his whole career, and devoted himself particularly to agricultural and educational matters. He became a personal friend of Lord Cromer's, and, though occupying no office, was able to make his influence felt on the strength of his recognised ability and his devotion to his country's interests. In January, 1909, he accepted the Presidency of the Legislative Council and General Assembly, but retained the post for one year only.

On the outbreak of the European War the Khedive Abbas was in Turkey. His return to Egypt was repeatedly postponed, and when Turkey entered the struggle it was evident that he had thrown in his lot with the Central Alliance. On December 18, 1914, Egypt was declared a British Protectorate, and on the following day it was announced that Abbas Hilmi had been deposed from the Khediviate, and that that high dignity had been offered, with the title of Sultan of Egypt, to his Highness Prince Hussein Kamel Pasha, and had been accepted by him.

Of the new Sultan a correspondent in these columns wrote as follows:—

"He stands for a new spirit in Egypt; a spirit which has grown apace in the last few years, but—happily—without political form. It is a pro-Egyptian spirit, which, knowing that the peculiar people of Egypt have persisted unchanged by thousands of years of foreign rule, looks to the common people, the real people of Egypt, and watches on their behalf. Not that Sultan Hussein is a democrat in the Western sense. He is very much a prince. Keen aquiline features, a great yellow moustache, and the scarlet *tarboush* thrust back on the forehead, are the first impressions which his visitor receives. He has been described as resembling a French cavalry officer in his carriage and appearance, and the comparison is not inept. By no means a typical farmer, yet agriculture and its development is his hobby, in a land where the farmer is king. Being a prince, not merely in name, he has stood aside from the intrigues which afflict public life in Egypt, and has thereby earned respect and some misunderstanding. Trained under French influence and in a French Court, his appreciation of any English work is proportional to the value of that work for Egypt, and this is all to the good for England; it will raise our standard of achievement."

In a formal statement which he gave as a message to the people of England on his accession, Sultan Hussein declared that he had accepted the Sultanate, not lightheartedly, but with a full sense of his responsibility to fulfil a sacred duty, and in the hope that he might be able to render service to his people. "I trust entirely in England," he continued, "and I hope that she trusts me. I have always dealt straightly; my past bears witness thereto. I have worked for good relations between Egypt and England." The promise of loyalty then given was faithfully observed during his brief reign, and he has passed away leaving the two countries under a deep obligation to him. He will be remembered for the conscientious fulfilment of his Royal duties, for the close interest he displayed in all matters affecting the welfare of the people of Egypt and for his open-handed generosity. To the latter his frequent contributions to war charities bore eloquent testimony.

Prince Ahmed Fuad, who becomes the second Sultan of Egypt, is the youngest son of Ismail Pasha. He was born in 1868, and was educated mainly in Italy.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 16, 1917.

King Alexander's Name-day.

The event of the week has been the celebration of King Alexander's name-day, which took place on Wednesday with perhaps greater show than used to be displayed for his father on similar occasions.

In the morning the King proceeded in state to the Cathedral, where he was received by the Ministers and public functionaries; there were also present the representatives of the Foreign Missions. On his Majesty's return to the Palace an official reception was held. The Chamber was decorated, and there was a good display of bunting in the town, and certain places were illuminated in the evening. The King received a very cordial reception from the large crowds who lined the streets through which he passed.

The Moral of the Nation.

In spite of these demonstrations of loyalty and the apparent satisfaction at the new order of things, it would be a delusion to suppose that the "Royalists" have been suppressed or have changed their views, nor can it be said that the disclosures of the White Book have had very much effect on the anti-Venizelists. Revelations of this nature two years ago would have had a much greater effect on the public mind, but during the past two years much has taken place to cause difference of opinion on Greece's policy. At the time of the Dardanelles campaign it may safely be asserted that the people were eager to take part, and there was great regret when the ex-King vetoed M. Venizelos's plans. The probability of a Greek military force entering Constantinople, with the possible eventuality of offering a thanksgiving in St. Sophia, was a prospect which appealed to the people's imagination and aroused their enthusiasm; but two years of political strife and a long period of idle mobilisation have produced a certain amount of demoralisation, disorganisation, and lack of enthusiasm, which cannot be put right very easily and quickly, even though Greece's greatest politician of modern times again takes the reins of power.

The prospect too of a general mobilisation later on, instead of arousing national patriotism, is rather regarded with disfavour, as there are many who are still obsessed with the opinion that Germany is not going to be beaten, though those entertaining these views maintain them more as an argument against military operations which will affect them personally, and they are probably not their real convictions.

Economic Conditions.

At the present time the economic conditions of the country, as the effect of six months' blockade, seem worse than they have ever been since the outbreak of war, and the scarcity of foodstuffs and the enormous increase in the cost of living have naturally had the effect of causing a certain amount of dissatisfaction rather than of infusing enthusiasm in the adoption of a political régime which will oblige the people to fight and once more to leave their homes and their occupations. Greece has naturally, to a certain extent, profited from the effects of the war in the same way as other countries, and much money has been made by shipowners and by anybody who had anything of utility to sell. There is an air of prosperity in some quarters, but, on the other hand, the working and industrial classes are suffering from penury. Many industries are at a standstill or are being worked on a reduced scale, owing to want of fuel and materials, and the limited tonnage which now enters the Piræus has, of course, thrown numberless people out of work. Thus the loss of occupation, in addition to the greater cost of living is not a state of things to conduce to enthusiasm.

Although the grocers' shops seem well stocked with groceries in tins, etc., yet the staple articles of one's daily diet such as flour, sugar, rice, macaroni, coffee, are scarce, and can only be obtained in limited quantities by tickets. The Government has now taken over the sale of all these articles, as well as of dried vegetables; but the scarcity of tonnage has delayed the arrival of sufficient stocks of these necessaries of life. The scarcity of rice and macaroni—two articles which so largely enter into the people's diet in these climates—is very much felt, more especially as potatoes are practically unobtainable. Green vegetables are also scarce and are expensive: and as it was found that the milk was being watered, the Minister of Provisions has forbidden any butter to be made, so that commodity is now unobtainable.

The absence of gas owing to want of coal has caused an increase in the demand for electricity; but owing to lack

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of coal the production of sufficient power to meet the increased demand is not possible. Those streets which were lighted by gas are now in darkness, and the absence of gas for domestic purposes for cooking and lighting in private houses has necessitated the consumption of wood lignite or charcoal, which have all gone up in price, and the use of candles for lighting purposes.

It is hoped to effect an economy in the consumption of electricity by restricting the lighting of public places and the earlier closing of places of amusement and shops and other establishments. Measures to this end are now being adopted. During the hot summer evenings the inhabitants of Athens linger in the gardens and in the numerous open-air cinemas and theatres, but with the cooler nights there will be no hardship or inconvenience in closing all these places of entertainment before midnight. The adoption of "summer time" would have effected a further economy, but Greece has not yet followed the western countries of Europe in that respect.

Problems of Administration.

The project which will be submitted to Parliament for taking over the railways in Greece will include the Larissa railway, the Papouli-Salonika line, the Macedonian railways, which were held principally by Austrian and German capitalists, and which were seized by the Venizelos Cabinet in 1915, and the Volo-Trikalla-Larissa line.

The assistance of foreign Advisers is being obtained for various services. A British Naval Mission is again to come to Greece for the organisation of the Navy, and a French Military Mission under General Braquet, which is said to consist of eighty officers of various branches, has arrived to instruct the Greek army in the art of modern warfare, and special camps are being prepared for the purpose. A Financial Mission has also arrived under the Sub-Governor of the Bank of France, Monsieur Sergent, for the purpose of reorganising Greece's finances, and Italian officers are being engaged for the gendarmerie.

From to-day no newspaper may be sold under one penny, and must be limited in size.

THE FATE OF MONASTIR.

An issue of the *Balkan News*, which has taken a long time to reach this country, contains a vivid account of the great fire at Salonika, which fortunately spared the offices of the paper "in a region which is completely destroyed." The paper mentions the fact that on the day before the outbreak of the fire Monastir was bombarded by incendiary shells, 2,000 of them falling in six hours, so that 1,000 private houses were destroyed and the town had to be completely evacuated.

GREECE AS AN ALLY.

On Tuesday evening Dr. Burrowe lectured at King's College on "Greece as an Ally." He said it was only now, after three years of war, that Greece was formally and officially our ally, yet during the whole time the majority of her people had sympathised with the Entente, and the authorised Government of the country for long periods considered itself potentially our ally, and held that Greece was committed to enter the war on our side in certain contingencies. Dr. Burrows, after discussing the Greek White Book and speeches in the Greek Parliament in August, then detailed the story of Constantine's treachery. He read a telegram from Constantine to the Kaiser, sent in August, 1914, and stating that the former could best help the latter by not declaring war, but by maintaining friendly neutrality. He explained the position with regard to the Greco-Serbian treaty, and told the story of the treacherous surrender of Fort Rupel, and of Skouloudis's successful attempt to mislead the Greek people on that occasion. A matter which he went into at some length was that of a forged letter, represented as being by Venizelos, and hinting at the assassination of Constantine.

Now that Greece was our ally troops had been raised which, with those on the Macedonian front, would amount to 110,000 or 120,000 men. By the spring it was hoped the number would be 300,000. Difficulties were arising from the reluctance of the local Italian officials to evacuate northern Epiros and from the financial situation. In spite of three German loans, Constantine and his Governments had practically reduced Greece to bankruptcy, and Venizelos had had to make good the ravages of the Salonika fire, besides dealing with the problem of the refugees from Turkey and Bulgaria.

M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, who presided and moved a vote of thanks, said that, with regard to the treaty with Serbia, of which Dr. Burrows had given an explanation, M. Venizelos had said that, even if there had been no treaty, it was Greece's interest and duty to go to the help of Serbia. If Greece allowed Serbia to be crushed, not only would it be an iniquitous thing, but a most fatal error in regard to Greece's own interests. The struggle that went on before Greece came in as an ally of the Entente, amounting practically to civil war, ought not to be forgotten. It was the greatest and noblest act of Venizelos that he had redeemed the honour of Greece by bringing the country to co-operate with its neighbours, allies and friends, the Serbians.

M. Jovanovitch, the Serbian Minister, who was present on the platform, added a few words in French, saying that for a hundred years Serbia and Greece had marched together, and that it was the desire of Serbia that they might do so in the present and the future.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE FUTURE OF THE SOUTHERN SLAVS."

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—I regret that I must ask for space in which to reply to the long attack in your current issue, a great part of which I consider unjustifiable.

"Hecatomb" in his first paragraph charges me (if the reference is not to me the charge is without point) with "preaching the doctrine of Balkan enmity and encouraging the peoples to go on hating one another." I deny that absolutely; it is an absolute travesty of my views, and I challenge "Hecatomb" to quote any passage in which I "preach the doctrine" of enmity. I believe that it will be a long time before Serbs and Bulgars can be friends, and so I said. I also believe, and many others with me, that it will be a long time before French and Germans are friends, but are we therefore preaching the doctrine of European enmity? I condemned the "finis Bulgariæ" attitude (p. 247), said that it would be wrong to partition the territory of Old Bulgaria (*ibid*), and urged that no "unnecessary hindrance should be placed in her way of an eventual *rapprochement*" (p. 248). Such an accord contains, of course, the eventual solution of the Balkan problem, but my judgment forbids me to see it in the near future (I should like to be wrong), or to assume its existence as a basis for certain conditions of present policy.

In his third paragraph your reviewer states that my "choice of a title proclaims [my] propagandist intentions. 'A Plea for Serbia,'" etc. Anyone reading that might suppose that "A Plea for Serbia" were the title of my book instead of a chapter heading. The title is correctly given in the footnote as "The Future of the Southern Slavs," and how anyone can read propagandist intentions into that title I cannot imagine; a more colourless title would be difficult to conceive. My abjuration of anti-Russian prejudice in an article twenty years old seems to annoy him almost as much as the supposed discovery of a new one. He is wrong in implying that I had some "very violent denunciations" to withdraw; that is his own characteristic gloss. In the same paragraph, in reference to certain quotations, he says of the authors that "we may feel confident" that they "have now very solemnly 'abjured' [why does the word so annoy him?] their anti-Serbian prejudice." As a student of Near Eastern literature he knows, or might know, that, apart altogether from proposals to gain over Bulgaria at Serbia's expense and from the Austrophil current which would seriously jeopardise Serb and Jugoslav interests, bitter attacks in terms have been made on Serbia since the war, nor have their authors ever "abjured," solemnly or otherwise. This feeling has been deplored to me by one of the best known and most able of Serb diplomatists—not stationed in England either now or in the past. "Hecatomb's" confidence is quite misplaced, as he should have been aware. His reference to the imprisonment of M. Pashitch could be countered by one to the fate of Stambulov, but *Cui bono?* as he would say, with a fine disregard of the origin and meaning of the phrase.

"Hecatomb" gives no evidence to support his attribution of anti-Italian prejudice, and he would find it difficult to do so, seeing that I took the evidence as to Dalmatia almost entirely from Italian sources, and that of set purpose. In 1911 I was taken to task by friends for espousing the Italian cause in the Tripoli affair, at a time when British opinion was largely condemnatory. As I state in my book, I believe that the interests of Italians and Southern Slavs are identical.

In his penultimate paragraph I am taken to task for my quotations from Bulgarian papers. "What would one expect but to find that 'the Bulgarian papers are full of abuse . . . ?'" "How could they write otherwise?" But we were told (surely he knew this) that the Bulgarians were friendly to England and France, that no Bulgarian Ministry could last a month that was opposed to those Powers, that the Bulgarians would never fight the Russians, that M. Geshov was phil-Ententist, etc. I expected to find some evidence of all this in the Bulgarian Press, but, when I found none, said so, and gave evidence of the fact. Was that illegitimate? Should not the alleged attitude have been reflected in the Press as cross-currents are in other countries? Would an Austrian publicist seeking evidence of English feeling with regard to Balkan affairs be wrong to quote, *e.g.*, the leading articles of THE NEAR EAST? Had I given my evidence without quotation I should rightly have been told that my story was undocumented and unsupported by evidence.

Your reviewer says that to cite Bulgarian outrages is no argument, as the Bulgarian might retort in kind. His own remark is no argument, but merely an example, granting his contention, of the fallacy that two wrongs make a right. Your readers should be suspicious of a would-be critic who preaches the doctrine that massacres in the Balkans are not to be accounted of.

In his concluding paragraph "Hecatomb" says that my main object is to give an historical sketch of Serbia and the Jugo Slav people. That is a contradiction of his previous affirmation of my "propagandist intentions" based on the alleged title of the book, and also of the actual title and the contents. The main concern of "The Future of the Southern Slavs" is the future of the Southern Slavs. I fail to see how a book of unbounded prejudice, of great bias, of incitement to racial hatred, and of propagandist intentions so gross as to call forth an appeal to the Serbian Society to save Serbia from some of her friends, "will certainly contribute to a better understanding of" anything save the manifold delinquencies of the author. "Hecatomb" should have had the courage of his convictions and damned me to the end.

Whether he is himself free from prejudice I leave your readers to judge. It is not difficult, I think, to see his affinities and the real cause of his attack. In view, then, of his violent "reaction" to my book, I feel entitled to conclude with one word—*Habet*!—I am, etc.,

Canterbury, October 9. A. H. E. TAYLOR.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Needless to say, I am all for adventures, and there have been a good many from time to time connected with the Balkans. But I found my breath rather taken away by a recent suggestion that Lord Milner should become the ruler of Albania. It is put forward in a new book, "The Future of the Southern Slavs," which contains some useful information about the Southern Slavs, but pays rather close attention to Balkan polemics. As a matter of fact, before dropping this particular brick, the author took the precaution of wrapping it up, in order to deaden the sound:—"If an administrator of the calibre of, *e.g.*, Lord Milner were to be sent out for ten years," etc.; further, he contrived at the last moment to slip a piece of blotting-paper on to the spot where it was going to fall, for there is a footnote: "Written before party politicians had re-discovered him. Presumably we shall henceforth use his talents for ourselves."

***

I have been trying hard to picture to myself Lord Milner as Acting Mpret. It would be all right from Albania's point of view, and the process of having their heads metaphorically knocked together by him would be an excellent experience for cantankerous chieftains, while his perfectly reckless riding (of South African days) would have greatly impressed them. But what of Lord Milner's own point of view? After all, the failure of party politicians to re-discover him was no fault of his, that the further penalty should be imposed upon him. I am pretty sure that the author's "Hamlet" would have had to be played without the Prince, even if Great Britain had remained unmindful of the talents of the first High Commissioner of South Africa. After all, for a man who cares nothing for pride of place or pomp of power, but seeks scope for a master intellect, it is a poor compliment to suggest that he should devote the rest of his life to inculcating law and order among headstrong mountaineers.

***

The work of sweeping up the débris left by the Constantine régime in Greece is proving tragedy enough to the new Greek Government. But it has contrived to introduce the lighter vein in the order that compelled the population of Athens and the Piræus to remain indoors from sunrise to noon one day while they were counted for bread tickets. We are apt to grumble here at having to lose twenty minutes or an hour of the working day as the result of taking cover during an air-raid; but a nation that submits to being kept indoors until noon is either very docile or not very busy; perhaps, as the day chosen was a Sunday, one ought to add—not very religious.

***

Desperate diseases call for violent remedies, and in this case the disease was very, very bad. The population of the two cities is between 300,000 and 400,000, and twice the number of bread tickets had been issued under the Constantine régime. If everybody had received two, all would have been well; but the trouble was that the perjured few had divided the surplus tickets amongst themselves, and the bulk of the people obtained half rations. Government and public spirit must have been reduced to a pretty low ebb when such a state of things became possible. Individual lapses in regard to food regulations are comprehensible, but this seems to have been an official expedient to bribe the Reservists at the expense of the people as a whole.

CORSAIR.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE SERBIAN RETREAT.*

This little book gives, in fuller detail than we have seen elsewhere, the story of the Serbian retreat from Nish to Corfu, and presents an intensely pathetic picture of the sufferings of an exiled nation, an account of hopes raised only to be dashed again, of the expectation that the Allies would come to the rescue of the hard-pressed kingdom, the reluctant decision to quit the capital, the difficulty of accommodating the Serbian Government and the Allied Legations at Rechka, Mitrovitsa, Prisrend, and the progressively increasing hardships as the company reached the borders of Albania. At one time there was a disposition to blame the Allies—we need not wonder at that when one remembers the outburst of indignation in England at Sir Edward Grey's unfulfilled pledge to Serbia—at another time came uncertainty as to the next step. The Government would lose touch with its own forces. It was undecided which route to follow. It had to burn more and more of its records to lighten its load; the Legations could not always burn their official impedimenta, and seals and similar incumbrances were thrown into the rivers. Then, finally, that nothing should be lacking of tragedy, after the knowledge that the Serbian army could no longer find a footing on Serbian soil, came the news that Montenegro had also suffered disaster. To this distressing accompaniment, which must have seemed the final ruin of the Slav cause in the Balkans, marched the Serbians through Podgoritsa and Scutari to the sea; on their road, in that bitter winter, they passed the corpses of men and of animals, mute testimonies to the horrors of the war. Even then their troubles were not yet over, for the King and his Prime Minister found telegraphic communication with Italy interrupted, and the transport of the Serbian army across the Adriatic seemed for the moment a hopeless enterprise.

After this pitiable experience one need not have wondered if the heart of the Serbian people had been broken and their courage gone. Obviously the Germans calculated that such would be the case; probably they did not recognise their mistake until the Serbians re-entered Monastir eighteen months later. But when the German Emperor made his bombastic speech in Nish in the autumn of 1915 he thought he had finished with that enemy for good.

The recovery of Serbia, however, is no part of this book; it begins at Nish and ends at Corfu. But the story of that retreat and exile, which the author rightly calls a Serbian Odyssey, will never be forgotten. It is a theme worthy of a great poet, but it is perhaps not less impressive in the studiously unadorned narrative of M. Boppe, who was not merely an eyewitness of, but a participant in, the journey.

THE FATE OF EUROPE.†

"Mr. Dick sets us all right," remarked Miss Betsy Trotwood one day, when Janet had been chasing donkeys off the green. Mr. Ellis Barker accepts a similar excellent position in these days. Some few people in England have grumbled at heavy taxation, and foretold our ruin; Mr. Barker boldly insists that it is our salvation, like the nail in the pilgrim's boot. Man, he declares, is a lazy animal, who will only work hard when he is compelled. Low taxation means that he has plenty of money for himself, high taxation that he has little. The only way to get more is to work harder, and in the long run men would rather work harder than go without their accustomed luxuries; therefore we shall all work harder, and the nation will flourish in consequence. It is undoubtedly true. But it also gives the ordinary man, who, *ex hypothesi*, is a lazy person, a rather uncomfortable feeling. One recognises instinctively that Mr. Barker would be a terrible schoolmaster.

The bulk of this book, which bears traces of a great deal of research, has appeared month by month in the *Nineteenth Century*, and the author has done well to rescue it from the fate of most monthly journalism. Time has, on the whole, dealt rather kindly with him in these breathless days. If the Polish question has advanced a good many stages since he wrote, he can claim in compensation that Mr. Lloyd George has followed out his recommendations in reconstructing the British Government. Mr. Booker's weak point is on the side of social reconstruction; but Mr. Barker's real aim, we take it, in this book is to discuss foreign policy. At any rate, that will be its main interest for readers of THE NEAR EAST.

On these matters the author is clear and explicit, and supports his conclusions by an abundance—perhaps almost a superabundance—of historical evidence. Unfortunately he does not deal with the Balkans in detail, only glancing at them in chapters on Constantinople and Austria. He enters more at large into the future of Asia Minor. Here he would like to see England in general control; but France, in his opinion, should have Syria and Cilicia, Greece Smyrna and the hinterland, Italy Adalia, while Russia takes charge of Armenia. It should, of course, be predicated that in discussing the future both of Asia Minor and of Constantinople Mr. Barker wrote before the Russian revolution, and the new Russia's decision, probably only temporary, to throw away ambition, has made some of these pages read rather curiously. But Mr. Barker would probably answer that, unless Russia breaks up altogether, whatever school of thought rules at Petrograd must in the long run come back to these ambitions, dictated as they are by economics and geography; and we should accept the answer—always provided that the time had not gone by for Russia to take the opportunity. There is such a thing as a nation that misses the tide.

Further east, Mr. Barker is quite clear that it is Britain's duty to take Mesopotamia, and hold it. His reasoning is here extremely trenchant. We have already an interest in the country, apart from the interest of present possession; plans were laid for its irrigation by British engineers some few years before the war, and there is no doubt whatever that irrigation would pay, for the soil is as fertile as ever, and twenty years would again make the country a second and a greater Egypt. Moreover, it would furnish an outlet for Indian labour and energy; for that reason alone (which also applies to German East Africa) Mr. Barker advises its retention. He holds that there would be little or no direct profit to the Empire in retaining these possessions—a point on which there may be two opinions, in view of the continually increasing demand for raw materials from the tropics; but Mr. Barker is obviously right in holding that these countries should not be handed back to Germany or Turkey.

It will be seen from these conclusions that the author is entirely against any peace by negotiation, whether *viâ* Scandinavia or Rome; he looks for a clean-cut victory, and he is not afraid of the cost. Indeed, he looks on the cost almost as a doctor's tonic which, although unpleasant to take, has a revivifying effect on the patient. The latter, as he points out, does not produce as much as the American per head: "it follows" (from statistics of production cited) "that Great Britain can treble her yearly output, her yearly income, and her national wealth by Americanising her industries. The Americanisation of British industries has already begun. In the course of the war production per man has approximately doubled. It can once more be doubled, and more than doubled, to the great benefit of the workers and of the nation as a whole."

Mr. Barker does not conciliate the reader by his style, which is as devoid of grace as a punt-pole. But, like a punt-pole, it usually gets to the bottom!

A. W. T.

* "A la Suite du Gouvernement Serbe." Par Auguste Boppe. (Bossard, Paris. 3 frs.)

†The Great Problems of British Statesmanship. By J. Ellis Barker. (John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

M. Octavian C. Taslauanu a Roumanian officer, who was taken prisoner and subsequently escaped, is the author of the first account to be published in this country of the Russian invasion of Galicia in the early days of the war, in a book entitled "With the Austrian Army in Galicia," which is included among Messrs. Skeffington's forthcoming publications.

Mr. John Lane has recently issued "Poems of East and West," by V. Sackville-West (the Hon. Mrs. Harold Nicolson) priced at 3s. 6d. net.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

With the Anzacs in Cairo. By Guy Thornton, C.F., Chaplain Captain of the N.Z.E.F. (London: H. R. Allenson, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

La Question d'Orient. By Edouart Driault. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 7 francs.)

Messrs. John Meade and Company, booksellers, publishers, and exporters, announce that they have taken premises at 207, Knightsbridge, S.W.7, which will be open for inspection in a few days.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. October.	1917. September.		1335. Dulheggia.	5678. Tishri.
12	29	Friday	25	26
13	30	Saturday.....	26	27
	October.			
14	1	Sunday	27	28
15	2	Monday	28	29
16	3	Tuesday	29	30
			1336. Muharram.	Heshvan.
17	4	Wednesday	1	1
18	5	Thursday	2	2

Princess Ghica of Roumania has left London for Paris.

M. Take Jonescu, the Roumanian statesman, has arrived at Odessa.

To-day is also the birthday of Princess Elisabeth of Roumania.

The Persian Minister visited Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office on October 5.

Sir Valentine Chirol has returned to England after a prolonged stay in India.

The Sultan of Turkey is reported to have arrived in Adrianople, en route for Sofia.

M. Kolovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation in Petrograd, has arrived in London from Paris.

Lord Granville, the new British Minister to Greece, and Lady Granville arrived in Athens on October 8.

A Vienna telegram states that the Austrian Emperor has received in audience Abbas Hilmi, the ex-Khedive of Egypt.

The School of Slavonic Studies at King's College has arranged various interesting lectures relating to Poland and other Slav problems.

Commander Locker-Lampson, M.P., who was in command of the British Armoured Car Unit in Russia, arrived in England on October 9.

M. Victor Antonescu, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to Paris, has left town for the French capital to take up his diplomatic duties.

Lieut.-Colonel Boyd Francis Alexander, Rifle Brigade, a Mutiny veteran, who died on August 19, left unsettled estate of the value of £74,378.

Messages received from Athens at the beginning of the week stated that M. Venizelos was slightly indisposed, and had gone into the country for a few days.

To-day is the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Natalie of Montenegro. She was born at Trieste in 1882, and married Prince Mirko at Cettigne in 1902.

King Alexander of Greece has conferred the Order of the Saviour on a number of French officers of all ranks, and on French Consuls and Vice-Consuls.

It is understood, says *The Times*, that the successor of General Sir Archibald Hunter in the Aldershot command is Lieut.-General Sir Archibald Murray, lately in command in Egypt.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,

THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

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Dr. Anghelescu, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to Washington, and M. Coanda and M. Trifonescu, members of the Roumanian Parliament, arrived in London on October 8 from Roumania.

The Serbian Cabinet has finally decided to transfer itself to Salonika, and the diplomatic representatives of the Entente, who are at present in Corfu, will in due course join the Serbian Government there.

It is reported that "hunger typhus" and tuberculosis are rife among the Montenegrins interned in Austrian and Hungarian prison camps as the result of want and exposure, and that numbers of men and women are dying.

Colonel Phillott, late Indian Army, has arrived in Cairo, and has assumed, on behalf of Bishop MacInnes, the duties of General Director of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund. His office, kindly lent by Mr. Davies Bryan, is on the first floor in St. David's Buildings, Cairo.

A marriage is arranged between William Henry, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Smith, Gibraltar, and Villa Vieja, Algeciras, and Mary Claire, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Darley, Carysfort, Blackrock, Dublin, and Kippure, County Wicklow.

Sir Maurice Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., has been appointed by the Lord President to fill the vacancy on the Advisory Council of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research caused by the retirement, by rotation, of Mr. W. Duddell, C.B.E., F.R.S.

A Bosnian regiment, with its officers and arms, is reported to have deserted bodily from the Austrian ranks, passing over to the Roumanian lines at Ocna. The men said their example would be followed at every opportunity by all the Czechs and Southern Slavs of the Austrian Army.

Among the bequests of Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Phillips, of Southwick, Sussex, who died on September 10, leaving estate of the gross value of £7,433, was a diamond and gold snuffbox, presented to her husband by the Sultan Abdul Aziz, which she left to her son to be preserved as an heirloom.

Both Serbia and Montenegro have sent delegates to the meetings of the Permanent Committee of the Allied Pensions Committee, the first of which was held in London on October 9. Serbia is represented by M. Agathonvitch and Colonel Soubotitch, and M. Marculio represents Montenegro.

The ninth Earl of Elgin, of Broomhall, Dunfermline, who was Viceroy of India 1894-9, and Secretary of State for the Colonies 1905-8, who died on January 18 last, left personal estate of the value of £232,294. The executors are the present Earl of Elgin and Major the Hon. Robert Bruce (sons), and Sir Henry Babington Smith, K.C.B.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, Secretary of State for India, has invited the Earl of Donoughmore, K.P., Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, and Mr. Charles Roberts, M.P., to accompany him to India, and they have accepted his invitation. During Mr. Montagu's absence Lord Islington will represent him in Parliament and in the Ministry.

Reuter's Zurich correspondent announces that a Vienna telegram to the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* states that the Emperor Charles and the Kaiser will shortly proceed to Sofia, where the Sultan of Turkey is also going. A conference of the Monarchs of the Quadruple Alliance, to which, in view of present circumstances, great importance is attached, will be held.

General Jancovescu, Roumanian Minister of War, who has arrived at the Russian Headquarters, expressed the hope that, owing to the infection of the Russian troops on the Roumanian front with Maximalist ideas, von Mackensen's proposed offensive will not be carried out, although, he added, "the Roumanian troops are well prepared to offer a stout resistance."

M. Lambros, the Greek ex-Prime Minister, was brought before the Parliamentary Commission on Thursday, October 4, and put in a written statement to the effect that, in accordance with his legal rights, he reserved his defence, and declined to make any other reply to the charge against him. His defence would be made before the High Court. After signing this refusal he was liberated.

According to information from the Caucasus front (says *The Times* correspondent at Odessa), a series of massacres of Arabs has been carried out in Asia Minor by Djemal Pasha. Among the victims are a number of well-educated persons, members of the Arab Committee working in Paris before the war, and regarded as national leaders. Many of these were invited to return to Turkey during the war and entrusted with various duties, but they have now been arrested and hanged. The massacres are stated to rival the Armenian horrors, both in extent and savagery.

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The marriage took place very quietly on Wednesday of Commander Francis C. Vaughan, R.N., third son of the late Cedric Vaughan, of Millom, Cumberland, and Miss Morna Rawlins, M.B., B.S.Lond., only daughter of Mr. Thomas Rawlins, late of the Indian Civil Service, and Mrs. Rawlins, 27, Barkston Gardens. Only the nearest relatives were present, owing to the recent death in action of the bridegroom's youngest brother.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Bimbashi J. H. R. Yardley, D.S.O., Sudan Army, has been transferred to the Equatorial Battalion.

Captain C. A. M. van Millingen, the Rifle Brigade, elder son of the late Professor van Millingen, has been awarded the Military Cross.

Captain N. B. Hunter, Highland Light Infantry, has been attached to the Egyptian Army as a Special Service Officer, and granted the temporary rank of Bimbashi.

Kaimakams A. G. Rainsford-Hannay Bey, D.S.O., Acting Director, Military Works Department, and E. D. F. Gee Bey, Artillery, have been struck off the strength of the Egyptian Army.

OBITUARY.

Mr. John Bowring Spence, British Consul-General at Tripoli, died there on September 26 after a severe illness. He was born in 1861, educated at Dulwich College, and held consular appointments at Leghorn, Madrid, Madeira, and Trieste.

Major William Guy Harington, D.S.O., Indian Army, who died on September 28 of wounds received in action, was the eldest son of Lieutenant-Colonel H. N. V. Harington, I.M.S., retired. He passed out of Woolwich into the Royal Artillery in 1904, and transferred to the Indian Army four years later. During the present war he had been awarded the D.S.O.

Major Sidney Miles Toppin, M.C., Royal Garrison Artillery, who was killed in action on September 27, was the only surviving son of Major-General and Mrs. Toppin, of Westminster Cottage, Branksome Park, Bournemouth. He entered the Royal Artillery in 1900, and in 1912, when he secured his captaincy, he was seconded for service with the Egyptian Army. He had gained the Military Cross in the present war.

Captain Henry Deedes Nutt Mackenzie, M.D., R.A.M.C., attached R.F.A., who was killed on October 4, had been employed by the Governments of both India and Egypt as a special plague medical officer. Soon after the outbreak of war Captain Mackenzie offered his services to the Serbian Government, and was the first British doctor to join the Serbian Army. After some months' service he returned to England suffering from a severe attack of typhus fever. During the summer of 1915 he worked in France under the French Red Cross, but in October he was given a commission in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

The death occurred on September 30, at Chagford, Devon, of Colonel Arthur Nicholls, late commanding 55th Coke's Rifles. Colonel Nicholls saw service in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being awarded the Bronze Star; in the Zhob Valley Expedition of 1890, and in the first and second Miranzi Expeditions, for which he received the medal with clasp. In the Tirah campaign of 1897-8 he was present at the capture of the Sampagha and Arhanga Passes, at the action of Saran Sar, and the operations in the Bazar Valley, being mentioned in despatches and receiving the medal with two clasps. Colonel Nicholls also took part in the operations in the Mohmand country in 1908, and obtained the medal with clasp.

Dr. Charles Wells, the well-known Oriental scholar, died at his residence in Carlton Terrace, Portslade, Brighton, on October 4, aged 79 years. For a quarter of a century he acted as Oriental translator to the Foreign Office, in which post he succeeded Sir James Redhouse. Dr. Wells, who was born in London, and educated at King's College, where he was Turkish Prizeman in 1860, acted as special correspondent in the Schleswig-Holstein War of 1864, and was Professor of English at the Imperial Naval College, Constantinople, from 1870 to 1874. Subsequently he was private secretary to General Kemball on the Turco-Persian Frontier Commission and in the Turco-Serbian War of 1876. Dr. Wells was the author of many publications, including an essay on political economy in Turkish, a practical grammar of the Turkish language, and a revised and enlarged edition of Redhouse's Turkish dictionary.

If you are willing to help
THE SERBIAN ARMY
SEND YOUR DONATION FOR
THE SERBIAN RED CROSS
to the Serbian Legation in London, which is alone authorised to collect funds in Great Britain and the Dominions for the "Serbian Red Cross Society."
There is a separate fund for the
RELIEF OF THE DISTRESS OF THE
SERBIAN CIVIL POPULATION
at the disposal of the Serbian Minister, from which money is sent where it is most urgently needed. The address of the Serbian Legation is 195 Queen's Gate, S.W.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

LAMB.—On October 3, at 89, Etchingham Park Road, London, N.3, to Elsie M. and Howard K. Lamb—a son.

BOMFORD.—On October 7, at Naini Tal, India, the wife of Hugh Bomford, I.C.S., of a daughter.

WALKER.—On October 1, at Simla, to the wife of Gilbert Walker, C.S.I., F.R.S., Sc.D.—a son.

MARRIAGE.

ALVES—KELLY.—On October 3, at Clifton Parish Church, by Canon Haigh, Henry Malcolm Jerome, son of the late Colonel J. M. Alves, R.A., and Mrs. Alves, of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, to Beatrice Maud, daughter of the late Sir Stanley Ismay, K.C.S.I., and Lady Ismay, of Ootacamund, and widow of Major H. N. Kelly, Punjabis.

DEATHS.

MOORE.—On September 29, at Aix-les-Bains, Mary Moore, of Villa Sakkara, Helouan, Egypt, widow of the Rev. J. Moore.

SPENCE.—On September 26, after severe illness, at Tripoli, Libya, John Bowring Spence, H.B.M. Consul-General.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

BEATSON.—On October 3, of wounds received in action, Major Charles Elles Stuart Beatson, R.F.A., only son of the late Major-General Sir Stuart Beatson and of Lady Beatson, aged 26.

HARINGTON.—On September 28, 1917, of wounds received in action, Major William Guy Harington, D.S.O., Indian Army, elder son of Lieut.-Colonel H. N. V. Harington, I.M.S., retired, and grandson of Mrs. Philson, of 75, Enys Road, Eastbourne, aged thirty-two. (Indian papers, please copy.)

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1917.

THE BATTLE OF RAMADIEH.

The resumption of operations in Mesopotamia would seem to have taken the British public almost as much by surprise as it did Ahmed Bey, the Turkish Commander at Ramadieh. Baghdad is such a conspicuous landmark in this part of the world that after its occupation, when General Maude's victorious troops become immobilised by the summer heat, there was a tendency to forget that the city was not in itself the goal of the campaign. It was, indeed, characteristic of the diffident manner in which successes are regarded in Great Britain that the country was far more concerned for the safety of the Expedition than with the actual significance of its achievements. Expectation in regard to Mesopotamia centred in the possibility of a Turkish attack, for the public was more prepared to accept von Falkenhayn at the value put upon him by German report than to credit General Maude with any special military aptitude. The duel between the two is not yet at an end, and we do not propose at this moment to institute a comparison between them on insufficient data. What is established is that General Maude has got his blow in first, and has scored a very considerable advantage in the first round. The success at Ramadieh was complete and decisive. The Turks were taken unawares—in itself a striking exploit, inasmuch as they were fighting on their own ground, and Ahmed Bey's sole task was to keep watch on the British troops—and the whole force, numbering about 4,000, was accounted for in killed or prisoners. As was natural, little had been heard of the measures taken to strengthen General Maude's position; but nothing is better calculated to hearten both the Mesopotamia Army and the home public in regard to the future than the thoroughness with which this preliminary piece of work has been carried out. It was by no means desirable that the impression should gain currency either in enemy or in British circles that Baghdad was the goal of the Expedition. Primarily, Great Britain is fighting the Turks to defeat them and through them the Central Powers; but in Mesopotamia she is under the obligation of freeing the Arabs from the Turkish yoke, and to achieve this end the enemy must be driven out of a much larger tract of country than that which the Expedition now holds. A variety of circumstances have helped to retard General Maude's progress, and sooner or later a point will be reached beyond which it will not be advisable for him to advance. There are, however, certain well-defined objectives which he may be supposed to have in view, and these, we may be sure, lie beyond Ramadieh on the Euphrates and Samarra on the Tigris.

If the capture of Ramadieh, as an indication that British plans in Mesopotamia have been conceived at last on an adequate scale, has an importance for Great Britain beyond the actual limits of the military enterprise, it will be found to have no less a significance for the enemy. Viewed by itself as an episode in Armageddon, the incident may seem unimportant. It has occurred in almost the most distant theatre of war, and entails a loss to German-Turkish arms of less than five thousand men. On the fortunes of the struggle in Europe it can be said to have no direct influence, as it does not deprive either the eastern or the western front of a single man. The burden of German consolation for the Turks will run on these or similar lines; but it will not be a matter for wonder if the latter regard the subject in a different light. In one sense of the term Turkey entered the war because she could not help it. Her rulers, however, while carrying out German orders in return for German gold, were given certain definite assurances, the fulfilment of which was ultimately to justify their action. The Turkish Empire, and not only the members of the Committee of Union and Progress, was meant to benefit by the war. There can be little doubt that compensation for Turkish efforts was to be found in Egypt and Mesopotamia. But it is precisely in these directions that Turkey's undoing is gradually being consummated. In both she has yielded ground; in the latter very considerably. For a time, we may imagine, the Germans have been able to explain away the various *contretemps*, and they will have been lavish with their promises of what can yet be done, if Turkey submits further to German domination and puts forth a greater effort. The loan of Marshal von Falkenhayn proves that Germany's arts of persuasion had to be supported with tangible evidence of her sincerity. If this great soldier is unable to make good, there will be a very strong inclination to revise the Turkish estimate of Germany's power and of her chances of victory in the war. To the enemy, therefore, the reverse at Ramadieh will seem a challenge to the belief in von Falkenhayn's star, and unless it is promptly answered by the German Field-Marshal there is likely to be a still further straining of the relations between the Turks and their masters. Herein, perhaps, lies the chief significance of General Maude's success. After three years of war the Turks must have found occasion to modify their opinion of German efficiency; it has accomplished marvels, but it has failed to substantiate its claims and has to admit defeat. A few crushing blows at this time ought to complete Turkey's disillusionment.

What is wanted in the East is something in the nature of the repeated sledge-hammer blows that Sir Douglas Haig is administering on the Western front. It is not in the power of Sir Stanley Maude to carry out such a programme single-handed, and once more the paralysing effect of the Russian revolution causes the Allied arm, raised ready to strike, to fall and hang limply. The news of activity in Armenia showed that the Russians realised what was expected of them and were anxious to co-operate to the best of their power. But the chaos at the centre prevents sustained military effort in any Russian theatre, and General Maude cannot count on just that assistance which would threaten the enemy's line of communication and facilitate the British advance on Mosul. On the contrary, the uncertainty of the position on his right flank, which the Russians seem no longer able to protect, is probably the chief, if not the only, obstacle to the prosecution of the campaign on a scale calculated to bring about within a reasonable time a decisive result in the Middle East. There remains, however, one way of making up to General Maude what he lacks owing to the inability of the Russians to assist him, and that is by diverting the attention of the Turks in another direction. Practically six months have passed since the Egyptian Expeditionary Force came to a standstill at the Wadi-el-Ghuzzeh. Throughout this period it has been known that no reliance could be placed on a Russian offensive, and that consequently Great Britain must carry on her own shoulders practically the whole of the campaign against Turkey. In these circumstances it would be almost incredible that the British military authorities should have failed to make provision for this task as well as for the others which have fallen to them. The difficulties in the way of an advance from Sinai into Palestine are great, and the distance of this front from the Mesopotamian operations precludes success in one quarter from reacting immediately on the other. The Turks' lines of

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communications to both fronts, however, converge in the north of Syria, and it is in that region that Turkey is most vulnerable. A successful advance from Gaza must embarrass Marshal von Falkenhayn's movements in Mesopotamia, because when once it were launched there might be difficulty in arresting it. But the soundest strategy on the British part must be to strike where a single blow can be felt in two directions. Disappointment at the inactivity on the Gaza front will be justified only if it is found that the force has been marking time aimlessly. If on the other hand there has been a new orientation of Great Britain's task in Western Asia as a result of the virtual elimination of the Russian forces in Armenia, the six months' comparative quiescence need not be grudged. A few weeks now should suffice to clear up a matter which has much exercised the public mind.

THE SULTAN OF EGYPT.

It is with sincere regret that the British Empire has learned of the death of Sultan Hussein. He has occupied the throne of Egypt for less than three years; but in that short time he has proved himself a wise, successful, and generous ruler. His name will always be associated with a definite milestone in Egypt's long history. As a Prince he had been conspicuous as a keen and practical patriot, and, whether in office or out of office, had devoted himself to promoting the welfare of his country. The future of Egypt, he realised, turned on the promotion of agriculture and the spread of education. To both subjects he paid special attention, and his disinterestedness won for him a wide reputation as a friend of the fellaheen. He was essentially an Egyptian first and foremost; his education and upbringing were calculated to make him French in his sympathies. That he should have thrown in his lot with the British must be attributed to a settled conviction that in this direction only lay the salvation of his country. He risked much, however, in associating himself with the declaration of a British Protectorate, and in accepting the invitation of the British Government to become Sultan. The preceding years had witnessed an extension of the nationalist movement, and articulate opinion in Egypt had come to contemplate a slackening of the ties with Great Britain rather than a more definite linking up of the two countries. Moreover, the disposition of the Khedive could not fail to arouse misgivings, which became more pronounced when the Sultan of Turkey refused to recognise the new order in Egypt, and proclaimed its ruler an outlaw of Islam. In ascending the throne, therefore, as the nominee of Great Britain, Sultan Hussein inevitably forfeited much of his previous popularity. It is safe to say, however, that before he died he had won it all back again, and had added to his reputation among his own people. His unassuming manner and his unstinted devotion to Egypt's interests did much to disarm criticism and to commend him to the affections of all patriotic Egyptians. The exigencies of the war have caused the country in some respects to mark time during his reign, and politically an anomalous position has prevailed. But the prosperity of the people has been maintained, and Sultan Hussein has set a valuable example of the way in which the most Egyptian of Egyptians can combine love for his own country and the practical application of democratic principles in statecraft with absolute loyalty to the British connection.

He is succeeded by his youngest brother, Prince Ahmed Fuad, whose inclinations and past services justify the belief that the splendid tradition begun by Sultan Hussein will be continued, in the interests of Egypt and of the Egyptians.

THE SUPREME OBSTACLE IN THE BALKANS.

(From a Correspondent.)

There is one question which almost every Englishman has asked some time or another about our army at Salonika, and that is, "*Why does so little happen there?*" The answer to that question can be compressed into one word, "Terrain." In fact, if the average man were to take a good map of Macedonia—the Austrian 1:200,000 map, for instance—and study it for half an hour, keeping always in mind what the requirements of a modern army in the way of transport are, he would be able to answer his own question for himself. For he would then realise that the problem before us in the Balkans is that of waging an offensive campaign with all the elaborate machinery of present-day warfare in a country so uncivilised, so broken, so mountainous and so deprived of roads, that it would have been considered a difficult area of operations even in the Napoleonic days, when an infantryman could carry all the ammunition he required for a day's fighting in a couple of pouches strapped to his belt, when the heaviest field artillery in use could be dragged by a team of six horses, and when all our modern bulky and ponderous supplies of shells and entrenching-material and field-telegraphs and hospital-stores were entirely unknown. But in the matter of transport an army of these days differs from one of the Napoleonic epoch just as much as a family undertaking a household removal differs from a family going to the seaside for a holiday. And, as for a removal, so for a modern campaign, if the distance to be covered is anything more than a very short one, a railway or at least a road capable of bearing heavy motor traffic is absolutely essential.

Now it is just there that the great impediment to our arms in the Balkans lies. For the purposes of a modern campaign Macedonia is a desert, almost entirely devoid of the means of communication required by a force in the field. Look at the front that our Salonika army holds. It stretches in a south-easterly curve from the Vardar to the Gulf of Orfano—a line about 90 miles in length, and at an average distance of 50 miles from the base at Salonika. Every part of that front has to be supplied with food and ammunition and stores, yet the facilities of transport for this purpose that were in existence when we arrived in the country consisted only of two single lines of railway running to the extreme left wing of our front and one solitary and extremely hilly road connecting Salonika with the middle of it. Obviously it would be impossible to supply an army dispersed over so vast an area with no more routes available for the purpose than that. So one of the principal tasks that has occupied the energies of the British in the Balkans up to now has been the essential one of making new means of communication. Roads and bridges and light railways have had to be built in all directions as an absolutely indispensable preliminary before the idea of an advance could even be contemplated.

It must further be borne in mind that in the Balkans this labour of preparation has been even more arduous than on other fronts where we have armies fighting in the wilderness. It is a hard enough task to lay a railway across the Egyptian desert, but it would be an infinitely greater undertaking to cut and tunnel a line through that irregular welter of steep hills across which the Seres Road twists and climbs in constant and confusing gradients in the course of the fifty miles that separate Salonika from the Struma. Thanks, however, to much painstaking work of a kind that cannot be

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DIGESTIVE AND NON-GOUTY.
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KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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recorded in a military *communiqué*, our army in the Balkans has at length been well established on its present line, with communications from base to front that are adequate for the supply of its needs, not only under the comparatively passive conditions that prevail at present, but also in the event of an enemy attack upon us in Macedonia.

To this extent, then, the difficulties of terrain as regards transport in the Balkans have been overcome. But how does the same obstacle continue to affect the possibility of a future advance on our part? Regarding this it must be admitted that the conditions ahead of us are even more difficult than those with which we have had to cope hitherto. The two great obstacles to the movements of troops in the Balkans are mountains and mud. Both of them enter largely into the problem of the future possibilities of a forward movement in Macedonia. The marshes of the Struma valley make a permanent No Man's Land of certain sectors of our front, but even where such immediate hindrances to an offensive do not exist, there stands over against us along the whole of our line a practically unbroken chain of mountains, on the foothills and southern slopes of which the Bulgar positions lie. Take your stand on a height like the Gola Ridge at the angle of our front at Doiran Lake, and you will have before you, running like a continuous black wall that blocks the horizon to the north, the formidable Belashitza Range, steep and sheer, which is crowned until well on into the spring with snow. Right away to the west behind Lake Doiran stretches this Alpine chain, and only loses itself there among another complicated system of mountains equally rugged and pathless, their sides covered with impassable scrub and loose rocks and split into countless deep ravines, which fills the central part of Macedonia. Turn your eyes eastwards, and beyond the mouth of the Rupel Pass down which the Struma flows into the broad valley where our entrenched positions are, you behold a prospect equally discouraging—irregular hills, rising here and there to a mountain peak, crossed by no road and threaded by no continuous valley. In the whole of that long rampart that confronts our entrenched line there are but two gaps. One of them is the Vardar valley, the other is the Rupel Pass. Both these breaks in the wall are narrow gorges affording the enemy every advantage for their defence, and the Pass of Rupel is made still more formidable by the existence of the famous fort that protects its entrance, which in turn has been rendered yet stronger by the outworks of fortified villages which the Bulgars hold in front of it.

Nor are conditions more favourable for an Allied advance to the west of the Vardar, where the French, Serbs, Russians, Italians and Greeks are holding the line. It is mountains, mountains all the way, until you come to Monastir, where, if we could win the strong hill positions immediately north of the town to which the enemy has hung on obstinately ever since Monastir was retaken by the Allies nearly a year ago, we should have the flat Prilep plain ahead of us. But the Prilep plain only leads to the Babouna Pass, one of the most difficult defiles in the whole of the Balkans, twisting in steep zigzags through a complex of precipitous slopes. In addition to obstructing the path of an Allied forward movement against Bulgaria, the positions which the enemy everywhere holds against us upon these hills are extremely strong from the nature of the ground. Ridge succeeds ridge with baffling monotony, and when ground has been won little by little for weeks on end, as was the case with the Serbians in the loop of the Cerna River last autumn, it is only to find the Bulgar still established at the last in a strong situation presenting exactly the same difficulties of attack as did the very first from which he was ejected.

But however successful our Balkan army is in driving the Bulgars from the line on which they are established, their victory remains an empty one unless it can be followed up. That is why transport is the dominant feature of the Balkan campaign, where the terrain presents such unusual difficulty for movement. The only kind of locomotion, in fact, suitable for the Balkans is either ox-wagons or donkeys, and the requirements of modern armies are so vast that these primitive and traditional freight-methods are entirely inadequate.

This, then, is the explanation of the fact that for nearly two years now both the enemy and ourselves have maintained large armies in Macedonia which have been impotent to make any real impression the one on the other. In the first place, the nature of the ground is such that we have not been able so far to force the line which the Bulgars hold, and, in the second place, if we could force it, the same difficulty of terrain would very seriously hamper us in following up any success that might be won.

THE CONDITION OF PALESTINE.

At the annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission, held on October 9 at the Church House, Westminster, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry McMahon gave some account of the present condition of the population of Palestine. He said that all knew of the sufferings of the Armenians, how the Turks, with the connivance of their German supporters, had effected the almost total extermination of a large portion of the people by measures of incredible brutality and barbarism. Many had heard how the Turks had made every effort to exterminate the brave people of the Lebanon. Further south, in Syria and Palestine, there was no actual evidence of a deliberate policy to exterminate, but natural causes arising from the peculiar primitive and barbarous methods of the Turkish Government had caused sufferings to the people which were little less than those which would result from a deliberate policy of extermination. Since the commencement of the war the country had become the highway of an army intended originally to invade Egypt, but now driven to defend its own country.

The youth and manhood of Syria and Palestine, he continued, had been impressed and deported for military service or labour, the food, and even most of the clothing, of the inhabitants had been requisitioned for the use of the troops, and, to aggravate the sufferings and still further impede the subsequent development of the people, agricultural implements and pumping engines had also been requisitioned for the sake of the metal they contained. Olive and fruit trees, which had already been ravaged by the locust visitation of 1915, had been cut down in increasing quantities to supply fuel to the railways. Starvation had brought disease, and the mortality from typhus and other scourges was appalling. This description of the condition of the people applied to all, Moslem, Jew and Christian alike; but the unfortunate Arab inhabitants of the country had suffered even worse than the rest, because the Turks had retaliated upon them for the revolt of the Arabs of the Hejaz and elsewhere. The most recent corroboration of these dark reports as to the condition of the people had been brought by the officials of American missions who had lately returned from Palestine. With the coming away of these Americans had departed all hope of getting relief into the country. But every effort must be made so that directly the British troops had opened the road succour might be taken to the afflicted people.

The Bishop of London said that it must be to everyone who was not actually asleep a matter of burning interest as to what was going to happen to Jerusalem. No one could contemplate lightly the tremendous meaning of the entry of the British Army into the Holy Land. So far as his voice was concerned, the war would not be stopped, if Palestine was going to remain in the hands of the Turks. The Bishop, making a strong appeal on behalf of the Relief Fund for the East, said that the apathy of the people at home in this respect should surely be dispelled by the knowledge that the Sultan had contributed one thousand guineas towards the building of the Memorial Cathedral in Cairo. The people in the East did not believe an Englishman ever prayed, because he displayed none of the outward signs or symbols of his faith, but when they saw the great Cathedral reared up they would believe that Englishmen really had a God.

KING GEORGE'S MESSAGE TO GREECE.

Reuter's Athens correspondent, in a message dated October 5, says:—Mr. Crackanthorpe, First Secretary of the British Legation here, was received by the King this morning, when he handed to his Majesty an autograph letter from King George replying to King Alexander's letter announcing his advent to the Throne. The text of King George's letter is as follows:—

"Sir, My Brother, and Dear Cousin,—I have received from the hands of M. Jean Gennadius the letter which your Majesty addressed to me on the 6th day of July last, informing me of your accession to the Throne of Greece. It gives me much pleasure to note your Majesty's assurances of your earnest desire to strengthen the bonds of friendship and alliance which unite our two Crowns, and I would have your Majesty believe that nothing shall be wanting on my part which may tend to promote the prosperity and welfare of the people united under your Majesty's sceptre. In offering to your Majesty my cordial good wishes for your health and happiness and for the prosperity of your reign, I avail myself of this opportunity to assure your Majesty of the invariable friendship and highest esteem with which I am, Sir, my brother, and dear cousin, your Majesty's affectionate brother and cousin.—George R.I."

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

Persia and the War.

Under the heading of "Travel Memories," Lieut.-Col. A. C. Yate describes in the *Scottish Geographical Magazine* a journey in the Middle East, undertaken more than twenty-five years ago. But the narrative lapses at times into the consideration of contemporary conditions, and in the following passage the writer refers to the position in Persia to-day:—

In her wide experience of the vicissitudes of fortune, in love, war, and all other crises of existence, from the days of the absolute monarchy of the Great Cyrus to those of the constitutional government of Ahmed Mirza, the youthful Shah of to-day, Persia is second to no nation. Tartar, Arab, Turk, Afghan, Briton, French, and Russian have all moulded her destinies. Finally comes the Teuton, thinking to make her the instrument of his vast ambitions, which aim at nothing less than an empire extending from the mouths of the Elbe and Scheldt to that of the Yangtsekiang. Is Persia, having escaped from the embraces of the Bear, to fall into the clutches of the Eagle, while the Lion looks on? As matters stand at this moment, that is not likely. It is the Lion that will, in all probability, secure, as far as possible, the independence and prosperity to the land of the Lion and the Sun. Intelligence which, at the end of August, had filtered through Russia, stated that the Russian forces, based upon Hamadan, were still holding their own near the Lake of Zeribar, which is situated about eight miles to the south-west of Penjvin and some seventy miles east by north of Sinna. In the interests of the maintenance of peace in Persia, and as a support to Sir Stanley Maude, who may at any time be called upon to face German, Austrian, and Turkish troops under the command of General von Falkenhayn, and whose defeat would probably be the signal for a renewal of anarchy in Persia, we cannot but welcome the news that General Baratoff and his detachment are still to the fore. We may further presume from this that Kasr-i-shirin and Khanikin, important posts on the Turco-Persian frontier not far from the Diyala river, and due east of General Maude's position near Samara, are still held by the Russians. Many of us, with anxious eyes turned towards Mesopotamia, and some remembering those who have found their last resting-place at or near Kut-el-Amara and under or near the great arch of Ctesiphon, cannot but have read with keen feelings the story in *Blackwood* for August of "The Battle Beyond Baghdad," so admirably told by a Highland officer. Satisfaction devoid of sentiment also greets the announcement made by Mr. R. I. Money in the *Geographical Journal* for September that "the Hindiya barrage (on the Euphrates, forty miles south of Baghdad) was found uninjured on the British occupation of Baghdad."

American Influence in the Balkans.

Mr. Lewis R. Freeman, who claims the distinction of being the only journalist visiting Athens in the period of King Constantine's "exaltation" who did not have an interview with him—the offer of an interview was made, but was withdrawn when the United States entered the war—writes in *Land and Water* on the influence which Balkan emigrants returning from America exercise upon public opinion in their respective countries. In regard to Greece he says:—

One meets many returned emigrants from America in all parts of Greece—as everywhere else in the Balkans—and it is an interesting fact that every one of those whom I encountered at this crucial epoch in Hellenic history was a most staunch Venizelist, and intensely bitter against Constantine and the whole Royalist régime. A family who gave me shelter for a couple of days in a little village on the slopes of Mount Olympus, in the course of my precarious journey by land from Old Greece to Salonika, furnished a fair example of the discriminating attitude adopted by even the most ignorant of these as a consequence of their "spell of freedom" across the water. Five brothers of this patriarchal establishment had spent from four to eight years apiece working in the mines and smelters of the Western States, and all of them had eventually returned to invest their "fortunes" in sheep and goats, and to become "leading citizens" of the cliff-begirt little Olympian village of Leptacara.

The eldest brother had erected a small café and rest-house at the temporary terminus of the railway line, which he had named "Hotel Tacoma," in honour of a more pretentious hostelry in the last town he had worked at in Washington. He celebrated the arrival of the first "reel 'Mer'can" the village had ever known by "shouting the house" in true Western mining camp fashion, everyone being provided with a glass of *mastic*, and toasts being freely drunk.

Of the Bulgarian Mr. Freeman writes:—

If the truth were known, I think it might well turn out that, of all the Balkan peoples, the Bulgar was the one most impressed by the entry of America into the war. Of all Bulgarian overseas emigrants ten went to the United States to one to any other country, and in the exaggerated imaginations of these and their friends, America constituted just about all there was of importance in the whole outside world. The actual significance of President Wilson's action could not possibly have spread very rapidly in Bulgaria, and yet even by the middle of May there had been a noticeable increase in the number of Bulgars deserting to the British armies on the Struma and Vardar, an increase which the Intelligence Officers had traced directly to the entrance of America.

"It is a remarkable fact," a British officer engaged in interrogating prisoners said to me, "that of recent Bulgar deserters fully 15 per cent. have been in the United States at one time or another, and the number of the latter is on the increase. These ignore completely the technical fact that their country is not at war with the United States, and say simply that they do not want to fight against America, and that they laid down their arms just as soon as they had a chance."

The French, Serbs and Italians were also reporting increased Bulgar desertions at this time, and it was at a prison camp of the latter near the Cerna that I had the opportunity to talk with a genial cobbler who had once worked in Fall River, and who, with his shoe-making tools under his arm, had sauntered over from the Bulgar lines the week before. He had come home, he said, to fight Serbs, not Englishmen, Frenchmen and Italians. He had been trying to screw up his nerve to desert for some time, but hadn't got it to the sticking point until a friend—another returned Americansky—had picked up a paper dropped from an aeroplane saying that America had joined the Allies. Shortly afterwards, taking advantage of the confusion following the sniping of an officer, he slipped out of a sap and over to the wire in front of the Italian trenches without being missed.

Articles to Note.

"Mecca the Mystic," by Dr. S. M. Zwemer, in *The National Geographic Magazine* (U.S.A.)—August.

"Gaza," in *Palestine*.

"The Flower of Paradise: Arabia," by Charles Moser, in *The National Geographic Magazine* (U.S.A.)—August.

"The Story of Roumania," by Francis P. Marchant, in *The Asiatic Review* (October).

LONDON UNIVERSITY LECTURES.

Professor Popovitch gave the first lecture of this session's courses on the Serbian language at King's College, London University, on Tuesday, October 9. Besides an elementary course in this language, he will also give lectures on literature. The syllabus at King's College also includes an elementary course and a senior course in modern Greek. The lecturers for this subject are Mrs. Mary Gardner and M. C. Kessary.

At University College, Gower Street, Dr. T. G. Pinches will give the two remaining lectures of his course on "Shinar and Asshur: Pictures of an Early Civilisation," on October 18 and 25, at 5 p.m. Mrs. Mary Gardner will give a lecture on "Athens and its Buildings" on October 23, at 5 p.m.; and Mr. S. G. Kanjere will lecture on "Hindu Religion and Philosophy" on Fridays, from October 26 to November 30, at 5.30 p.m.

At the London School of Economics a course of lectures will be given on "The Empire, its Commerce and Commercial Requirements." The lectures begin to-day, and will be given on successive Fridays at 5 p.m. Admission will be by ticket, which may be obtained on application to the secretary. The introductory lecture, on "The Commercial Geography of the Empire," will be by Professor A. W. Kirkaldy, Professor of Finance in the University of Birmingham. In the Ethnology section Professor C. G. Seligman is lecturing on "The Peoples of Europe" on Wednesdays, at 2 p.m., dealing with the North and South Slavs, the Greeks, and others. The course began on October 10.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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A circular has just been issued to the shareholders of the Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company stating that the forthcoming meeting will be merely formal since no accounts for the past year can be submitted owing to the fact that the company's properties in Roumania were among those destroyed by the British Military Mission last year to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. A claim for compensation has been made on the British Government for £208,825 5s. 5d. The directors state that this claim has been made on a most equitable basis, and they are of the opinion that its settlement should present no difficulty. Like other Near East undertakings, the company was just getting over the effects of the Balkan War when the present war broke out, interrupting its development and restricting its production. Then followed the events of last year, when we are told that "all the wells were destroyed and the labour of years swept away in a few hours." In this picture there is one great consolation, namely, the convincing tribute it pays to the British Commission's work.

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At the annual meeting of the Mooply Valley Rubber Company, the report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue, Mr. L. F. W. Davidson gave a most encouraging picture of the agricultural and financial position of the company. The profits, which were £5,422 in 1914 and £17,044 in 1915, rose to £27,525 for the past season, which, in the present case, comprises fifteen months. The crop similarly shows a satisfactory increase, the figures being 126,000 lb. in 1914, 212,000 lb. in 1915, and 468,000 lb. for the fifteen months under review. Mooply Valley, of course, takes the highest place among the South Indian estates, and the reason for this may be seen from Mr. Davidson's survey of the prudent and careful management of the estates. It only remains to add that the profits would have permitted the payment of a final dividend, but the directors are of the opinion that it is advisable to defer a dividend until the end of the year, when there will probably be a dividend of 10 per cent.

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A return issued by the National Bank of Egypt of the Egyptian note circulation shows that the total amount in circulation at the end of July was £E17,300,000, this being a slight decrease on the figures at the end of June, which were £E17,500,000. The gold reserve was about the same at £E4,852,609, but British Treasury bills held in lieu of gold have declined about £E100,000 to £E3,797,391. Other securities held against the note issue were about the same. Egyptian Treasury bills and Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government were unchanged, but there was a decrease in British Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds from £E5,318,239 to £E5,218,239.

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The figures I quoted last week of Turkey's debts to her allies must be read in the light of the speech delivered last March by Djavid Bey, the Turkish Finance Minister, in which he reviewed Turkish finances during the war, for their full importance to be perceived. By March, it seems that Turkey's war indebtedness was at least £T180,000,000, making her total debt £T330,000,000. Her yearly deficit, which is, of course, rapidly increasing, has so far been met by the issue of paper against periodical loans from Germany and Austria, principally the former. Germany's first loan was in October, 1914, and consisted of £T5,000,000 in gold. This is the only occasion that specie has actually been sent to Turkey, though subsequently gold has been placed to her credit in steel chambers in Berlin and Vienna. This transaction—perhaps the most picturesque financial feat of the war—must have been singularly difficult for Turkey's leaders, for the task naturally devolved on them of drawing glowing visions of the piles of gold standing to Turkey's credit in those cities. Finally, Germany has issued Treasury notes to Turkey which are redeemable in gold at various periods.

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That, in short, is the way in which Turkey's finances have been supported during the war. Except for the original £T5,000,000, her constantly growing paper currency is based on no better security than the word of Germany, and this very fact implies that Germany possesses the means of controlling Turkey's financial systems. In other words, Germany has a lever on which she is no doubt relying for the commercial exploitation of the country after the war. As to this prospect, Djavid Bey's remarks are interesting. He would welcome foreign capital and German capital would have the preference, but he laid stress on the fact that the Turks themselves must have a substantial share in new enterprises. "After the war," he added, "we shall cultivate economic relations of every kind with all the nations—friendly, allied, neutral, and enemy—without any distinction." This is not exactly what Germany has in mind, and if this is the trend of opinion in Turkey, it is easy to understand the bitter comment made to Djavid Bey in Berlin that "Turks had become too jingo, too extreme in their nationalism."

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The ruinous consequences of the course pursued by the late régime in Greece may be seen from the figures given by M. Negropontes, the Minister of Finance, in presenting the Budgets for 1915, 1916, and 1917. There was, it appears, a deficit on the Budget of 1915 of over eight million drachmæ while the deficit for 1916 was no less than 160,999,000 drachmæ. M. Negropontes states that the accounts were in hopeless disorder, and it is very evident that the pro-German régime ended not a moment too soon for the salvation of the country. As it is, Greece has suffered economically almost as much as if she had been in the war from the commencement, and the restoration of her finances will be a most difficult proposition. M. Negropontes indicated in his speech how welcome assistance from the Allies would be in this task. Greece need have no anxiety on this score, for it is certain that the Allies will give her every help in their power to establish her fortunes on their former basis.

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I referred recently to the efforts Turkey is making to increase her trade relations with Switzerland, that country having been selected by the Sublime Porte for attention chiefly because of the large number of Turkish refugees who have settled there. While Turkey can scarcely be considered in the light of a potential trade rival, it is just as well that Great Britain and her Allies should be on the alert for their own trade interests in Switzerland, and on that account I welcome the announcement in this week's *Board of Trade Journal* that Mr. G. B. Beak, Acting British Consul-General at Zurich, who is now visiting this country, will be prepared to interview by appointment representatives of British firms at the Department of Commercial Intelligence. British firms desiring to have an interview with Mr. Beak must make their applications not later than October 18 to the Comptroller-General, Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2, quoting the reference number 46,273/17.

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The *Monthly Record* of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce contains the text of a letter addressed by the secretary of the Chamber to the President of the Board of Trade on the subject of the restriction in the Egyptian cotton acreage. Reference is made to the extreme undesirability, from the Lancashire point of view, of the measure, and it is suggested that all the cotton that is forthcoming from the reduced area should be confined to Great Britain and the Allied countries. "There is no reason whatever, but quite the contrary," the letter continues, "why neutral nations, with possible leakages through their intermediary to Germany, should get a single pound of this cotton, which is so urgently wanted in this country."

COMMENTATOR.

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THE WAR SETTLEMENT AND THE TRADE OF SERBIA.

II.—Ports and Communications.

In the previous article it was pointed out that in the years immediately preceding the war Serbia's economic condition in general had been on the up-grade, and seemed to afford every prospect of a prosperous future. The war has naturally made this vista somewhat remote; indeed, it would not be going too far to say that, if the war ended with Serbia's status as it was in 1914, her position would be unfavourable in the extreme. Her considerable national debt would be greatly increased, there would be an inadequate revenue to set against increased expenditure, and, lastly, but most serious of all, there would be the fact that her population had decreased during the struggle to an extent of something like 25 per cent. Added to all this there would be the assured dominance of the Central Powers over every sphere of the country's life.

That is the impossible side of the picture, and we mention it only to bring into brighter relief the prospects that the war settlement holds forth for Serbia. Obviously no one can say precisely to what extent Serbia's position will be affected by the peace, but it is morally certain that it will leave her far greater in territory and population than before, and that she will have her outlet to the sea, and with it her freedom from the influence of the Central Powers. To attempt to indicate in any detail Serbia's probable expansion would be a hazardous undertaking, and one which would be unjustified at the moment. It may, however, be said that Serbia will no doubt receive a considerable accession of territory to the north-west, which should go far to satisfy moderate Southern Slav aspirations, while a larger or smaller portion of the Adriatic coast line, with important harbours, will be hers.

Value of a Coast Line.

It is this latter factor, as we have already indicated, which will be all important for Serbia's future. Her increased territory and population should give Serbia the opportunity of quickly demonstrating her economic promise, but the coast line alone can confer that freedom without which any progress which she might make would be of small purpose. To realise this we need not go back to pre-war days; the war itself is the aptest example of Serbia's complete dependence on the communications of other States—and when we say that we might with equal truth have added that the communications in question had a northerly direction. To the south Serbia's one outlet was via Salonika. It was, of course, by this route that British trade with Serbia was carried on, and the unsatisfactory character of this line of communication before the Greeks obtained the port was one reason for the smallness of the trade, for in Turkish days business was handicapped because dues and rates, and, in fact, everything connected with the transit trade, were of a very uncertain character, varying, no doubt, according to the precise degree of Turkish financial instability at the time. In the fighting before the retreat, Serbia learnt to her cost the inadequacy of the southern communication. She had to depend for almost all her supplies on the line from Salonika, for there was no other direct route by which they could be sent. Obviously a single route was insufficient, and it is the more praiseworthy that the little country was able to sustain the unequal struggle as long as she did before finally retreating to the Adriatic.

Steps to Promote Trade.

Once Serbia has her coastline, with one or more ports, it will be the task of the maritime Powers among the Allies, particularly Great Britain, by encouraging the growth of their trade with the country, to help Serbia to develop her seaborne commerce sufficiently to counterbalance the importance of the northern routes. And in this respect immediate preparation is necessary. Private enterprise with a view to the promotion of trade with Serbia after the war has already been the subject of comment in these columns. Much more than individual activity is called for, however, if really satisfactory results are to be achieved, and in this connection it is gratifying to learn that the Serbian Government has for some time been contemplating the task of bringing before the notice of British merchant houses the considerable trade opportunities that will presently be presented in Serbia. In doing anything at this time, the obvious difficulty is that no one can pretend to know what Serbia will require immediately after peace is declared. Her needs will depend on a variety of factors, notably whether the enemy has been driven out of the country, or evacuates it as the result of a crushing defeat elsewhere. In the former case precedent suggests that everything will be more or less destroyed, and that railways, bridges, houses, etc., will all have to be restored. In the latter case the work of destruction will have been much less, and the resumption of the normal activities of the country much more speedy.

In these circumstances the chief question is to prepare the ground for more intimate trade relations between this country and Serbia. The Serbian Legation will give special attention to this question, and endeavour to bring before business houses here the importance of Serbian trade. It is proposed to arrange meetings at which lectures will be given on various aspects of Serbian trade, and in a variety of ways every endeavour will be made to persuade business men to enter the Serbian market after the war.

The scheme is certainly most promising, and it only needs to be carried out in the spirit in which it has been conceived to achieve the success it deserves. As matters stand, indeed, it is difficult to imagine any method better calculated to secure the desired end, and it will certainly prevent British exporters from falling back on the time-worn excuse that they do not care to enter the Balkan market because they are unfamiliar with the conditions.

SERBIAN TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

The secretary of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce has received a letter from the Serbian Military Economic Direction in which attention is called to the desirability of closer commercial and industrial relations between this country and Serbia, as a result of the changed conditions caused by the war. With this object in view, the Serbian Government have formed the department which will have the special task of collecting all necessary information concerning the financial, commercial, and industrial resources of the Allied countries and of making known the needs of the Serbian people and the commercial and economic conditions of Serbia.

English firms are invited to send to the department (Rue Bulgaroeten, 87, Salonika) particulars as to the classes of goods which they supply and the conditions of sale, together with catalogues, price lists, and, if possible, samples. The department will supply information as to the Serbian commercial and financial situation.

The condition of cotton in Lower Egypt is 94 and in Upper Egypt 96, says Reuter's Cairo Correspondent. The final result is not expected to be so favourable as was anticipated, but the quality of the fibre and the ginning outturn are particularly good.

THE GREEK BUDGET.

Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message dated October 6 says:—M. Negropontes, Minister of Finance, to-day submitted the 1915, 1916 and 1917 Budgets to the Chamber. In an analysis of the economic situation the Minister declared that unhappily it was not satisfactory, but he was not astonished to find such a situation after two such years, in which politics had turned the glory of Greece to humiliation and her flourishing finances to chaos. "It is sufficient to say," he added, "that we have found the accounts in a state of complete disorganisation and disorder. The anomalies are really tragical. Consequently, as the figures given do not emanate from the official account books, we cannot guarantee their absolute exactness. Nevertheless, we do not despair; we are certain that in our economic efforts, as in our political endeavours, we shall be helped by our great Allies. We ought, however, to place all the resources of the State at the disposal of the country, and we particularly appeal to those classes whose fortunes have disproportionately increased during the war. Imbued with the unwearying patriotism of the true Greek spirit, we will rebuild the country on the ruins left by our predecessors." The Minister then announced that the Budget for 1915 showed a deficit of 8,559,360 drachmæ and that for 1916 a deficit of 160,999,000 drachmæ. The revenue for the latter year amounted to 263,554,997 drachmæ and the expenditure to 595,912,993 drachmæ. The extra ordinary funds show a deficit of 190,008,020 drachmæ.

NEW GREEK TAXES.

Decrees levying sundry stamp taxes that are expected materially to contribute to the financial strength of Greece have recently been promulgated by the Hellenic Government, says the United States Consul-General at Athens (Mr. Alexander W. Weddell) in a recent report. A tax stamp must now be affixed to all letters, money orders, parcels passing through the post, telegrams, railway tickets, bills of lading, tickets to theatres and other places of amusement where an admission fee is charged, receipts for money paid, petitions, Custom House papers, authentication of signatures by notaries public, programmes, advertisements when exposed to public view on separate cards or sheets, posters, and all bills in restaurants, hotels, tea rooms, coffee shops, beer halls, and wine shops where food is served. In addition, a 3 per cent. tax is to be collected on the annual income of every church, and one of 5 per cent. on the annual income of every monastery in the kingdom. Three per cent. will be collected from the incomes of persons in the Government service. Penalties are provided for violation or wilful evasion of this tax.

The *Preporetz* announces that the Deutsche Bank is opening a branch at Sofia shortly.

Owing to a short circuit, says Reuter's Petrograd correspondent in a message dated October 5, a fierce fire broke out in a naphtha reservoir at Baku and spread to other reservoirs. More than a million poods of naphtha are in flames.

The delegates to the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Trade, says the Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post*, met on October 8, at the Luxembourg, under the presidency of M. Mark Reveille. The work of the conference will be to examine practical measures for bringng about the successful completion of the economic programme of the Allies, and to prepare the agenda for the conference to be held shortly in London. Among the members of the conference are representatives of Roumania and Serbia.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Prices Again Advanced.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

We have to record a further advance in prices compared with a week ago, and producers of yarn and cloth have been very stiff at the higher figures. Sentiment in American cotton circles has again been bullish, owing to reports of frost doing damage to the crop. The labour situation in Oldham has caused increased anxiety, and owing to the strike of piecers about forty mills at the time of writing are standing idle. The operatives are protesting against the policy of the Control Board in providing for the fully staffing of machinery, which means a reduction in wages for young persons. There seems to be no set-back to the healthy reports relating to the Egyptian crop, and there is now talk of the yield being six and a-half million cantars. The larger demand in Egyptian yarns has been maintained, and some improvement is now showing itself in the position of producers of 60's twist. The hardening tendency in prices has forced out rather more business in piece goods for Egypt, although operators are very uncertain as to the boats available during the next few months. Some producers of grey shirtings have done rather better. For India grey staples have been neglected, but an increasing turnover has taken place in dhooties, jaconets, mulls, and printing and bleaching cloths. Demand for China still lags behind. There has been plenty of inquiry about for Java, Singapore, and South America. Favourable reports continue to be received from the home trade. Manufacturers are in a better position to hold out for profitable prices than for a long time back. American yarns for home use have again moved off freely at hardening rates. The margin of profit in many counts and qualities is being widened. In odd lots a little more has been done in bundle yarns for India, but in the export section as a whole the chief support comes from France. A good deal of interest has been taken in the details relating to the shipments of Egyptian cotton for the season ended August 31 last. Messrs. Choremi, Benachi and Co. head the list with 95,373 bales, followed by Carver Brothers and Co., Ltd., with 92,467 bales, and Peel and Co., Ltd., with 81,384 bales. It is of interest to note that with regard to shipments to England, Messrs. Peel and Co., Ltd., with 64,094 bales, are a long way ahead of any other firm. The next largest amount being 36,313 bales for Messrs. Carver Brothers and Co., Ltd.

RAILWAYS IN LIBYA.

The forthcoming publication is announced of a report from M. Carlo Riveri, Director-General of the Libyan Railways, which will be an historical document (says a French contemporary) on the construction work effected by the military administration since the occupation of the Libyan Railways from May, 1913, to June, 1915. On the latter date 200 kilometres were under exploitation, 180 in Tripoli and 20 in Cyrenaica. Moreover, 60 kilometres were on the point of being completed. The average cost of construction has risen to about 54,000 frs. per kilometre. The yield per kilometre was 4,780 frs. in Tripoli and 4,000 frs. in Cyrenaica, higher by almost half as compared with a number of complemental lines in Italy. The Tripolitan system starts from Tripoli and proceeds via Tadjoura towards its provisional terminal point, which is at El Argela, about half a day's journey from El Charian. It will be continued in future, on the one side, in the direction of Zouara, and from the Tunisian frontier and to the south as far as Misurati and to the port of Bou-Chiffa.

Mr. A. V. Paton has been elected President of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

A meeting of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Trade on Commercial Intelligence was held at 7, Whitehall Gardens, recently, the President of the Board of Trade being in the chair. A report on the work of the Department of Commercial Intelligence during the third quarter of 1917 was laid before the committee, and the President of the Board of Trade and Sir A. H. Steel-Maitland made statements as to the reconstitution on an extended scale of this department under the arrangements recently concluded between the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office. A report to the Board of Trade on the work of the committee since its appointment in 1913 was adopted, and, this being the final meeting, the President expressed to the members his appreciation of the valuable assistance given by them to the Board of Trade during their period of office.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended October 7, 3 p.m. :—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) :—

Arrivals	2,519
Sailings	2,632

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :—

1,600 tons gross or over	*14
Under 1,600 tons gross	†2
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	‡5
British fishing vessels sunk	3

* Including one sunk during week ended September 30.

† Including one sunk during week ended September 30.

‡ Including one attacked during week ended September 23 and two during week ended September 30.

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SUDAN RAILWAYS IN 1916.

The annual report of the Sudan Government Railways for 1916, which has just been issued, shows that the progress made by this undertaking has not only been maintained but actually accelerated despite the inevitable handicaps due to the war. In 1915 traffic revenue declined by £E3,803, but for the period under review the figures are £E711,600 as against £E515,004, a very substantial increase, while the gross revenue increased from £E592,683 to £E824,957. This increase is partly due to additional Government receipts amounting to £E55,715, due to the military operations in Darfur, and receipts amounting to £E38,491 in connection with the export of camels and certain materials to Egypt. The gross expenditure, which stood at £E382,204 in 1915 as against £E443,380 in 1914, rose to £E522,204, the chief factor in this increase being the cost of coal, which was £E182,688 as against £E74,764 in 1915. Welsh coal, it may be mentioned, reached £5 10s. c.i.f. Port Sudan as against 27s. before the war. Despite this the ratio of expenditure to earnings showed a further decline standing at 63.3 per cent. as against 64.5 per cent. in 1915 and 74.1 per cent. in 1914. In this connection the report states that it must be remembered that all relaying has been suspended, and that the department has been much understaffed owing to officials being lent for work elsewhere, these things tending to reduce the cost of working. The total profit for the year was £E302,753 as against £E210,479 in 1915, and £E154,832 in 1914.

"As stated last year," says the report, "the general financial situation has necessitated the most rigid economy being enforced throughout the Government service, and this has prevented the railway from taking advantage of its increased revenue, and also involved a reduction in the normal expenditure on relaying and other services. One Government department cannot stand alone, a fact not always realised. Thus, not only was it necessary to suspend relaying in 1915 and 1916, but it is very probable that a similar course will have to be adopted in 1917. The provision of sleepers is, however, of such vital and pressing importance that should this prove to be the case we trust it will be found possible to allot a sum of £E30,000 for this purpose from the surplus revenue of the past year when the year's accounts are closed. Everything possible is being done to utilise old sleepers for minor repairs and to conserve the stock of new sleepers on hand before the war, but this will soon now be exhausted. Efforts are being made to get a suitable sleeper from the forests of the upper reaches of the White Nile, but there are great practical difficulties." The management add that while generally speaking there is no immediate need for anxiety, in so far as they are now unable to carry out renewals on a systematic basis, it will become necessary to do so in future years to an extent which will almost certainly exceed the ordinary resources of the annual revenue and involve capital expenditure.

The surtax of 10 per cent., which was introduced, early in 1916, on all goods rates owing to the increasing price of coal and has been increased to 20 per cent. as from the beginning of 1917, is stated to have had no injurious effect on trade whatever. "In point of fact," says the report, "it has not really been felt by the native trader at all, as it is trivial in proportion to the prices now paid for gum and cereals, and is in any case entirely borne by the consumer. For the same reason the raising of the surtax to 20 per cent. should have no effect whatever on the volume of export traffic. Imports and local traffic have both increased, and though prices in the Sudan are very high this is principally due to the general rise in prices elsewhere and to the increase in sea freights, and not to the railway surtax, which represents a very small percentage of values."

Among the statistics given are the following:—Public passenger receipts have risen by £E13,356, but are, nevertheless £E9,293 lower than in 1914. Fourth class native traffic has improved considerably, the increase in the number of passengers carried being no less than 65,004, or 33 per cent. more than in 1915, while receipts show an increase of £E9,563, or 35 per cent. Government passenger receipts have increased from £E135,655 to £E185,186. Exports have increased by 16,504 tons, mainly due to dura, of which 81,959 tons were exported during the year, 26,547 tons being sent to Egypt, via Halfa, as against 7210 tons in 1915. The export of dura viâ the Red Sea has declined by 7,279 tons. In spite of the fact that the rate for simsim was raised, the export has risen from 8,912 tons in 1915 to 12,887 tons in 1916, an increase of 31 per cent. Imports have increased slightly in total. The quantity of sugar imported is still considerably less than in the years preceding the war, but imports in 1916 were 1,509 tons more than in 1915.

In 1916 the Steamers Branch showed increased profits in common with the railways. The Shellal-Halfa Reach showed a profit of £E11,285 as against a loss of £E136 for 1915, while the Dongola Reach receipts were £E9,675 as against an expenditure of £E7,049, giving a profit of £E2,626 as against £E2,345 in 1915. Finally the Port Sudan Dockyard and Harbours made a profit of £E1,181 as against a loss in 1915 of £E1,276 and in 1914 of £E4,591.

An interesting reference is made in the report to the work of the London Passenger Agency, which is under the control of Mr. A. S. Bull, European Traffic Manager. The agency, says the report, "has proved of great value in bringing Sudan products to the notice of British firms. There is considerable scope for development in this direction. The demand for grain is already insistent, and heavy exports of dura to Egypt are being made. There is no reason why, assuming the necessary irrigation can be assured, a market also in Europe should not be permanently secured for Sudan cereals. Mr. Bull has been of great assistance in securing passages for officers and officials from England during a difficult period."

STRIKE AT BAKU OILFIELDS.

A telegram from Baku, says *Reuter's* Petrograd correspondent, states that at a conference of workmen's delegates from all the oil wells it was decided to declare a general strike, to begin on the 10th, in consequence of the employers' refusal not to discharge workmen except with the consent of the workmen's trade unions. The conference immediately appointed a strike committee.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM.

Company's Claim for Compensation.

The directors of the Anglo-Roumanian Petroleum Company, Ltd., announce that the meeting convened for October 16 is being held in order to comply with the Companies Acts, Section 64, but the proceedings will be necessarily formal. In November and December last the company's wells, plant, machinery and other property in Roumania were destroyed by the British Military Mission in order to prevent their falling into the hands of the enemy. The directors are, therefore, not in a position to submit accounts for the past year. A claim for the cost of reinstating the company's properties, amounting to £208,825 5s. 5d., has been lodged with the British Government. The claim is made on a most equitable basis, and should, therefore, offer no difficulty in the way of settlement. As soon as the negotiations with the British Government have been completed, the board will call the shareholders together and place the position fully before them. As shareholders are aware, the company was just recovering from the effects of the Balkan war, and the development of the properties was in active progress when the present war broke out. Several wells which were practically down to the oil source would have come into production within a few weeks, and others were well advanced. In view of the dislocation of the oil market and the difficulty of disposing of crude oil, except perhaps to agents of the enemy, it was decided to restrict the output to a quantity sufficient only to meet the current expenditure. In consequence the wells upon which the company had spent so much time and money were not brought into production but left pending a return to normal conditions. All the wells were destroyed and the labour of years swept away in a few hours. The issued capital of the company is £150,000. Debentures amounting to £17,500 are outstanding, upon which £13,966 13s. 4d. has been called up. The profits for a period of eight years since the incorporation of the company (less dividends paid £10,968 11s. 2d.) have all been applied in the development of the company's properties.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Technical Hints on Olive Oil.

Olive gathering normally begins in the Near East at this time. Olive oil mills and presses are cleaned and overhauled for the forthcoming work of extracting the oil. It is probable that new presses will be required to replace those which are old or damaged; and it is also certain that they cannot be supplied from Germany or Austria, or by local makers. Oil mill proprietors should know that olive-oil presses, either screw or hydraulic, can be obtained in England, and can, we believe, be exported by a special permit. There are a few British firms that have recently made a speciality of the construction of these olive-oil presses, but apparently their existence is not known to buyers in the Near East, and thus American and German firms have hitherto been the principal suppliers of such presses.

Effect of Prolonged Pressing.

The result of a number of technical trials made in the South of France on the expression of olive oil under different conditions proved that ripe and well-crushed olives give the best yield in the first pressing, and that, although prolonged pressing increases the yield, the quality of the oil may be lowered, and that the maximum yield is obtained by the addition of hot water in the second pressing. These results ought to be studied by olive growers in the Near East, who, in their eagerness to extract as much oil as possible, prolong the first pressing, and then have a second and even a third pressing with the addition of hot water, in the meantime making no attempt to separate the oil from the first pressing, which is of better quality from that of the following pressings, which in taste and colour is much inferior to the former. This apparent carelessness on the part of the grower is responsible for the unsatisfactory position in which the olive oil of the Near East often stands in the wholesale markets.

A new method of decolourising olive oil, described in an official French bulletin, will also be of interest to olive growers. It involves agitation with an aqueous solution of tannin. From one to five parts by weight of tannin is required for 100 parts of oil, according to the depth of colour. On standing, the aqueous solution of tannin settles to the bottom, and the decolourised oil can then be run off.

Openings in the Caucasus.

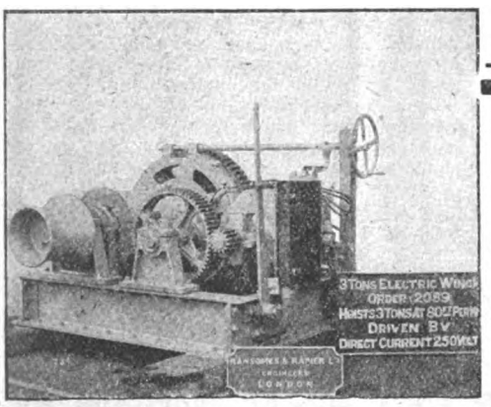
We had occasion in previous engineering notes to point out the importance of the Caucasus as a market for agricultural machinery in the near future; and this view is confirmed by a recent report of the British Consul in that district, who, in dealing with the possibilities for trade in that part of the Russian Empire, states that "the Germans paid special attention to that part, and latterly showed much energy in developing its resources, especially in commodities for export." That kind of "energy" is one of the effective methods assumed by the Germans in their efforts to obtain a market. By interesting themselves in the development of the country's resources they gained the confidence of the inhabitants, and after that were easily able to win the market. At least so it happened in the Near East. Baku is one of the large commercial centres in the Trans-Caucasus which generally supplies the territory situated east of Batoum and the other oilfields of the Caucasus, as well as the North of Persia and Transcaspia, with many commodities. The last district is a large tract of country exporting many cereals, and calling for increasing supplies of agricultural machinery. "It is a country with great possibilities in the near future," the Consul asserts. Extensive tracts of land are continually coming under irrigation, and the country contains much undeveloped mineral wealth. All important Baku merchants have their agents or branch offices in Transcaspia, as well as in all the large towns of the Caucasus and oil-producing centres.

PETROLEUM OILS.

The Right Hon. Walter Long, M.P., has been requested by the War Cabinet to take control of all questions affecting petroleum oils and petroleum products. Mr. Long has appointed Professor Cadman, C.M.G., Petroleum Adviser to the Colonial Office and Professor of Mining of the University of Birmingham, to be his technical adviser and liaison officer between the various Government departments. Professor Cadman will also take charge of an organisation which will be established for giving effect to Mr. Long's instructions, and will assume the title of Director of the Petroleum Executive. Mr. L. S. Shrapnel-Smith, chairman of the Joint Committee of Mechanical Road Transport Associations, has been appointed Economy Officer to the Petroleum Executive, and he will be concerned in introducing economies both in his Majesty's services and in the civil use of petroleum and petroleum products. The headquarters of the Petroleum Executive are at 8, Northumberland Avenue, W.C.2, to which all communications should be addressed.

WHEAT CULTIVATION IN EGYPT.

The *Egyptian Mail* announces that the Ministry of Agriculture has sent a commission to Mariut to make experiments in wheat cultivation in its lands. These experiments will at present be limited to 7,000 feddans, and if the result is satisfactory more land will be put under cultivation. These 7,000 feddans are situated to the south of the Bahig railway station.



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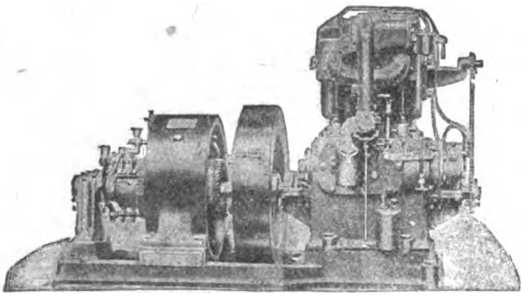

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

MOOPLY VALLEY RUBBER.

The seventh ordinary general meeting of the Mooply Valley Rubber Company, Ltd., was held on Tuesday, in the Council Room of the Rubber Growers' Association, 38, Eastcheap, E.C., Mr. L. F. W. Davidson (Managing Director) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles E. Lewis) having read the notice and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that it would be seen from the report, in which comparative figures for the season under review with those of the previous two seasons were given, that the profits were progressive, and had risen from £5,422 in 1914 to £17,044 in 1915, and to £27,525 for the past season which comprised 15 months. The crop also showed a continuous and satisfactory increase, that for 1914 being 126,000 lbs., for 1915 212,000 lbs., and for 1916-17 468,000 lbs. The material excess of 61,000 lbs. of crop over the estimate for the past season was due in a considerable measure to cultivation. The gross prices obtained for the last three years were 2s. 1½d., 2s. 9d. and 2s. 7½d. approximately, and although 1½d less had been realised for the last season's crop than for that of the previous year 2s. 7½d. was a fair price, and left a good margin for profit. The cost of production at first sight was unsatisfactory, but was easily accounted for. The cost had risen from 1s. 0.11d. in 1915 to 1s. 2.42d. in the past year. The causes which had contributed to this great increase in cost were—(1) two seasons, January to March, in their present report, which would not occur again; (2) a large area of young rubber coming into tapping; (3) great increases in freight, insurance, dock charges, etc.; (4) 71 per cent of general charges were debited to profit and loss account, as against 28.5 per cent. last year; and (5) extra cultivation. The crop from their oldest rubber was produced last year at under 7d. per lb. f.o.b., the figure given by Mr. Nicoll as the probable ultimate cost of producing Mooply rubber. The general charges and weeding last season averaged about Rs6,500 a month, or, say £433 sterling. During the six months of the two periods of January to March for the two years, with a crop averaging 12,200 lbs. a month, the charges came to 8d. per lb. of rubber, while for the last three months of the year, October to December, with an average crop of 86,000 lbs. a month, the general charges and weeding came to only 1.2d. per lb., and for December they got the extraordinary crop of 111,000 lbs. at a cost of only 0.93d. per lb.

Last year they brought 1,500 acres into tapping, and in this year's programme provision was originally made for tapping a further 1,200 acres of young rubber, but mainly on account of the difficulty of securing freight for their crop they had decided to leave that rubber untapped for another year. That would reduce the crop by about 100,000 lbs., but would make very little difference in the profit. Freight had risen to £12 15s a ton, as against 60s. before the war, and dock charges had increased by 30 per cent. The manager had been allowed to spend more on extra cultivation than was originally intended, and the results had been most gratifying. Mr. Mead considered it had already repaid itself, and it would assuredly yield lasting results and give increased crops in the future. The property was perfectly clean now, and it was weeded very cheaply. Pests and diseases and plant sanitation had been constantly dealt with with satisfactory results. The Government experimental station for that part of South India would shortly be established on Mooply, and the Government could depend on Mr. Mead and his assistants to use every endeavour to assist the authorities in dealing with the scientific side of their industry. With regard to the factory work, the quality of the output had on the whole been satisfactory, and they had no fear as to Mooply ultimately turning out an even class of high quality rubber. They had expended £16,000 on capital account on estates, buildings and machinery, as against £9,000 forecasted last year, but they were satisfied that the money had been wisely invested. They had again taken £14,000 from profits to add to development reserve account, which now amounted to £36,000. He regretted that the Board had not been able to declare a dividend equivalent to the profits earned during the past year, as in that case they would have paid something like 15 per cent. The directors had carefully considered what it was best to do with the £11,431 in hand, and had reluctantly come to the conclusion that the wisest course was to postpone the payment of a dividend, owing to the uncertainties of the financial situation in future, but, if circumstances justified it, to declare a dividend before the end of the present year, which they hoped would be 10 per cent. To the end of September they had secured a crop of about 200,000 lbs., as compared with 136,000 lbs. to the same date last year. Their estimate of crop for the present year was 604,000 lbs., and from the way it was coming in it seemed probable they would have secured 650,000 lbs., but they had decided to postpone the tapping of the 1,200 acres of young rubber till next season, and this meant a reduction of about 100,000 lbs. crop, with a very slight reduction on estimated profits, while the untapped rubber will be benefited by being allowed another year's growth, and yield a correspondingly large crop next year. Capital expenditure is estimated at £6,000, including the cost of a 200 acre clearing. Their present difficulties were principally: (1) Difficulty in obtaining freight. (2) Difficulty in finance. (3) And excess profits duty looming ahead. The difficulty in regard to freight is a serious matter. So far they had been able to move all their produce, and the only disadvantage they had suffered from was the payment of excessive freight rates. The present difficulties in connection with finance were common to all Eastern businesses like theirs. They were chiefly due to the adverse balance of trade with India, and the consequent great difficulty of remitting to India the proceeds paid in gold in this country for rubber in order to meet the estate expenditure. The remedy for this lay with the Government, both here and in India, to devise and bring into effect some adequate method of relieving the stringency of the present exchange position. Their bankers had been able to help them in this matter recently, and they hoped to make such arrangements from time to time as would enable them to procure the necessary funds for working the estate out there, but the position at present was one of great anxiety. The third matter that might induce them to modify their programme was the recent increase of excess profits duty to 80 per cent. of the excess profits made over a certain amount (above £15,000 in the case of Mooply).

Notwithstanding these anxieties in regard to finance and shipping and excess profits duty their position was very sound, and for the benefit of those shareholders who might not have the opportunity of reading Mr. Coombe's report he would conclude with two paragraphs from it. Mr. Coombe, as many of them were aware, had the reputation of being one of the ablest visiting agents in Ceylon, and his opinion carried great weight. In his general remarks he says:—

"It is unnecessary for me to set forth in detail facts concerning the situation, etc., of this property, which are already well-known to the directors, but I should like to say at once that there can be no two opinions with regard to the class in which this fine property stands, for it is undoubtedly, as far as my knowledge of rubber in this country goes, out by itself."

He concludes his report with the following words:—

"This fine estate has without a doubt a great future before it, for it is remarkably well favoured in every respect. The land is good; the rubber is, on the whole, even, well-grown and healthy; the yield promises exceedingly well; labour is in good supply and of excellent quality; the condition of the estate and class of work being done are well above the average, while, last but not least, the management is all that can be desired." He begged to move: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the year 1916 be received and adopted."

Mr. W. J. Lucking, in seconding the motion, said that while no doubt shareholders felt disappointment at the postponement of the dividend, he was quite sure the wisdom of the course adopted by the directors would be appreciated, and he sincerely trusted that the expectation of a dividend by the end of the current year would be realised.

The Chairman, in answer to questions, said that their estate was not suitable for the cultivation of either coffee or tea. When he mentioned the end of the year as the probable date of the dividend he referred to the December of this year.

The motion was carried unanimously, the retiring director, Mr. T. C. Forbes, was re-elected, and the auditors, Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co., were reappointed.

The sum of £200 was voted to war charities in the discretion of the Board, and a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors, and to the manager and staff on the estate, terminated the proceedings.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

The thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd., was held on Wednesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, Lord Ribblesdale (the Chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. S. Maclean Jack) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, first referred to the loss which the company had sustained by the death of Mr. Evan A. Jack, who was one of the founders of the company, and to the appointment of Mr. S. S. Hawkins, who for many years acted as agent and general manager for the company in India, to fill the vacant seat on the Board. Proceeding, the Chairman stated that the result of the working of the railway for the past year was a profit of £37,528, which showed a slight improvement on that of last year. All the conditions remained very much the same as when he last addressed the shareholders, although the various difficulties arising from the war, which he then touched on, had been rather accentuated. The bogie coaches which he spoke of last year had been brought or were being brought into active service, but they had no further wagon stock available. They had, however, registered an order for it, and he hoped they would get delivery directly the war was over. With regard to the colliery, the profit was rather more than that of last year, and the sales had been on a larger scale. The increased quantity sold had to come from their stocks, as the output for the year was not up to the usual level, one of the principal causes being shortage of labour due to Government recruiting for military purposes. It was expected that the outturn for the current year would return to the normal figure—something like 300,000 tons. With reference to the company's investments, he was glad to say that both the

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Assam Oil Company and the Makum (Assam) Tea Company had been able to increase slightly their rate of distribution, and the current year would have the benefit of this increase. As he had often told the shareholders, the company's interests and those of the tea industry were indissolubly connected, and what affected that industry favourably or adversely also affected their own company, although not to the same extent. Tea gardens were undoubtedly going through a very difficult time at the moment. They had difficulties with their shipping, finance and labour. Those temporary difficulties could not be ignored, but he was as strong a believer in the industry as he ever was.

Returning to the railway, and referring to the Sibsagar branch, the Board had been interesting themselves in the plans for a line southwards from Dibrugarh, which would practically be an extension of their own railway, and which they understood the Assam Government wished to see carried out. The directors thought it would be very desirable to have it carried out, because it would open up a new country where sources of traffic were already developed. The scheme had not yet reached a sufficiently advanced stage of development for him to be able to tell the shareholders very much about it, but they were carrying out the necessary reconnaissance survey, and it was hoped that shortly a sufficient amount of information would be available for the matter to be considered and dealt with. The directors believed that considerable benefits would arise to this company from such a development. In regard to the collieries, he was able to tell the shareholders that they had ample untouched areas of coal to replace all they had extracted from the present workings. By means of cross-measure roads they were testing and proving other seams with satisfactory results; in fact, in one of their mines, which, owing to one of those twistings of the seam which sometimes occurred, had not proved as large in area as expected, they had, by means of a cross-measure road, opened up another seam, which would more than replace what they thought they had missed. In addition, there was little doubt that three or four miles to the south-east of the coal area of which he had been speaking they had in the Lekha-Pani area coal land which they believed to be very valuable, and they were at the moment discussing the best methods for opening it out. As the shareholders knew, they were the owners of sawmills, and these were now being actively employed in the making of tea boxes. There was a very great dearth of boxes, and the authorities had expressed the desire that all sawmills in the district should do what they could to assist in overcoming the difficulty. The company had accordingly started cutting and had booked a considerable number of orders for boxes. The progress of the Namdang Tea Company during the past year had been quite satisfactory, and this season they were for the first time manufacturing their own tea. Referring to the accounts, in the general revenue account they had written off the balance of the new issue expenses, a part of which they wrote off last year. He was sure the shareholders would all approve of their having taken up £30,000 of the War Loan. They had also subscribed £10,000 to the Indian War Loan. It was not intended, however, to hold these permanently, as, owing to other commitments and requirements, they could hardly make such a large investment of money outside the company. As to the result of the year's working, the balance of general revenue account was £108,771, against £105,297, and this showed a small but satisfactory increase. All the preference dividends had been paid up to the end of the year, and in March last an interim dividend of 2 per cent. was paid on the "B" stock. The Board recommended a final dividend of 3 per cent., making a total distribution of 5 per cent. for the year, carrying forward a balance of £3,475.

Mr. Walter Butler seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The dividends recommended were approved and the retiring directors and auditors were re-elected.

European Oilfields.—The register of holders of first debenture stock will be closed from 15th to 31st instant, inclusive.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Avenue,
London, Thursday.

The tendency in our market this week has been, on the whole, better, and there has been a certain amount of nibbling for shares at current prices, but business has continued very restricted. Both Egyptian Unifieds and 3½ per cent. Prefs. have been in demand, and are ¼ up at 84 and 73¼ respectively.

In Bank shares Agriculturals and Nationals are both ⅛ better at 6½ and 16 respectively, with some small business passing. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have also improved 3-16 to 13 3-16. There has been a persistent inquiry for Bank of Athens shares, of which, however, the supply here at current prices is exceedingly limited; and the shares closed 3-16 up at 3 5-16. The feature in the bank market, however, has been the jump in Land Banks, which, after changing hands at 6 7-32, 6¼, and 6 5-16, have jumped to 6⅜, showing a rise of 9-16 since last week.

Delta Lights are rather firmer, having been done yesterday at 6⅛, showing a rise of ⅛. Aboukirs have been exceptionally quieter, closing 1s. lower at 18s. 6d.; but this weakness has been due to some small sales on a falling market. The news from the property as regards the cotton crop, etc., is, we understand, of a satisfactory character. Behéras are rather quieter at 11⅜, and Delta Lands are 1½d. down at 13s. 3d.

There has been a fair turnover in New Egyptians at the unchanged price of 13s. 3d. Union Foncières keep steady at 39s.

In Miscellaneous shares Markets and Salts are 3d. down at 26s. 6d. and 25s. 6d. respectively, and Khedivial Mails are 6d. easier at 35s.

In Greek Government stocks there has been practically nothing doing apart from some small transactions in Rentes at 44, a decline of ½, and an unimportant transaction that took place in Larissas round 55.

Oil Shares.

Wednesday's prices showed some fluctuations. Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 9d. to 26s. 9d.—27s. 9d. Roumanian Consols, however, declined 6d. to 11s. 6d.—12s. 6d.

Paris Bourse.

Wednesday's quotations included the following:—Egyptian Unified, 96 (against 95.55); Serbian 1895, 59.10 (against 59); Turkish Unified, 60.10 (against 59.50); Suez Canal Shares, 4,605 (against 4,600).

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The annual drawing of the Four and a-Half per Cent. Debentures (Series "B") of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt, Limited, will take place on the 19th inst., at 11.30 a.m., at the offices of the company, 59, Suffolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, London, E.C.

The directors of the Indo-European Telegraph Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable on and after November 1 next to holders registered 31st instant.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Sept. 28.	1917. Week Sept. 27.
Cattle markets	702 ..	221
General markets	358 ..	314
Receipts (£)	1,060 ..	535*
Total for year	39,529 ..	43,663

*Courban Bairam holidays.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 5	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83¾	84
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73	73½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44½	44
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55½	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	60	58xd
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	91
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	79½	84 nom
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	81
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71	71½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅞	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13	13⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅛	3⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅞	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	15⅛	16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	75
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 3/16	19/6	18/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3
Béhéra Co.	8½	12	11⅞
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅝	4⅝
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/4½	13/3
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/3	13/3
Sidi Salem Co.	7/8	15/-	15/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	37/-	39/-
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/-
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	26/9	26/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/4	25/9	25/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	35/6	35/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3½

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st July, 1917, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	£E.	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)		2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)		1,298,069
Special Reserve		78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts		8,093,618
Mixed Tribunals		2,029,039
Egyptian Government		4,689,719
Bankers Accounts		634,536
Cheques and Bills payable		299,519
Sundry other Accounts		588,924
		£E.20,636,424
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government		£E. 11,946,844
Sundry Securities		236,775
Advances on Merchandise		315,154
Advances on Securities		1,092,724
Advances otherwise Secured		634,354
Sundry other Advances		291,755
Bills of Exchange		1,433,866
Local Bills Discounted		135,526
Buildings and Furniture		276,208
Money at call and at short notice		1,837,875
Bankers Accounts		894,936
Sudan Government		63,595
Sundry other Accounts		225,277
Cash—		
Notes	1,130,089	
Gold	50,639	
Silver, Nickel, etc.	120,807	
		1,301,535
		£E.20,636,424

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	£E.17,300,000
	£E.17,300,000
	£E.
Gold	4,852,609
* British Treasury Bills	3,797,391
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	5,218,239
	£E.17,300,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journel Officiel" of October 30. 1916).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended September 10.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Sept. 1-Sept. 10	4,968 ..	6,389
April 1-Sept. 10	77,119 ..	92,490

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A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

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No. 337.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1917. (Postage, Kd. Foreign, 1d. (Annual Subscription, £1.) Price 6d.

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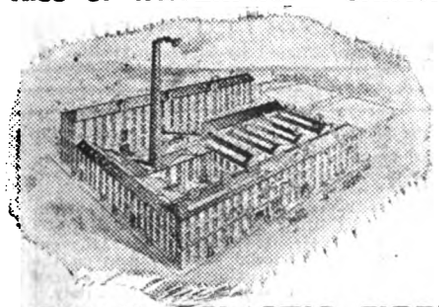
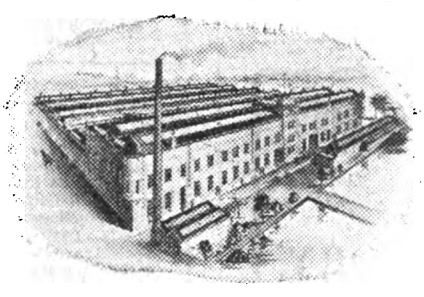
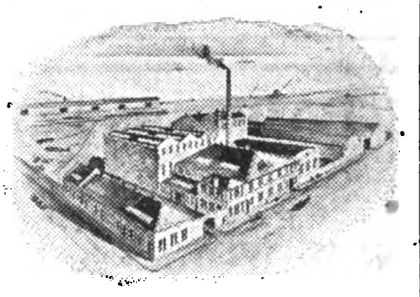

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 337.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The most spectacular event of the week has been the German Emperor's visit to Constantinople, which was beflagged for the occasion. This visit to the Sultan, following immediately upon the Kaiser's trip to Sofia, will no doubt be interpreted in the Press of the Central Powers as another indication of the stability of the Teutonic alliance; and from that point of view it may teach a useful lesson to those in this country who expected Austria to collapse in 1914 and Turkey in 1915. The Quadruple Alliance has held together for over three years, and there is no prospect of its immediate dissolution. Indeed, short of a military *débâcle* in the East, it cannot dissolve until Germany herself is beaten, for it is Germany that binds the other three together.

Nevertheless, there are signs that all is not well. An article in the *Weser Zeitung*, which has sometimes been used to reflect official German views, suggests that one of the objects of the Kaiser's visit to King Ferdinand was to encourage the Bulgarians to attack the Entente forces at Salonika, and hints that a thorough agreement was come to over this matter between Berlin and Sofia. In view of the fact that Bulgaria has been openly agitating for still more annexations to compensate her for the unexpected length of the war, it would not be surprising if this report were near the truth. In return for the further loan which Bulgaria has recently obtained from Berlin, that country may have demanded the possession of Salonika, and been told that she can keep it if she can get it. Certainly Germany has no longer any reason to consider the feelings of Greece on the subject. But, at the same time, the possession of the port by the Bulgars would raise a pretty quarrel in the Balkans. If Salonika were going begging, Turkey might well ask why Bulgaria and not the Ottoman Empire should have the reversion of the old Turkish port, and a still more formidable claim could be advanced by Austria. The possession of Salonika has notoriously been coveted by Austria for a generation, and Vienna is not likely to acquiesce quietly in the acquisition by Bulgaria of all the plums in the Balkan pudding.

The Kaiser's visit to South-Eastern Europe coincides with an admission of the gravity of the financial position. It is announced that Germany has lent Turkey for her internal needs ninety-three million Turkish liras since the beginning of the war; in addition, she has lent twenty-five million liras for military transport over the Anatolian and Baghdad Railways, and Turkey owes another twenty-five million liras for ammunition; other Turkish debts amount to thirty-eight million liras, more than half of which was borrowed from Austria. The Turkish debt service takes twenty out of twenty-two millions total revenue, which means that Turkey is practically bankrupt. This is, of course, no new position for the Ottoman Empire; the seriousness of the situation is that Turkey, by borrowing from Berlin, has sold herself and her future, lock, stock, and barrel, to Germany, and the longer the war lasts the nearer does she come to economic slavery.

There can be no blinking the fact that, if this transaction stood alone, and if Germany were to win the war outright, as was the calculation of her financiers when they made the earlier, at least, of these loans, the transaction would have been well worth while from the point of view of Berlin, however difficult to justify from that of Constantinople. The right to exploit the whole of the Ottoman Empire would be cheaply purchased for a couple of hundred millions sterling, even if the interest on the debt were never paid: and it would carry with it, too, the opportunity for Germany to extend her power over Persia and the whole Middle East. But the transaction does not stand alone, for Bulgaria has also had to be financed; moreover, the prolongation of the war, which has ruined Austrian finances, has also rendered those of Germany precarious, and consequently put a different appearance on the Turkish position.

Some calculations which have recently appeared in the *Deutsche Tageszeitung*, which appear to be well founded so far as they can be compared with other sources of information, throw a striking light on that aspect of the case. The Pan-German organ calculates that Germany will have to bear extra taxation amounting to £600,000,000 sterling, as compared with pre-war taxation of £175,000,000 sterling, and that the utmost additional taxation she could bear would be £300,000,000. As the raising of this sum, it says, would require an almost superhuman effort, and this would leave a deficit of £125,000,000 sterling, it is argued that Germany must have annexations or indemnities to pay for the war, or she will find it impossible to carry on. That is as it may be; we shall weep no tears on this side of the Channel over the financial ruin of Germany. But the point as concerns Turkey seems to be this—that the more Germany finds it impossible to obtain annexations or indemnities from her enemies, the more firmly she will hold on to the securities she has obtained

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from her allies in the shape of treaties and solemn promises. That is the one valid asset she has, and the allies will probably find when they come to examine the terms of peace in detail that Turkish and Bulgarian finance is inextricably interwoven with that of Germany and Austria. The fact that the latest issue of Turkish paper money for £T50,000,000 is backed by German Exchequer Bonds deposited in the Ottoman Public Debt confirms this impression.

While the battle line in Roumania has been quiet, the Russian defeat in the Gulf of Finland, coming as it does hard upon the fall of Riga, is a serious event that is bound to react along the whole eastern front. Part of the Russian Baltic Fleet appears to have fought bravely, and part the very reverse; the morale in the navy as in the army seems to be patchy. At any rate, the Germans are in possession of the islands which command the Gulf; the Russian army has again had to retire, and the menace to Petrograd has become more direct. It is by no means certain yet, however, that the Germans will play for this great prize this year—the time in which to obtain it before winter sets in grows short, and they may prefer to make thorough preparations for its capture in the spring of 1918, risking, of course, the restoration of a fighting spirit in Russia, which may render their desires vain.

Faced by this latest difficulty, M. Kerensky, who is unfortunately ill, has threatened, and the Soviet has appealed to, the soldiers. It does not yet appear whether either threat or appeal will be effectual. The Soviet speaks good words, but to those who read them at a distance the effect seems to be discounted by the fact that every manifesto urging a continuation of the fight has a tendency to end with words declaring in favour of an early peace, as though somebody had added them as an afterthought. One thing at a time is a sound motto, even in politics, the most fluid of the sciences.

The constitutional, as distinct from the military and social, reorganisation of the Republic appears to stand much where it did. A proclamation has been issued by the Ukraine Committee announcing that that territory will be "a politically autonomous" unit comprising the whole Ukraine nation. Despite the sacred word "autonomy," this bald statement appears to lay far more stress upon the independence of the Ukraine than on the union with Russia, and the fact that the Committee of the Ukraine also claims to be represented at the Peace Conference is very significant of the same tendency. It is quite obvious that, if this thinly disguised separatist tendency is allowed to continue unchecked, the day of Russian influence in the Balkans is practically at an end, and the whole of the Black Sea problem is transformed.

Whatever may be the future of what must now by courtesy be called the Ukraine nation, if they desire to set up for themselves, or in a *ménage* where their relations with Petrograd must be at the best delicate from time to time, it cannot be contended by even their most ardent supporters that they would pull the same weight in the European boat as undivided Russia. Judging by the Balkan *status quo* before the war, they would be hardly, if at all, more powerful than Roumania. Now northern Russia may, if it chooses, divorce itself utterly from Balkan affairs, but the Ukraine cannot divest itself of its physical position, and geographical cause usually spells political consequence. The position, therefore, would be that the Ukraine, which lives by exporting its produce from the Black Sea ports, would have the same interest in the Black Sea and in the Dardanelles question as Russia in the past, with less power to make its voice heard. It could hardly aspire, as Russia aspired, to be the protector of Slav interests in the Balkans, because a protector who is no stronger than that which he protects is ridiculous. On the other hand, it could not simply pursue a policy of negation and isolation. It lies on what must always be one of the high roads of the world's commerce—the great railway line from Lemberg to Odessa traverses practically the whole Ukraine from east to west—and those who build their house on a highway cannot complain if passers-by are more numerous than they like. The passer-by, moreover, sometimes has the awkward habit of mistaking the house on the highway for a hotel and stopping there. The German commercial traveller is already considering the possibility of using the Ukraine after this fashion.

The new Sultan of Egypt assumes his august office at an interesting time, and his letter to the Prime Minister strikes entirely the right note. The frontiers of the country, which seemed threatened three years ago, are now reasonably secure; dangers are dissipated, and the prosperity of Egypt is re-established. The Sultan pledges himself to achieve the full programme laid down by his predecessor, and in particular he mentions the general education of the masses as a necessity for the prosperous future of Egypt. He begins his reign under the happiest auspices, and the whole British Empire will wish him a long and successful period of rule.

Mr. Asquith did well to place in his latest war aims speech the claims of the Balkan nationalities in so clear a light. "Take once more," he said, "the case of gallant Serbia and her neighbours and kinsmen, the Southern Slavs, or that of indomitable Roumania. These little States have as much right to their place in the sun as the richest and most populous and best-armed of those which are called the Great Powers. They have hitherto led a cramped, to some extent a starved and even a mutilated life. To give them their natural boundaries is not merely not an act of aggression; it is to pay a debt long since demanded by justice—it is to bow to that highest form of political expediency which recognises that there is no more noxious breeding ground for war, and the causes of war, than the existence of detached and discontented nationalities artificially severed from their kindred and their proper home."

In view of recent rumours, and the fact that an unfortunate expression in a speech by Lord Robert Cecil some time ago was used in Austria as a basis for the suggestion that Britain was prepared to abandon the cause of Serbia and the Southern Slavs, this straightforward speaking is doubly welcome. The speakers at these meetings state the aims of the British Government with full authority for their words, and they will not be forgotten in Austria. They have already caused something of a commotion in Germany.

Some further particulars of the anti-Armenian campaign have been furnished by an American missionary from Kharput, who reports that the killing off of the males is now practically completed, and the women and children are now being treated in a way which confirms the suspicion that the Turks intend nothing less than the extermination of the whole race. It may be noted, by the way, that Mr. Einstein's book on Constantinople, which has just been published, and which contains the diary of his residence there as a diplomatist during the earlier part of the war, leaves no room for doubt that the German Government were official accomplices of the Turkish Government in this appalling policy. The excuse privately given by the Turkish authorities was that the Armenians knew too much, and were politically dangerous. The fact that, according to Mr. Einstein, there was no particular personal ill-feeling between Turks and Armenians, but that the massacres were ordered and planned as a set piece of State policy, only makes the horror of the thing more complete. Unfortunately the United States were powerless to mitigate the disaster to the Armenians, Western Europe is equally helpless, and Russia, which could by this time have hoped to achieve something, had it not been for internal discord, cannot advance to the succour of a people in whom she has always taken a deep interest.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, Sept. 21.

Courban Bairam.

The feast of Courban Bairam occurs next week, and all Government offices will be closed officially for five days. I say "officially," for in many administrations the stress of work is so great that the staff takes very few days off and will certainly be hard at it for the best part of the coming holiday. As has been done in past years, a Fetwa has been obtained by the Prime Minister from the Ulema of Al Azhar to the effect that there is nothing in the Islamic Laws which forbids the faithful from limiting their sacrifices on great religious occasions to what is strictly necessary, and Rushdi Pasha, in communicating this opinion to the people has enjoined them not to follow their habit of killing large numbers of calves and lambs on the occasion of the feast of Courban Bairam, but to think of the interests of the country, and merely to sacrifice what is absolutely necessary, even if it is only one animal. The Prime Minister has done very rightly to try to prevent the wholesale slaughter which takes place on feast days, for the number of cattle and sheep in the country has decreased very much owing to the reckless manner in which the people have been slaughtering their young beasts and to the additional fact that, except from the Sudan, whence until quite recently very little was received, no livestock is coming in from the countries which in pre-war days supplied Egypt annually with very considerable quantities.

Administrative Changes.

It is said that important changes are about to take place in the higher personnel of at least two Ministries, but it is expected that the return of Lord Edward Cecil will be awaited before any definite decision is taken in the matter of these promotions. Meanwhile the Government is, I understand, studying a scheme for the formation of a new Department to which will be entrusted the task of controlling all supplies in the country. In some circles it is stated that what might be called a Food Controller is to be set up, but it would appear that the scheme is a much wider one than that, and that it will tend to the centralisation of most of the work which is at present being done in connection with the question of supplies by various commissions and administrations. No announcement has as yet been made as to the staff which will be appointed to this new department, but it is understood that it will be a highly qualified one, and will be directed by men who thoroughly understand the subject with which they will have to deal. The Government's decision is a very wise one, for with the almost complete cessation of imports of foodstuffs and of articles of first necessity the internal situation might quite easily become a very serious one, if some responsible and competent authority were not set up to deal with the various problems that are about to arise.

A Potato Famine.

For some considerable time now there has been a potato famine in Egypt, and tubers, which formerly cost about P.T.1 per oke, could with difficulty be purchased at P.T.10 per oke. Many people turned to sweet potatoes, of which there is an ample supply in the country, but the lack of the ordinary variety made itself very much felt. Indeed, it came as quite a revelation to most of us to find how much people in this country generally depended on potatoes in their daily menu. Fortunately, the military authorities happened to have a surplus available, and it was arranged that they should place this quantity at the disposal of the civil population at nominal prices. Last week these potatoes were put on sale in Alexandria and Cairo, but so great was the rush that the distribution had to be suspended. A fresh arrangement for delivery to the public has now been made, and householders are able to procure up to five okes daily at various centres. It is hoped that this supply released by the Army will to a certain extent relieve the situation until the new crop comes on the market.

The Ministry of Justice.

Owing to the enormous amount of extra work entailed by the Capitulations Commission, of which he is commission reporter, Sir William Brunyate, the Judicial Adviser, has found it necessary to obtain the services of an assistant who can relieve him of much of the routine work connected with his ministry, and he has appointed for this purpose Mr. Sheldon Amos, who has just returned from England, where he has been occupied for the past two years on work connected with the war, and who has been seconded from the Native Court of Appeal until such time as his services are no longer required on the administrative side of the Ministry of Justice.

SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum, September 13.

The Nile Flood.

After a series of cloudy and wet days a spell of hotter weather has set in, and is proving somewhat oppressive owing to the amount of damp in the air. But this is a small disadvantage to set against the prospects of a good harvest. The price of millet has fallen steadily, and there is some hope that it will go below the £T100 mark. The chief object of interest at the moment is the question whether or not the town is to be flooded out. The sea-wall, which has been a project of many years, has been almost completed this year, and it is fortunate that this is so, as the flood is a record, and in previous years would already have been over the bank in different places. Now, however, the water is actually higher than it has ever been known since the present Government was established, and there are reports from Roseires showing that the water is likely to increase yet further. The level at Roseires is 165 cm. higher than it was this time last year, and that was an exceptional year, and the foot that it rose in the last twenty-four hours may be just enough to make the difference. For the difficulty is that the levels of the ground fall back from the river bank, so that if the water does come over the bank it spreads over a considerable area, and will not be able to flow back into the river until the flood level has sunk a good deal. In the meanwhile the water stands and makes a convenient breeding-place for mosquitos and produces all the troubles attendant on stagnant water. This was the state of affairs that caused Khartoum to be called a "death trap" in the old days of Gordon. Now it is only abnormal conditions that can reproduce the old state of affairs. Still, the next few days will be of great interest. It is possible to stave off the flood with sand bags and banks, but to hold up the flood of the Nile is no easier than to curb Mother Gunga.

The Sugar Problem.

The recent visit of Naus Bey was of great interest to the population of Omdurman. He is the guiding spirit

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of the Sucreries Egyptiennes, and the price of sugar has been the source of much concern to the native, who consumes an almost incredible amount of that article. The price of the "ras," or loaf, used in peace times to be about 3½ P.T., or 8d. Recently it has been as high as 12 P.T. and even more, and prices in remote places were correspondingly enhanced. The reason was not so much that sugar was not to be obtained, as that there were some "profiteers" who were manipulating the supply to serve their needs. Their consciousness that the arrival of Naus Bey was likely to affect them was shown by the fact that the price of sugar dropped on his arrival from 12 P.T. to 5½, and, though on his departure it showed a tendency to rise, the move seemed to be rather a tentative one, like that of a naughty schoolboy who sees the master's back is turned, and it is not likely that the price will return to such an exorbitant rate of profit as before.

Live Stock.

The cattle market is doing well, and the disease that made its customary appearance seems to have been checked. The advance in prices since the war began has been very noticeable. A bull that at the beginning of the war fetched £8 can now be sold at almost double that sum, and there are cases of animals fetching £20. Sheep, too, that were nominally from 15s. to £1 are now nearer £3. This is no doubt due to the very considerable demand from Egypt.

SYRIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Economic Conditions.

Two persons who are in the best position to know the real facts, and whose moral standing admits of no doubt being cast on the veracity of their statements, have given the following account of the state of Beyrout and the Lebanon at the time when they left the country last June:—

The inhabitants of Beyrout and the Lebanon have borne untold sufferings in this war. Large numbers have died of starvation and of typhus fever, and we have ascertained that some of the villages of the Lebanon have lost one-third and others even more than one-half of their inhabitants. It became a familiar sight for us to see daily on both sides of the streets of Beyrout women and children lying in a state of exhaustion and some reduced to such a condition that they could no longer beg audibly.

Paper money fell in the end to one quarter of its face value, and the prices of commodities, especially of foodstuffs and articles of clothing, rose to unprecedented figures. The paralysis of industry and trade, which threw out of employment large numbers of the working-class, led to an aggravation of the situation. By way of illustrating this appalling state of things the prices of certain articles may be cited:—Wheat, 80 piastres per oke (about 2¾ lb.), the price in normal times being 2 piastres; oil, 80-100 piastres; olives, 50-70 piastres; soap, 80-100 piastres; petroleum, £T15-20 the case of two tins. Under these circumstances, distress was no more confined to the poor, but overtook eventually the upper classes who once lived in ease and comfort. Many of these were compelled to sell their belongings and properties at ridiculous prices; and, as payment was made in paper money at its face value, the loss to them was further increased fourfold. Those who were fortunate enough to find money-lenders had to pay usurious rates of interest. It was not long before many of these exhausted their means and fell to the level of the poor class.

Relief Measures.

Vast sums were received from abroad for distribution among the destitute, and one of these correspondents, who had taken part in this work of relief, solemnly affirms that it was carried out most conscientiously and judiciously. Last winter the Americans organised a relief committee which bought large quantities of wheat and other cereals, and distributed them among the poor and needy of Beyrout and the Lebanon, especially the latter, where distress was most acute; but the ill-starred Syrians lost this last remaining source of help through the rupture of diplomatic relations between America and Turkey. This was, indeed, the crowning of their ill-luck, as the rupture came about just as the American relief ship Cæsar was due to arrive in Syrian waters.

Changes in Turkish Policy.

The largest share of criminality in this wholesale and wanton destruction of life falls to Germany; for it has been established beyond doubt that whole trainloads of foodstuffs were sent from Turkey to Germany while the people in the former country were dying of hunger. The above-mentioned correspondents mention that, judging by news received by them from reliable sources, the economic situation in Anatolia itself is equally grave, though not to the same extent as in Syria. In the case of Syria the situation was aggravated by race hatred, stirred to the pitch of fierce vengeance by the outbreak of the Arab revolt in the Hejaz, which, indeed, the Turks themselves provoked by their insane excesses. The Turkish Government finally awoke, although too late, to its suicidal policy, and, seeing that the country was on the verge of depopulation, and that its productivity was already so seriously undermined that the military situation was threatened thereby through the revictualling problem, it started relief work in the shape of public kitchens and the distribution of bread rations on the ticket system, two or three times a week according to the place and circumstance. A card received by a friend here from a person of the same standing as the above-mentioned correspondents, and who left Syria at the same time as they did, contains the following sentence, which throws a lurid light on the appalling condition of Syria. "There will be," he says, "no grapes this year in the Lebanon, for the famished population had to eat the raw fruit before it ripened." But if the poor and middle classes have suffered so seriously through the economic situation, the financial and trading class of ampler means did not escape the blighting hand of the Turk, who created the occasion through the depreciation of the paper currency. It has previously been explained how Jemal Pasha used the most violent means to enforce the maintenance of this currency at its par value. Since then the change in the military situation in favour of the Allies, and the threatened invasion of Palestine, made the Turks alter their tactics and institute a régime of conciliation, so that, in case of a successful enemy advance in Syria, they should not have to deal at the same time with an enemy from outside and inside. The unfortunate check, however, at Gaza followed by the temporary collapse of Russia's military power, made them revert to their old tyrannical methods, and the correspondents in question mention the names of some well-known merchants whom they met on their way home, who were deported to Asia Minor on account of their legitimate refusal to accept paper money at more than its current value. Indeed, the reign of terror, with its concomitants of hanging and exile, is said to be again instituted in all its former rigour.

According to semi-official news just received, the intervention of the Vatican, in favour of the aged Maronite Patriarch who was deported, together with his episcopal suite, has been fruitless.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The End of Summer.

The summer season is drawing to a close. It has not been on the whole a very exhausting one, although there have been, as always, some trying heat waves, especially in August. A few officers and a very few soldiers have been up country to recuperate. A fair number of British residents, especially ladies, who braved the hot season in the plains, have been hospitably received in the few houses and bungalows which exist at a height of over 5,000 ft. The danger, as in India, is that a visit of a few days only is sometimes apt to do more harm than good, and it is hardly advisable to spend less than two or three weeks in these heights. Once you are on Troödos, however, the climate is magnificent under the pine trees. As soon as you leave the shade the heat is, of course, oppressive.

In other parts of the island the slack season has passed in monotony. The telegraph brings war news in brief, but the English papers are anxiously looked for, and the loss of several incoming, as well as outgoing, mails has been much deplored.

The Military Police.

Whatever may happen in the future, near or far, it is not yet fated that Cyprus should become a "place of arms," as Lord Beaconsfield anticipated. After the "retreat of the 10,000" that landed in 1878, the island garrison was fixed at half a battalion, and it was a general's command. So it remained till about 1894, when it was reduced to one company, drawn from Malta or Egypt. It was at one time proposed that even this small British force should be withdrawn, and that reliance should be placed, in accordance with Colonial policy elsewhere, on a native body of police. The peaceful relations on which Turks and Greeks lived together seemed to justify the proposal. It was well, however, that more prudent counsels prevailed, and that the small handful of our men was retained. Time showed that the decision was a wise one. In 1912 disorders occurred which threatened to

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become serious. On the occasion of a popular festival at Limassol Turks and Greeks came to blows over some insult in a café; the local police could not control the rioters, and the Commandant was obliged to give orders, for the first and only time under British rule, to fire on the mob, which was about to invade the Turkish quarters. Several were killed and others wounded. The island garrison (always until recently quartered during winter about three miles from Limassol), then a company of the Devonshire Regiment, was called in; and another company of the same regiment was despatched from Egypt and sent to Nicosia. Since that time complete tranquillity has again reigned in Cyprus.

The local force of military police has proved an excellent body. Besides their regular duties of keeping peace and order, they are employed on almost every conceivable duty, such as escorting officials and tax collectors, conveyance of specie, work of coastguarding, on quarantine during periods of disease among man and beast, for distribution and posting of innumerable notices, and even as hangmen. To the people in general the zaptieh is the embodiment of executive power, and his uniform, a very becoming one, inspires prompt respect. The full establishment, in a population of something under 300,000, is at present about 788, made up of 23 officers, 250 mounted N.C.O.'s and men, and 515 foot. It is generally slightly under strength. Of the total, one officer and eighty N.C.O.'s and men are detailed for prison duties, leaving about 700 available for general police work. The Chief Commandant, Captain Gallagher, D.S.O., is now on active service. Major Bailey, Commissioner of Papho, is acting for him. The force is distributed among the six administrative districts. Some years ago rural police stations were created throughout the island, and the patrol work has been of very great value in checking crime, especially in stamping out animal thefts, which had been rife. Work has been increased in recent years by the enforcement of martial law. The standard of qualifications has been greatly raised. There are only twenty illiterate men in the force; and no man is enlisted unless he can speak two languages, and write one. Regular classes in English, Turkish, and Greek are held. The comfort of the men in quarters has been increased, though there is still room for improvement in this respect. Discipline is good, and although there is a disposition among natives, regardless of reason, to blame the police for anything that goes wrong, relations with the people of all communities are quite satisfactory, and altogether the force fully deserves the commendation which is generally given to it.

MESOPOTAMIA.

A Proclamation.

A recent proclamation issued by Sir Stanley Maude to the people of Iraq reads as follows:—

Whereas the whole of Iraq, eastward of Kanainiyah, at the junction of the Sakhlawiyah Canal with the Euphrates, and southward of El Ajik, five miles upstream of Samarrah, on the Tigris, is in the effective occupation of the armed forces of Great Britain, and Whereas within that area the authority of the Turkish Government has ceased to be valid, and has been replaced by that of the General Officer Commanding the Army of Occupation, and Whereas the wishes and policy of the Army Commander have been made known to the people of Iraq from time to time in various Regulations, Proclamations, and Notifications issued by him or under his authority, and, further, Whereas it has come to the notice of the Army Commander that there still exists among the people of Iraq, and especially among the people of the Baghdad Vilayet, a certain amount of ignorance and misapprehension as regards certain matters not less vital to their own welfare than to that of the Army of Occupation.

Now, therefore, be it known to all it may concern:—First, that peaceful inhabitants of the country are at perfect liberty to pursue their ordinary occupations so far as is consistent with the military necessities of the Army of Occupation, and are indeed desired to do so; while, in view of the considerate treatment they are thus accorded, they are expected to render obedience to British Officials, to take no part in hostilities, and to refrain from all acts calculated to be prejudicial to the safety and operations of the Army of Occupation; and, secondly, that the acts of commission and omission herein below set forth constitute offences against the authority of the General Officer Commanding the Army of Occupation, and are punishable on conviction of the offender by any competent Court with the penalty of death or any lesser penalty at the discretion of the convicting Court or the Army Commander, whensoever and wheresoever committed, even by persons innocent of any evil intent, to save whom from loss and suffering due to thoughtless acts is the object of this re-statement in convenient form of offences deemed to be prejudicial to the welfare of the Army of Occupation.

Twenty-one major acts of commission or omission are enumerated; they include carrying arms or being in possession of arms or ammunition without proper authority, supplying or carrying information to the enemy, intentionally misleading our troops when acting as guide or interpreter, assisting the enemy, fouling or in any way interfering with the water supply, wilfully causing or attempting to cause inundations, and wilfully damaging or stranding river craft of any kind. The Proclamation continues:—

The following are also offences which are ordinarily punishable on conviction by imprisonment or any lesser punishment:—

22. Failure to extinguish or exhibit lights as prescribed by order of competent authority from time to time.

23. Failure to take out passes as prescribed or to report at such time and place as directed, or without written permission leaving any area within which ordered to reside.

24. Selling any commodity at prices in excess of those prescribed by competent authority from time to time.

25. Furnishing liquor to troops.

26. Evading or attempting to evade Censorship regulations.

27. Making exaggerated or false complaints against troops.

28. Making exaggerated or false claims in respect of damage sustained.

NOTE 1.—This Proclamation applies to and shall have effect throughout the whole of the Occupied Territory without exception, and it shall be deemed to be in force from the date of its publication.

It shall furthermore be held to extend to any territory hereafter coming within the effective occupation of the Armed Forces of Great Britain in Iraq.

NOTE 2.—The offences above set forth shall primarily be triable by Military Courts, Military Governors, Deputy Military Governors, and all Officers generally or specially invested with the powers of Military Governors and Deputy Military Governors, but, if any act of commission or omission declared in the foregoing summary to be an offence against the authority of the General Officer Commanding the Army of Occupation is also an offence against the Ordinary Criminal Law extended to certain portions of the Occupied Territory by regulations of the Army Commander or otherwise, it shall be within the competence of the regular criminal courts established in pursuance of such regulations to take cognisance of and try such offence if there be no military objection to their so doing.

F. S. MAUDE, LIEUT.-GENERAL,
Commanding Army of Occupation.

The New Bridge at Amarah.

On August 15 a new bridge across the Tigris at Amarah was opened for traffic by Major-General Sir George MacMunn, Inspector-General of Communications. The first pile of the bridge, which had long been needed both as a public convenience and for military purposes, was driven on March 25. Four and a-half months later the work was complete, the bridge having been constructed entirely of material, already in Mesopotamia, which could be spared from other works. The following particulars of the bridge, which is to be known as the MacMunn Bridge, are taken from the *Basrah Times*:—

The general arrangement of the bridge is that of two fixed piers carried out into the river from either bank, in line with one another, but not meeting. The gap between them through which the ships pass is 285 feet wide, and can be spanned by a floating structure so attached to one of the piers that it can easily be swung in or out of position, accordingly as it is required to "make" the bridge for traffic to pass over it, or to "break" it for river traffic to pass through it. The two piers or approaches are carried on piles at a height of about 2½ feet above high-water level, and they and the opening portion have an effective width for traffic of 20 feet which is divided between two roadways for horse and wheeled traffic and two footways. The total length of the bridge between the faces of the abutments on either bank is 750 feet. The longer of the two approaches, that from the left bank, is 294 feet in length, and is entirely constructed of timber. The opening portion of the bridge consists of nine steel girder spans of 30 feet centres, carried on ten steel pontoons, each 30½ feet long by 13½ feet wide. This structure is attached at one end by a special flexible hinge to a pontoon at the end of the left bank approach, and when in the closed position the other end abuts on a similar pontoon attached to the right bank approach. These pontoons can move only in a vertical direction, any other movement being prevented by the guide piles between which they are placed. The bridge is opened and closed by a steam winch fixed on the right bank of the river. The two fixed pontoons are connected to the approaches from the banks by means of steel girder ramps each 62 feet long between the centres of their bearings. These ramps allow the roadway to accommodate itself to the rise and fall of the river (7¼ feet) without making an excessive gradient at high or low water. The maximum grade on the ramps during times of low water or highest flood is 1 in 18. The gaps in the roadway caused by the movement of the ramps are always covered and protected by hinged plates. The pontoons and the opening portion of the bridge have been designed to carry a load of 8½ tons moving at fifteen miles an hour. If vehicles moving at this speed are used it will be possible to transport over 20,000 tons across the bridge every hour. The bridge can be opened and closed by three men in 4½ minutes, a considerable contrast with the old bridge, to close which alone took nineteen men—sometimes assisted by a tug—anything from thirty to forty-five minutes.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN

The Ides of October have passed, and with them the Turkish year 1335 comes to an end. In THE NEAR EAST of July 20 I drew attention to the very positive assertions made in a contemporary known as *The Young Man and Woman* regarding the interpretation of Daniel XII., 12: "Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days." Here, we were told, was predicted clearly and unmistakably the downfall of Turkey in October, 1917. Why that particular month I did not discover, unless it was that it gave our seer the longest run for his prophecy, as it happened to be the last month of the Turkish year 1335. Needless to say, the challenging of the attempt to restrict the words of Daniel to a certain contemporary event did not imply that my belief in Holy Writ was a whit less profound than that of the editor of *The Young Man and Woman*. On the contrary, tht reluctance to intrude one's limited mundane intelligence into the subject of the prophecy solely with the object of enlivening the pages of a magazine and deriving *kudos* for a palpable guess argues greater reverence for the Word.

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It would have been particularly gratifying to see the guess "come off"; but even three months ago the prospect of the happening was distinctly remote. Very probably these lucubrations of a contemporary were not intended for critical young men and women, for the mild *caveat* I then entered caused the author at once to hedge. I was taken to task for being too literal. (My sole point was the effrontery of declaring that the fall of Turkey had been "definitely dated to the year, and even day," in Daniel.) Instances were cited of similar attempts to fasten down prophecies to a specific date; the date had passed, and things looked black for the would-be prophet-interpreter, when lo! years or months afterwards something was divulged which went to prove that on that very date the beginning of the end had begun. Very probably the readers of *The Young Man and Woman* will be told to suspend judgment and to continue their subscriptions a little longer. Then when there has been time to forget the details they will be told triumphantly that the seer is justified of his guesses, for obviously the downfall of Turkey is to be dated from the visit of the German Emperor to Constantinople, or from the day of the departure from —— of the additional units which enabled General Allenby to advance at Gaza, or from the date of the manufacture of the last shell which the British forces fired before the Turks surrendered. There are endless possibilities, of course, at this kind of game; but most people will wish that these would-be prophets would leave the Scriptures alone.

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I feel far more kindly disposed towards the disciples of Joanna Southcott, although here again the precise usefulness of this heroine-worship is far to seek. It seems that in a letter written by Joanna Southcott to King George III., dated December 21, 1802, occurred the following words: "If your Majesty should find it expedient to draw your sword in this war against the Turks, you will be victorious, and you will possess the Holy City of Jerusalem, for the fulfilment of the Scriptures is at hand." George III., however, did not act upon this advice; Great Britain was at war with Napoleon, and the latter chose to attack her through Egypt, which was nominally Turkish territory. The British, acting on the principle of giving battle to their enemy wherever he was to be found, engaged him on Turkish soil, making common cause with the Turks, whom Napoleon had attacked. "The fulfilment of the Scriptures" had to wait, but now Joanna Southcott and her sayings have been revived for Great Britain's present benefit.

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"Joanna Southcott," runs a communication which has reached me, "is said to be set as a clock to this nation—again the exact hour has struck—[N.B.—Some months ago, evidently.]—for the very day that the news of the victory in Palestine was received in Parliament, that very day No. 13 of the Express leaflets announcing that we are to possess Jerusalem was in the hands of many members of both Houses of Parliament. . . . Whether men believe in them or not, these prophecies are being unmistakably fulfilled. . . . 'Egypt you must first possess.' How true! We are now in secure possession. The very day this republished prophecy arrived in London, a year or so ago, the annexation of Egypt was simultaneously published in the newspapers."

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There seems to be some confusion here between George III. and George V., but I hardly think that matters. Joanna Southcott, or the somebody who revived her writings, was most comprehensive. Among the things "predicted" were air-raids, trench warfare ("under the type of a flood which occurred at Weston, or Western, Place, Battle Bridge, St. Pancras"), the submarine menace, and scarcity of bread and meat ("foreshadowed by Joanna's appetite being taken from both for three months, June 21 to September 20, which is also set as a sign to this nation"). Having got so far, we are presumably expected to feel all the better for it and for Joanna's prophecies; but do we? Nevertheless, the prophets or the interpreters continue to turn out masses of stuff in which they all thoroughly believe, and are rather hurt if everybody else does not do the same.

CORSAIR.

MONTENEGRINS IN AUSTRIAN PRISON CAMPS.

In these days of universal suffering the common tendency is to accentuate the tragedy that is most familiar. But from time to time stories reach us from distant lands, stories so impelling in their horror, in their cruelty, and in their terrible sadness that we forget the sorrow which is our own, and of our best we give.

An authentic story of the conditions prevailing in the Austro-Hungarian prison camps of Karlstein and Boldogasszony, where thousands of Montenegrins are interned, has just reached the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund from a neutral, who, because he acted in the capacity of a military chemist to the Montenegrin Government, was promptly interned soon after the occupation of the country by the Austrians, but eventually was released through the energy of his Minister in Vienna, and made his way to Geneva.

He states that the effects of overcrowding at Karlstein are positively inhuman. Irrespective of age and profession, the male population of Montenegro are herded in small insanitary rooms, which cannot be kept clean—rooms that must do duty for cooking, sleeping and living. In order to secure a modicum of health the windows must needs be kept open all night, and at Karlstein it can be very cold. What is the result? Rheumatism in its acutest form is rife, tuberculosis following on its heels, for often these poor folk, in the depth of winter, have to go without coals for ten days at a stretch. True, there is a hospital with five beds, but it is practically useless being transferred to one of these, for there are hardly any medicaments, and, whatever the complaint, there is no variation in the food. Montenegrin prisoners of war stricken with typhus only receive the same measure and kind of food as that served out to healthier prisoners.

How are the prisoners fed? In the morning, tea without bread; noon, about ½ lb. of atrociously bad bread. With this beetroot soup is provided—a tasteless concoction. Meat of a very inferior quality appears twice weekly. At night, stewed potatoes and tea. The dreadful monotony, together with the very bad quality of the food supplied, has brought on all forms of stomach trouble, and also what is known as "hunger typhus."

Add to this pitiable condition of life the absence of warm clothing for the long winter months, the inability to keep healthily warm ill-nurtured bodies, the impossibility of adequate medical treatment for the sick prisoners, and the hopelessly insanitary rooms in which these poor people are huddled together, it is clear that every effort to ameliorate their lot on the part of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund produces invaluable results.

At Boldogasszony, in Hungary, the conditions are much worse than at other camps. Rough shanties or huts have been erected in a huge unsheltered field, with practically no room for physical exercise. The interned have no dining hall, no place where to sit or rest. They are compelled to spend their day on their beds, where they must eat, sit and sleep. There the food is worse than at Karlstein—so bad, indeed, that many of those physically able to work begged to be allowed to work in the neighbouring villages, hoping thus to secure better food. Unfortunately no better food came as the result of their labour, and many fell ill and died.

The released neutral military chemist states that "all the interned Montenegrins set their hopes on you—the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund—and they rely on you to save their lives."

Lady Roper Parkington, the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund, is most anxious to be able to relieve the lot of these suffering people, thousands in number, and any donations towards this end will be gratefully received by her at Claridge's Hotel, London, W.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE GOVERNANCE OF EUROPE.

This book* contains the substance of a course of lectures originally delivered to a large audience of teachers, and intended, in the author's words, to reduce a complex and confused century to comprehensible categories, to emphasise its dominant characteristics, and to render it more easily teachable. Subject to one reservation, the result of this effort is, to our mind, thoroughly satisfactory. The author traces the interaction of the main forces which dominated the political life of the century—the aspiration for European unity, the growth of democracy and nationality, the later rise of the spirit of Imperialism, and finally the German bid for world-supremacy, which, as he clearly shows, is the root of all the evil of the last three years. The treatment of such a vast subject will necessarily give rise to some difference of opinion: encyclopædists and specialists will ask for an ampler supply of dates and facts and details, while a generation nourished on the pictorial system will possibly desire more colour and incident than Professor Hearnshaw thinks fit to supply; but such criticisms are mutually destructive, and really bear testimony to the skill with which large masses of not too tractable material have been reduced to a convenient compass. We welcome, too, the tone in which the book is written: the Professor is not afraid of rhetoric when it is called for by the subject, and there is a refreshing absence of that air of disdainful superiority which mars much of the political writing of the present day. It is a straightforward and well-written book, which can be safely recommended to anyone who wishes to obtain within moderate compass a clear and illuminating summary of the great political movements of the century.

We have made one reservation in expressing this judgment. In a few passages we have noticed what seems to us to be a failure to secure a just historical perspective: past events are occasionally viewed somewhat too much in the light of later knowledge, and consequently insufficient allowance is made for the circumstances of the time. Such passages, as we have said, are few, and we must content ourselves with examining one of them by way of sample. In his preface the author states that the tragedy of the century "consisted in the frustration of the beneficent movement towards a federated Continent peacefully administered under recognised international law by, first, the blind antagonism of reactionaries, and, secondly, the mad perversity, much more fatal in its results, of revolutionaries, idealogues and fanatics." That statement seems to us to describe a truism rather than a tragedy: the world would doubtless have gone better, if human nature had been different; but human nature being what it was (and is), the "beneficent movement" really had no chance of leading to any satisfactory outcome. It consisted, as the Professor shows elsewhere, partly of a vague cosmopolitanism which counted for very little, and partly of that "Concert of Europe" which was an effective agency for a few years after Waterloo. The Concert was inspired by the idea of dynasticism, incarnate in Metternich, the most important person in Europe at the time; to him, and to most of his fellows, peoples existed for the benefit of their monarchs, and to treat this attitude as "reactionary" is to antedate the progress of thought by something like a century. In 1815 dynasticism was still dominant in Europe, and so long as it existed there was no hope of a permanently federated Continent: foundations had to be laid in the individual States before such a superstructure could be even contemplated. Here it is pleasant to remember that England led the way. Castlereagh and Canning wrecked the Concert by asserting the right of every people to determine its own form of government; but in wrecking the Concert they opened a road which seemed to lead to better things. Freed from this incubus, the peoples tried to organise themselves; but, being composed of human beings, they made many and grievous mistakes, so that the conflict between nations and dynasties outlasted the century, and even in 1914 dynastic ideals controlled the fate of the greater part of Europe. They have had heavy shocks during the last three years; the return to Athens of Venizelos is significant far beyond the borders of Greece: America has declared for their final obliteration, and at last there seem to be grounds for hope that the nations will be free to organise themselves on foundations which a century ago had not been laid.

Whether they will succeed in doing so is another question. Professor Hearnshaw concludes his book with the remark that the League of Law is already coming into existence, and we hope that his view is correct; but we should not forget that a century ago the same hopes were not less widely felt. To the larger part of Europe dynasties in those days appeared as stable foundations as the national democracies appear to-day, and we may be as much mistaken as our forefathers have been proved to be. The ideal of organisation on economic lines has probably more adherents now than that of national democracies could claim in 1815, and it is possible that the new League may collapse like the old Concert, because the peoples, who settle these questions in the long run, decide that the foundations must be pulled up and laid afresh. To the reader who desires to estimate for himself the probabilities of such new developments we can recommend no more stimulating introduction to the subject than that which Professor Hearnshaw has provided.

* "Main Currents of European History." By Professor F. J. C. Hearnshaw. (Macmillan. 7s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

At the Front in Macedonia. By E. P. Stebbing. (London: John Lane. 6s. net.)

Gems of Arabic Literature. By Syed Hamood Hason, Headmaster, Government Anglo-Vernacular Schools, Crater, Aden. (Aden: Rs.7.)

The Question of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. By Coleman Phillipson and Noel Buxton, M.P. (London: Stevens and Haynes. 12s. 6d. net.)

BOOK NOTES.

Mr. Edward Arnold will shortly publish Captain E. Crawshay's "Lines from an Officer's Note-book," the scenes of which range from Ypres to the Mediterranean, and close in the fighting zone of the Sinai Peninsula.

"The Frontiers of Language and Nationality in Europe," by Mr. Leon Dominian, is about to be published by Messrs. Constable on behalf of the American Geographical Society of New York.

Messrs. Chapman and Hall will publish at the beginning of November a new record of campaigning experiences on the Eastern front, by Mr. R. Scotland Liddell, entitled "Actions and Reactions in Russia."

Messrs. Allen and Unwin have just issued "Bohemia's Case for Independence," by Dr. Edouard Benés. The volume contains an introduction by Mr. Henry Wickham Stead.

The story of the operations in Mesopotamia, down to the capture of Baghdad by General Maude last March, is continued in Part 164 (Volume 13) of *The Times* History and Encyclopædia of the War, which has just been published, at the price of 8d.

LETTERS FOR MESOPOTAMIA WOUNDED.

The Postmaster-General announces that delay is avoided if correspondence for officers and men of the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force who are invalided in Mesopotamia or invalided to India is addressed as follows, and not to a particular hospital: If in Mesopotamia, care of Casualties, Busreh; if in India, care of Casualties, Bombay. In each case the address given should be preceded by the number, rank, name and particulars of the unit. This form of address should be continued to be used until the addressee is known to have returned to duty.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

The Postmaster-General announces that, according to information furnished by the Swiss Post Office, the recent suspension of the parcel post to prisoners of war in Turkey in Asia, other than those interned at Magnesia, has been removed. Parcels for prisoners of war in Turkey in Asia, as well as parcels for prisoners in Turkey in Europe, are therefore again being accepted at post offices, subject to the general regulations governing the acceptance and transmission of parcels for prisoners of war.

The "Lion Sermon," which was founded in the seventeenth century by Sir John Gayer, a Lord Mayor of London, to commemorate his escape from a lion in Arabia, was preached on October 16 at the Church of St. Katharine Cree, Leadenhall Street. Sir John left a sum of £200 for the purpose, but this money has long been diverted to other uses, and the service is now continued voluntarily.

Any Books mentioned on this page, or any other Publication, can be obtained at the published price, plus 3d. postage in the United Kingdom, or 6d. abroad, from

THE NEAR EAST (Book Department),

1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C. 2

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. October.	1917. October.		1336. Muharram.	5678. Heshvan.
19	6	Friday	3	3
20	7	Saturday.....	4	4
21	8	Sunday	5	5
22	9	Monday	6	6
23	10	Tuesday	7	7
24	11	Wednesday	8	8
25	12	Thursday	9	9

Having concluded its work at Salonika, the Serbian Government has returned to Corfu.

Lady Barclay, wife of the British Minister in Roumania, has arrived in London from Jassy.

The Persian Minister was among the diplomatic visitors at the Foreign Office on October 11.

Mr. R. E. More, Governor of Khartoum Province, returned from leave last month to Khartoum.

Prince Antoine Bibescu, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation, has returned to London from the Continent.

Colonel P. Peshitch, Chief of the Serbian Headquarter Staff at Corfu, arrived in London on October 15.

Major Hibbert, who was temporarily attached to the Civil Secretary's office, has taken up his work as Inspector of Khartoum.

The Earl of Galloway, who served with the Black Watch in the Crimea and the Mutiny, celebrated his eighty-first birthday on October 14.

A memorial service for Miss Agnes de Selincourt, Principal of Westfield College, was held at St. Luke's Church, Hampstead, on October 11.

Colonel Tralescu, of the Roumanian Army, has arrived in London. He was formerly Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation in Rome.

The Home Member of the Government of India has introduced a Bill into the Supreme Legislature providing for a censorship of cinema exhibitions.

The *Osservatore Romano* formally contradicts the statement that Mgr. Camassei, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, is a prisoner in the hands of the Turks.

The Bhavnagar Medal, for Indian Civil Service candidates at Cambridge University, has been awarded to Mr. S. L. Mehta, B.A., Ahmedabad and Clare College.

Lord Granville, the new British Minister to Greece, has been received at the Palace in Athens with the usual ceremonial on presenting his credentials to the King.

Mr. R. A. Bence Pembroke left Khartoum at the beginning of September for a holiday in Egypt. On his return he will take up the duties of Inspector of Khartoum North.

Lieutenant-Commander Aristide Moraïtinis, Royal Greek Navy, attached R.N.A.S., Eastern Mediterranean, and brother to Mrs. Cecil Pilcher, has been awarded the D.S.O.

TRAGEDY OF MONTENEGRO,

THE SMALLEST AND POOREST OF OUR ALLIES.

MONTENEGRIN RED CROSS

AND RELIEF FUND,

11, VICTORIA STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

(Registered in City of London. Section 1. War Charities 1916)

needs £700 WEEKLY for Feeding Prisoners interned in Austria-Hungary.

Donations will be much appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, LADY ROPER PARKINGTON, Claridge's Hotel, Brook Street, London, W.1.

M. Victor Jonescu, brother of M. Take Jonescu, arrived in London recently on his way to Lisbon, where he has been appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

The Committee of the Greek Blue Cross have decided to dedicate the sum of £E4,000 for the purchase of surgical instruments and the equipment of an ambulance for the Greek army.

Captain E. C. Midwinter, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., General Manager of the Sudan Government Railways, who has been on leave in England for some months, is returning to the Sudan this week.

The Rome correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that M. Pashitch is about to form a Coalition Ministry of all parties, retaining the Premiership himself. M. Stojanovich will probably become Foreign Minister.

The Greek Chamber has welcomed the proposal by the Government to award a pension to the daughter of Mr. Stevens, the war correspondent (who was killed in London in a recent air-raid), for services rendered to Greece.

In the Vienna Reichsrath, on October 2, the Slovene Deputy, M. Benkovitch, stated that in Bosnia in one day 100 persons were sentenced to death by a military tribunal and summarily shot. The rest of his speech was censored.

A marriage has been arranged, and will shortly take place, between Lieut. Hough, West Yorks, eldest son of Mr. V. Lacy Hough, East Malling, late Civil Commissioner of Burma, and Miss Ethel Perry, second daughter of R. Perry, Esq., M.D., F.F.P.S., Glasgow.

The Times states that Baron Mongheur has been appointed Belgian Minister to the Court of St. James's, in succession to M. Paul Hymans. Baron Mongheur, who was formerly Belgian Minister to Mexico and to the United States, was Minister to Turkey at the outbreak of war.

Miss Alice Sergeant, Assistant Lecturer in History at Westfield College, London, has been appointed as Inspectress of Schools in Madras in the Indian Educational Service. Miss Anderson Scott, of Newnham College, Cambridge, has been appointed to succeed her in residence for the session at Westfield College.

It is reported from Cairo that the Australians with the Egyptian forces intend to erect a memorial to their comrades who have fallen in Sinai and Palestine. The memorial will probably take the form of a broken column, and will be erected on the bank of the Suez Canal. The New Zealanders are planning a similar memorial.

The Roumanian Minister, M. Nicolas Misu, visited Bath on Tuesday, and was entertained at luncheon by the Mayor at the Guildhall. After the luncheon Mrs. Gordon, F.R.G.S., gave a lecture (illustrated by lantern slides from photographs sent by the Queen of Roumania) at the Pump Room, at 5.15, in aid of the Roumanian Red Cross Hospitals.

The Government of Bombay are remaining at Poona during the present month, and are thus modifying the practice of two annual visits to Mahableshwar. The first migration to Mahableshwar takes place in the spring, and then the Government goes on to Poona for the monsoon, returning to Mahableshwar at the end of September for a month or so before going to Bombay.

The postal organisation established for the kingdom of the Hejaz, says the *Egyptian Gazette*, is gradually developing its series of postage stamps. They are long oblong labels of purely Arabesque design and inscription. The regular postage stamps now comprise five denominations—viz., ⅛ piastre, yellow; ¼ piastre, green; ½ piastre, scarlet; 1 piastre, blue; and 2 piastres, claret.

At a meeting of the Wantage Lodge, No. 3,178, at Princes Hotel, Jermyn Street, on October 16, Mr. A. S. M. Anik was installed Worshipful Master, being the first member of the Bhorah Moslem community to reach the chair of any lodge in this country. The function was the occasion for a distinguished gathering, and the messages of congratulation included letters from the M.W.G.M. the Duke of Connaught, the M.W. Pro G.M. Lord Ampthill, P.G.M. Lord George Hamilton, Mr. Montagu (Secretary of State for India), and the Aga Khan.

According to a Constantinople telegram, extensive preparations were made for the impending visit of the Kaiser. The Sultan, surrounded by the Imperial Princes, members of the Cabinet, Senate, and Chamber of Deputies, received his guest at the station, and the two monarchs subsequently drove to the Palace, where the German Emperor was to reside. According to later information, the Sultan has conferred on his guest the Diamond Star of the Iftichar Order, the highest Turkish war decoration, while the Kaiser has conferred on the Sultan the star and chain with diamonds of the Order of the House of Hohenzollern. Later a conference took place between the Monarchs, which was attended by Talaat Pasha, Enver Pasha, Hakki Pasha, and Baron von Kühlmann.

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The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Serbia, who are visiting the West Riding in order personally to thank Yorkshire for help given to Serbia, were entertained at luncheon at Bradford by the Lord Mayor on October 17. Subsequently they attended a civic reception at Halifax and visited a number of mills and the hospital.

The marriage arranged between Geoffrey Leonard, only son of Sir Henry Winterbotham, K.C.S.I., and Lady Winterbotham, of Hill Grange, Leckhampton, Cheltenham, and Hilda, youngest daughter of Mr. D. Norton, C.S.I., and Mrs. Norton, of Engedi, Eastbourne, will take place quietly at St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, at 2.30 p.m. on November 3. There will be no reception, but all friends will be welcome at the church.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Saroda Charan Mitter, late Judge of the Calcutta High Court, has died at Calcutta in his sixty-ninth year.

The death occurred on September 30, from wounds received in action the same day, of Mr. P. L. Smith, a former member of the London staff of the Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The death occurred on October 13 of Colonel Sir Edward Thomas Devanant Cotton-Jodrell, K.C.B., of Reascheath Hall, Nantwich, in his seventy-first year. He was the son of G. E. L. Cotton, late Bishop of Calcutta, and assumed the name of Jodrell in 1890.

The death took place on October 11, after a severe operation, of Mr. John Gorman Ford, the son of Sir Francis Clare Ford, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., who was at one time Ambassador in Madrid, Constantinople, and Rome. Mr. Ford was also in the Diplomatic Service.

Second Lieutenant K. Gulbenkian, Middlesex Regiment, who fell on September 20, was born in London in 1891, of Armenian parents, the late Mr. Garabed Gulbenkian and Mrs. Gulbenkian, of 2, Holland Park Avenue, W., and was educated at St. Paul's School. He enlisted at the outbreak of war in the Middlesex Regiment, and after serving in the ranks as 1st Class Signaller, he was recommended for a commission last February and sent home to join an O.T.C. He received his commission in July, and returned to the front on September 1.

Second Lieutenant Derek Percy Cox, R.F.C., who was returned as missing on August 21 last, and is now reported to have been killed on that day, aged 21, was the only son of Major-General Sir Percy Cox and Lady Cox. He was educated at Harrow, Woolwich, and Sandhurst, joined the Machine Gun Corps early in 1915, and remained with this corps until he was transferred to the R.F.C. in May, 1916. In October, 1916, he was invalided home, and after two months' leave rejoined the R.F.C. in England. Having obtained a pilot's certificate, he went to the front again last June, and remained there until his death.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Kaimakam F. Bonnelli Bey, Assistant Commandant of the Suez Canal Police, who had been attached to the Alexandria city police for a few weeks, has been detailed for temporary duty at the Ministry of Interior.

Among the appointments and transfers published in the *Sudan Government Gazette* are the following :—

El Bimbashi R. P. Mahaffy, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed District Judge, Legal Department.

Mr. H. B. Johnston, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed Assistant Marine Biologist.

El Bimbashi G. G. Macdonald, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed Inspector of Agriculture.

Captain H. W. Bedford, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed Assistant Entomologist, Education Department.

El Bimbashi M. W. Gray, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed Inspector of Agriculture, for duty with the Resources Board.

El Bimbashi V. P. Walley, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed Inspector of Agriculture, for duty with the Resources Board.

El Bimbashi G. H. Corbet, transferred to the Sudan Government, is appointed Inspector of Agriculture, for duty with the Resources Board.

El Bimbashi J. Stevenson Hamilton, 2nd Inspector, Mongalla Province, has been appointed a Magistrate of the First Class under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

JACOMB.—On October 10, at Beni Swef, Egypt, the wife of E. Bernard Jacomb, Egyptian Irrigation Service, of a son.

MAUDE.—On Monday, September 24, 1917, at the Deaconesses Hospital, Cairo, the wife of J. Lupton Maude, of a son.

DEATHS.

ASKEW.—On October 5, drowned in Mediterranean by enemy submarine, Claude Arthur Cary Askew, Major, attached Serbian Army, and Alice, his wife.

COLLEY.—On October 5, in Egypt, Robert William Colley, of Cairo, only son of the late Robert Colley, of Paddington, and Mrs. Colley, Tunbridge Wells, aged 32.

VAN HORNE.—On September 20, at her residence, Schutz, Ramleh, Rebecca Ashton, wife of William Grant Van Horne.

NAILER.—On October 12, 1917, at 37, St. Michael's Road, Bedford, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. F. Nailer, late I.M.S. (retired). (Indian papers, please copy.)

OMAN.—On October 8, at Hill Side, Gibraltar, Niel Oman, Esq., M.D., Port Surgeon, aged eighty-two.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

COX.—Posted as missing on August 21 last, now reported killed on that date, Derek Percy Cox, Second Lieutenant, R.F.C., dearly-loved only son of Major-General Sir Percy Cox and Lady Cox, aged 21 years.

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1917.

THE ALLIES' WAR AIMS.

A spirit of misgiving is abroad which affects to have reason for supposing that the Allies, and in particular Great Britain, are turning over in their minds possible terms of peace with a view to hitting upon a decent minimum, rather than to insisting at all costs upon the ideal maximum. No definite grounds for the fears entertained are given, and we find it difficult to believe that they have any real justification. But that they exist, both in this country and among certain of the Allies, is evident, and in such circumstances no opportunity of exorcising them ought to be lost. It may be that more than was necessary has been read into omissions on the part of Government spokesmen when they have referred in general language to peace conditions. The aspirations of all the Allies now cover so much ground that it is almost impossible to enumerate them at length within the compass of a single speech. The ordinary speaker is tempted to confine his remarks to such points as will be as familiar to his audience as they are to himself. But a too frequent reiteration of the Allied aims in Western Europe without any detailed reference to the prospective settlement in the Near East is bound sooner or later to create misunderstanding. Such a stage would seem now to have been reached, with the result that here and there doubts are thrown on the Allies' resolve to see the war through to its logical and necessary conclusion. Mr. Asquith's latest speech will have served to correct this impression, but it ought to have been recognised that the Allied war aims have been set forth on several occasions. They were stated very definitley in the reply given to President Wilson when they were declared to include "the restitution of provinces formerly torn from the Ailies by force or against the wish of their inhabitants; the liberation of the Italians, as also of the Slavs, Roumanes, and Czecho-Slovaks from foreign domination; the setting free of the populations subject to the bloody tyranny of the Turks; and the turning out of Europe of the Ottoman Empire, as decidedly alien to Western civilisation." It is difficult to see how the Allies can recede from the determination thus clearly expressed. Until the details have to be worked out they may appear not to have realised the full significance of the undertaking given; but there can be no question, when it comes to the conclusion of peace, of their failing the natianalities to whom they are so solemnly pledged.

It would be especially unfortunate that, at a moment when the Roumanians are making, perhaps, their most valuable contribution to the Allied cause, they should be allowed to feel the least uncertainty in regard to the ultimate realization of their national aims. These entail "the liberation of . . . Roumanes . . . from foreign domination." The reference is primarily to the three and a-half million kinsfolk in Hungary and to a further quarter of a million in the Bukovina. There is no need here to labour the conditions under which the Roumanians in Transylvania have lived for many centuries, and more particularly during the last fifty years, when the sense of national unity with the kingdom across the Carpathians has been felt more strongly, and when, in the face of the suppression awaiting it in Hungary, all intellectual thought in "Romania Irredenta" was forode to seek refuge in Roumania, and served to kindle the feeling of solidarity between the two parts of the nation. Suffice it to say that for many decades the liberation of the Roumanians under the Austro-Hungarian yoke has been the main goal of Roumania's policy and provided the stimulus that prompted her to stake everything in a war on the side of the Entente. There should, therefore, be no more room for doubt in the mind of any Roumanian than there is among the Belgians that the end of the war will mean the realization of all their aims. It may be, indeed, that the Roumanians will even gain more than they had dared to expect. They entered the war without, as far as is known, any definite understanding in regard to Bessarabia. If Russia adheres to the intentions she now professes she may elect of her own volition to restore that province to Roumania, and thus to complete the union of a race which will form a homogeneous State of thirteen million people. In the case of the Southern Slavs there must be less cause for uncertainty in regard to the Allies' intentions; but the attainment of the national goal presents greater difficulties. A settlement has first to be reached with Italy, and then the details of a working federation among the various Jugoslav units have to be arranged. Steps have already been taken in both directions, in the negotiations between the Serbian Prime Minister and the Italian Government, and in the Corfu Agreement. A Southern Slav State is assured with the victory of the Allies; the only point in which it may disappoint some expectations may be in regard to its actual boundaries.

Until there is evidence to the contrary, we must suppose that the Allied Governments are satisfied that the success of the Grand Alliance spells the attainment of the national aims in greater or less degree for all concerned. It is, however, in the minds of the people that the misgivings have arisen; and while confirmation of them may be sought in the omissions in the speeches of public men, they will have been caused in the first instance by the misguided utterances of those who have set themselves to discover short-cuts to peace. The "peace without victory" theory still lingers in some quarters. For those who entertain it the war is to be brought to an end by bargaining, and naturally the aims in which they feel least interested are to be sacrificed in the attempt to let the enemy down lightly. Belgium is near enough to Great Britain to enable the seekers after an early peace to appreciate the desirability of complete restoration and reparation; the Serbians and Roumanians also provide instances of a people expelled from their own country, and so must be reinstated with or without compensation; some allowance is also made for France's prescriptive right to Alsace-Lorraine. Beyond these cardinal features all claims or aspirations are apt to be classed as imperialistic, and, therefore, to be ignored or sacrificed. The short-sightedness of such a view is, or ought to be, apparent. Apart from the fact that the feelings of exiled Belgians or Serbians have been hardly more harrowed than those of the Southern Slavs and Roumanians under the Austro-Hungarian yoke, there is the outstanding goal for the attainment of which all this blood and treasure have been shed for three long years. There can be no permanent peace in Europe until the nationalities whose sufferings under foreign domination have been a constant source of friction or unrest have been freed and left to work out their own political salvation. The liberation of Slavs and Czecho-Slovaks entails the break-up of Austria-Hungary, however much some people may wish to close their eyes to the fact. As the Dual Monarchy will only accept its fate when it has acknowledged defeat, it is foolishness to talk of peace until victory has been won in the field. Fortunately for the Allies, this break-up of Austria not only spells liberty and justice for subject nationalities, but supplies the needed guarantees for a long, if not permanent, peace. A Southern Slav State of twelve million inhabitants and a Greater Roumania of thirteen million will interpose so effective a barrier to Austro-German designs on the East and, through the East, on the peace of the world, that these consummations must necessarily figure in the forefront of the Allies' war aims.

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A PILGRIMAGE TO NICÆA.

THE CITY OF THE CREED AND THE CRUSADERS.

The East seems ever to have been the land of pilgrims and the place of pilgrimages. Jerusalem and Mecca, both within the borders of the Ottoman Empire (at least until recently) have called, and men have straightway set their faces towards them for centuries. It is like the call of the Spring, to which everything that has life must respond.

Nicæa, the special city of our springtime pilgrimage a few years ago, may be as the bird flies forty miles from Constantinople, but after the less buoyant fashion that men may travel it is reckoned some sixty miles from the old Byzantine capital. The easiest way to journey to it in these days is to cross the Bosphorus in the early morning, when the sun paints anew—always in rose colour—the domes and minarets of Santa Sophia and her alien sister mosques.

Just opposite Seraglio Point, on the Asian side, is the starting-place of the Anatolian railway, with trains not many times a day for points in Asia Minor and that further mysterious region we call The Interior. From this Haidar Pasha, once a part of old Chalcedon, "the city of the blind men" (for blind were they who first chose to locate a city here rather than where later was located Byzantium!) we set forth almost exactly in the path of the old caravan route to Baghdad. At pretty towns we frequently paused, with the Sea of Marmora, the Isles of Prinkipo, and later the Gulf of Nicomedia on the one side, and vine and olive-clad slopes on the other.

Our little company of pilgrims consisted of four persons, one of the four, happily, a historian. "You will notice," said he, "the great number of cemeteries along this route. A large part of them, I fancy, are pre-Turkish, the old burial-places being adopted by the successive races who have occupied this region. Were one to excavate here he would doubtless come across interesting Greek and Roman inscriptions."

Within two hours we reached the station of Guebzeh. Here below us, on a picturesque rock near the sea, were the ruins of an old castle and fortifications—all that a ruin should be, with towers and crumbling walls overgrown with ivy. "This we know little about," said our historian. "It was probably occupied by the Turks before and after the taking of Constantinople, and was evidently rebuilt by them from material of a building that already occupied the site." It was a one-time Byzantine fortress.

The town of Guebzeh was lost above us in a little hollow among the high hills some three miles from the station. But on one of the highest points in all this region stood two sombre patriarchal cypress trees darkly outlined against the warm sky. They mark the traditional site of Hannibal's tomb. History proves pretty clearly that the great Carthagenian (some call him a greater than Alexander who also came this way), wearied by battles and pursued by enemies both at home and abroad, after various wanderings gave up the fight at a city by these shores. Tradition says that he lies here, guarded by the two cypresses, those "only constant mourners of the dead," as Byron calls them. We are learning now to listen to tradition and find that it is often able to verify history. At any rate, in this instance both tradition and recent archæological research agree in locating Hannibal's last resting-place to this immediate region.

The train bore us on, past fields of flax, exquisitely blue of blossom, to Nicomedia, at the head of the gulf that bears, or once bore, its name. Now both are called Ismidt. Of the old Nicomedia, the once brilliant Roman capital and largest city of Asia Minor, so full of noteworthy buildings in Pliny's day, and still further ornamented by Justinian, where the Christians were persecuted by Diocletian, and where died Constantine the Great, there are very few remains. Nothing, however, can mar its incomparable site, and the Turkish town of to-day, while not imposing, is not unpleasing in its appearance.

From Ismidt the railroad runs along the shores of Lake Sebanja, and the high hills in the background have already grown to be mountains. Beyond the lake comes the broad and fertile valley of the Sangarius, over which stream Justinian built his famous bridge that bore, in effect, this inscription:—"Thou also . . . Sangarius . . . whose impetuous course is stayed by these arches—thou flowest now a servant of imperial labour, formerly rebellious to boats and formerly indomitable, now thou art girded by an inflexible stone." The river since that time has seen fit to change its course by a detour of many miles, but the bridge remains a very romantic and decorative, if not useful, specimen of Roman architecture to grace the landscape.

Through this valley of the Sangarius we swept by fields, ready for the opium gatherers, of white and purple poppies looking like huge tissue-paper flowers, and as if they ought to rustle as the breeze passed over them. Then for a short distance the mountains closed in upon the stream, by the side of which the railway ran, making a narrow winding cañon and lending a brief Swiss element to the landscape. Lastly, we came to Mekejeh, where we left the train and bargained with wild-looking picturesque men, wearing embroidered waistcoats, baggy trousers, and yards of gay silk belt holding grim weapons, for still more picturesque-looking *arabas*, or native wagons. Along with these arabas and their *arabajis* (drivers) usually go two or four mounted *zaptiehs* (guards), as for many years past these mountains have not been free from at least the suspicion of brigands. Our arabas being in readiness, and our bargaining quickly done, we began the long climb, up, up the mountains that separated the valley of the Sangarius from the valley of our desire on the other side. Looking below us we saw a little cluster of ruins, a tower and fortifications—our first real reminder of Crusader times, although we had come by a Crusader line of march.

Two hours more and we were on the summit of the pass! Away in the distance before us and below us lay a bit of shining surface that we knew to be Lake Ascanius. Nicæa, at its head, was still too distant to be discerned as a separate object in the landscape, but the mountains round about rose gloriously, full of colour and restful majesty. It was at twilight time that we descended into the valley—a valley that with its lake and surrounding heights made as fair a picture as ever a May-day afterglow and crescent moon could outline. It was Italian in colour and feeling; it was Asia Minor in its mystery and suggestion.

Isnik is the name by which Nicæa is called to-day. Its small population is Moslem and Greek, and of industries the cultivation of the silkworm furnishes the greater part. Its few hundred houses or mud huts have shrunken into the centre of the large space enclosed by the noble line of walls and towers; it is like a lonely, pitiful little dwarf trying to make a home in a great ruined palace. There were four gates leading into the city in the olden days; the Lefkeh gate, the Stamboul gate, the Yenishehr gate, and the water gate. We entered by the imposing Lefkeh gate or gates, for there are here three lines of walls, each with a characteristic entrance, through which an ancient aqueduct, one of the five aqueducts built by Justinian, still leads waters from the mountain to distribute in fountains and flowing streams throughout the town. Within the walls a lane running through cultivated fields and avenues of plane and mulberry trees led us into the narrow streets of the town, and to the house that was to shelter us for the night. The muezzin was making his last musical call to prayer from the minaret of the green mosque, the nightingales had begun their sweet, intermittent

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serenades, and the storks had flown home to their nests on roofs and ruined towers, there to stand as picturesque sentinels through the night. In the little courtyard of our hospitable, though primitive, Hotel de Nicée were gathered suggestive bits of marble-heads, torsos, and stones bearing inscriptions in a classic tongue. These were the first outward evening impressions of the four pilgrims to Nicæa.

In the morning, a morning all sunshine and warmth, came the question: "Where are we to begin? At what shrine were we first to pay tribute?"

"Let us climb some height that we may get a general outline of the walls, which are in point of architecture and preservation, together with those of Constantinople, the most interesting city walls in existence to-day!" said our historian.

A minaret set in the heart of the town seemed the nearest and likeliest vantage point, and this we climbed to find the little world we sought at our feet. There lay the complete circuit of the walls, with their massive gates and stately towers; here and there were a few breaks and openings to suggest battering armies and the successive sieges they have suffered from the Arabs, Greeks, and Latins. We soon came down from our winding citadel to make the acquaintance in detail of the walls, the gates, and the ruins of Santa Sophia, and to visit parts of the surrounding country. A second and broader general view was taken later from the hillside back of the town, where rests a part of a sarcophagus, cyclopean in size, of good workmanship, and belonging evidently to an early period. For whom it was made and for what place intended even tradition has no explanation. It was doubtless being borne to some other place and was left temporarily, and as it proved permanently, on this hillside to make another point of pilgrimage for Nicæa pilgrims.

But to return to some of Nicæa's monuments within the walls. To the north are the ruins of the old theatre. Lacking a hillside into which to build its raised seats, after the fashion of Greek and Roman theatres, those early architects went into the earth and built a foundation of sloping arches, still singularly well preserved. The large auditorium of the theatre itself is now appropriately overgrown with blossoming poppies—the flower of oblivion. Nearer the centre of the enclosure are the ruins of Nicæa's Santa, or rather, Agia Sophia, where that somewhat inglorious second Council of the Church was held in 787. It was during the reign of the Empress Irene, and as the circumstances connected with it are somewhat romantic as well as interesting, I will briefly tell the story:—

During the seventh and eighth centuries Christianity was the religion of the State. The populace had been ordered to become Christians; but the Christianity they adopted and the paganism they abandoned became strangely interwoven. They carried their pagan forms into the new religion, and image-worship showed signs of being as conspicuous a feature in the new as it had been in the old faith. This was especially the case, as might have been expected, in Greece. The opponents of the new idolatry, known as the iconoclasts or image-breakers, were strongest in Constantinople. The advent of Irene to the throne greatly discouraged them. She was a bright Greek girl, had been brought up in Athens, and was greatly addicted to the semi-pagan practices which the iconoclasts opposed. When she failed to win over the opposing faction in Constantinople to her side (they were the puritans of her age, and would have no kind of picture or image-worship), she accepted the proposal to have a council of the Universal Church in the capital in order to arrive at an authoritative decision. Bishops came from all parts of the Christian world and met in Santa Sophia—in Constantinople's unsurpassed Santa Sophia. When the iconoclast population learned that the majority appeared opposed to the iconoclast reformation, they met in the hippodrome and attacked the members of the council. Thereupon Irene, wilful lady and Sovereign, suggested that the sittings should be transferred to Nicæa. The proposal was gladly accepted. Probably the fame of the great Council of 325 had much to do with the choice of Nicæa as a debating ground. At any rate, to this city they came, and the place where they met was in this early church of Agia Sophia. In that day it was a stately well-proportioned building; a basilica in shape, but with a dome which in this respect marks an epoch in Byzantine architecture. At the present time its ruined walls furnish homes for nesting storks—the patron bird of Asia Minor. It seems also to be the haunt of wandering dervishes, and of beggars with claims on one's sympathies that cannot be denied. But before passing on to the description of the Nicæa of to-day I must not fail to say that the decision arrived at by Irene's Council was that while paintings might be allowed in the churches to aid in the devotions, sculptured images were forbidden.

Quite near to the Lefkeh gate is the Yeshil Jami, the green mosque, built in the golden days of Seljukian art by a grand vizier of Murad I. Its graceful minaret with the green tiles, the charming façade with its columns bearing ornate and original capitals, the delicate carving observable throughout the whole exterior, make it one of the rarest specimens of architecture of its kind in all Asia Minor. Indeed, it is the one artistic building, together with its *medresseh* and *imâret*, that is left to grace the Nicæa of to-day.

MARY A. POYNTER.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CAROB TREE IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In my last letter allusion was made to the difficulties encountered in carrying out the Agricultural Department's instructions in dealing with carob disease.

My experience in the year 1916 bears out my contention that the combat cannot be carried on with success if entrusted to the peasant proprietors alone. For my own part, I devoted my whole time to the work from the middle of August to the end of September. I sweltered in the sunshine and the heat, and personally watched those engaged in cleaning the trees. I found that men only were useless, for they could not move along the branches and pick off the blossom. I employed small boys, with a man who remained on the ground, who cleaned what was within his reach and directed operations generally. Let me quote from the Government "Gazette":—"Owners of carob trees shall remove all carob beans suffering from plant disease as well as all flowers, and the bare axes from which stunted fruit may have fallen. All such beans, flowers and axes shall be knocked off and the fruit forthwith collected and burned or buried in quicklime."

The work was carried on for forty days, as prescribed by law, and yet some trees were untouched. To knock off flowers in October would have meant absolute loss of next year's crop. I may here say that the trees which were not taken in hand produced as large a crop in 1917 as in 1916. The evidence of my own eyes is that all the blossom knocked off in September does not come again, and the conclusion is that a diminished crop in the succeeding year follows the faithful carrying out of the official instructions.

My crop of carobs for 1917 was very much smaller than that of 1916. Some trees which had been rigidly stripped of blossom during the month of September produced scarcely any fruit. My armament for carrying on the campaign consisted of a forester's ladder, a step-ladder 12 ft. in height and a wheelbarrow. These were all required in order to reach certain parts of the trees, and even with their assistance it was impossible to reach all of them.

G. L. H.

Cyprus, September 25, 1917.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Political Parties in Bulgaria.

An Austrian writer has recently given the readers of the *Pester Lloyd* a diagnosis of politics and political parties in Bulgaria. He has little that is new to say on the subject, but the source of the commentary makes it of interest. Probably he has been at pains to represent the Bulgarians as being a little more politically inclined than they really are. Formerly the main concern of the peasant was his own land, and he was content to leave politics mainly to the few who made a living out of it. Whether five years of war has changed all that must remain for the present an open question.

I have counted ten parties, eight of which represent the *bourgeois* section. What of their programmes? The Bulgarian is a patriot to the tips of his fingers, and a conscious defender of the people's rights. The ancient nobility disappeared completely during the five centuries of Turkish rule, and a new one has as yet scarcely appeared. The land and all movable property are still equally distributed, 99 per cent. of the arable land being occupied by small holdings of thirty acres. Industry is in its infancy. The towns, Sofia excepted, are without importance. The rich in the land are not very rich, the poor are not very poor. The economic disparity between them is, therefore, not too great. There are no Church questions, no national problems clamouring for solution. Eighty per cent. of the inhabitants of the kingdom are Bulgars. The 12 per cent. Turks side willy-nilly with the Government, and the rest are scattered and powerless. Universal, direct, and secret suffrage has long been introduced. Everybody in the country, even the Social Democrats, are Imperialists as regards Dobrudja and Macedonia. What, then, constitutes the standard of these parties? Liberals, Democrats, Nationalists, Progressives, or Radicals—the names are arbitrarily chosen, and might be exchanged without loss or gain to the meaning of the term. All the *bourgeois* parties pursue the same aim in internal policy, viz., the preservation and extension of the people's rights—one sole aim. Even with regard to the means for attaining their object, all these parties are absolutely in agreement, and it is impossible to discern the slightest shade of difference between them; there is certainly now and again a slight difference between the parties as regards their attitude towards Russia. The Russophil parties will have to adopt a more or less fresh orientation after the Russian Revolution; up to date nothing has happened. But even this one apparent standard—Russophil or Russophobe—has dropped completely into the background since the Balkan war, and almost disappeared since Bulgaria's entry into the world war. But, you will ask me, are there, then, any political conflicts whatsoever in Bulgaria? Indeed there are, and very violent ones too. There are no parties, as we understand the term; but there are "clans," coteries, groups and affinities, and these fight each other with the greatest fury. Everybody belongs, father and son, to the political following of some chief or other—practically everybody. You scarcely ever meet anybody who is politically indifferent. The uniformity of their programmes explains the political behaviour of these "clans." The Opposition sharply criticises the methods of the party in office, and even the Tsar, so long as it bears none of the responsibility itself. But when the Opposition comes into power—which generally happens at the end of a few years—then the boot is on the other leg, and it employs the same methods which it had criticised in the preceding Government. A change of Government does not mean any change in the internal policy of the country.

War Weariness in Bulgaria.

Under the above heading a correspondent in *The Times* discusses the present situation in Bulgaria. His remarks are a very direct challenge to those who have searched the Bulgarian Press in vain for sentiments friendly to the Entente, and infer from that fact that all the Bulgarians stand solidly behind the Government.

The present situation in Bulgaria is worth some attention. The extreme unpopularity of the Radoslavoff Government, which has been in power for the past four years, seems to be approaching a critical point. This Government, it must be remembered, has never really been more than a Court clique of singularly corrupt politicians maintained in power by the King. Two years of war have left it with scarcely a shred of respect or authority.

* * * * * * *

The fact which gives this situation a more than domestic interest is that the Radoslavoff Government is practically the only genuinely pro-German element in Bulgaria. It is well known, of course, that the Bulgarian people as a whole were never quite in favour of the German connection. Indeed, it was this knowledge which, perhaps more than anything else, misled the Entente diplomatists in 1915. If the nation had been consulted in advance, directly or indirectly, it is doubtful whether it would ever have sanctioned an alliance either with Germany or with Turkey. The accomplished fact it did accept, on the explicit assurance of the Government that by that and by no other means it would be possible to realise quickly and at a small sacrifice the dream of "National Union"—that is to say, the recovery of the Macedonian lands which were lost to Bulgaria through her wicked blunder in making the second Balkan war. The pro-Entente and neutralist parties were not able to hold out any equally definite hope. The King and Radoslavoff got their way.

"War weariness" has been brought about by other circumstances than the maintenance of the army in the field for two years. It is realised, according to the writer in *The Times*, that Germany is not going to be victorious, and that a permanent settlement, therefore, in accordance with Bulgaria's aims can only be obtained by the consent of her present enemies, and that this consent will never be given to the Allies of Germany. There is also the feeling that Germany is preparing for a settlement that will not lay much stress on Bulgarian aspirations. To these fears "there is added the still deeper exasperation caused by the notorious corruption of the Government." The author of the article betrays no propagandist tendencies. He does not even suggest the possibility of detaching Bulgaria from her alliance. His summing up is as follows:—

In the natural course of events, it seems likely that very shortly after the meeting of the Sobranye Radoslavoff will be defeated and will resign, and the Opposition will be called upon to form a Government. What the policy of the new Government will be it would be rash to attempt to prophesy. It depends amongst other things, of course, upon the extent to which the parties of the Extreme Left are represented. But the change may be real and important, with consequences as unwelcome to Germany as they would be welcome to the overwhelming majority of the Bulgarian people and the Bulgarian Army.

Sidelights on Turkish History.

There is a striking article on the Armenian question in the *Fortnightly Review* from the pen of Ismail Kemal Bey, at one time President of the Provisional Government of Albania. He analyses Abdul Hamid's hatred of the Armenians, and attributes it to the fact that the ex-Sultan felt that he had no control over the evolution of his Christian subjects. Considering everything that had been accomplished in the way of reform or high politics during the time of his father and his predecessors as being misfortunes for the dynasty and the Empire, Abdul Hamid looked askance at the Christians, who frequented the foreign educational establishments, who travelled and carried on constant relations with Europe and America, and who would be the very people to press for reforms. He therefore believed it necessary to exterminate the Armenians in order to prevent the contagion of liberal ideas in the empire. As for the courage necessary to do what he did in regard to the Armenians, this, Ismail Kemal Bey considers, Abdul Hamid derived from a formal and secret understanding with Alexander II., "by which the Sultan undertook to give up his right—which had been guaranteed by the Treaty of Berlin—to occupy militarily the passes of the Balkans, while the Tsar engaged to defend the Sultan and his throne against all aggression from without or uprising within the empire."

After the first massacre the Sultan, relying on this agreement, felt strong enough to reject the British demands for Armenian reforms. But he made certain promises, and proceeded in a thoroughly characteristic manner to pretend to give effect to them. But the British Ambassador, Sir Philip Currie, was not to be put off in this way. The Sultan then put forward an alternative scheme of reform, but did nothing to carry out the proposals. On September 30, 1895, the Armenians held a pacific demonstration before the Palace and the Porte. Massacres followed. Ultimately the Ambassadors, including the Russian and French, were stirred to action. The former conceived the idea of doubling the stationary vessels which each Ambassador had a right to have at Constantinople, and to disembark a contingent of troops from each. This proposal scared the Sultan. Ismail Kemal Bey was summoned to avert the danger, and secured Abdul Hamid's consent to certain reforms which would have satisfied the Powers. At midnight he went to the house of Sir Adam Block, the first dragoman, and together they went to the Embassy to see Sir Michael Herbert, who had already retired for the night. Ismail Kemal Bey continues his narrative as follows:—

We had a long conversation, which, unfortunately, bore no fruit. I did all I could to try to persuade the Chargé d'affaires that it was a unique occasion to profit by the Sultan's disposition to grant what would never be obtained from him in other circumstances, which would assure real government to the country and establish order throughout.

It seemed to me there was no danger in this time believing in the sincerity of the Sultan. If the next day his Majesty's decision was realised, the result would have been far and above all the advantages that one could hope to obtain from the presence of five warships before the Golden Horn. But it was impossible for Sir Michael Herbert to make up his mind to submit the matter immediately and confidentially to Lord Salisbury. In face of this obstinacy, I then advised Sir Michael, no longer in the capacity of a messenger of the Sultan, but in my private capacity as a patriot, to allow the whole fleet, which was then at Lemnos, to enter Constantinople Harbour, and to force on the Sultan the will of Great Britain, whose only object was salvation for the empire and peace for her people. But after five hours of conversation I was compelled to return to the palace and announce that my mission had

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failed. Thus, through the lack of decision of this diplomat, once more a great opportunity for Turkey was lost.

I deeply regret the absence on that occasion of Sir Philip Currie. If he had been at Constantinople that night the opportunity would not have been lost, and the affairs of the East would have taken on an entirely different aspect for the good of everybody. But there is a fatality in affairs which cannot be averted, and events take the course prescribed by destiny. The vessels arrived, and the Sultan's apprehensions were not realised. But, in spite of the warships, the trouble and the massacres continued, and Europe thought no more of them.

THE DEPOPULATION OF SERBIA.

The Serbian Press Bureau at Corfu has issued the following: —"The Bulgarians and Germans are carrying off our population even into Asia Minor, especially to the Konia district, where there are now a large number of Serbians and Italians. They are beginning to deport thither numbers of women and children, but especially the male population, since the Bulgarians desire to denude the country of as many men as possible. The Serbian Government took the necessary steps to obtain the cessation of the deportations to Asia Minor, but Bulgarian official circles always declared that no such deportations had ever taken place. The wife of a Dutch newspaper correspondent who recently arrived at The Hague from Nish declares that absolute panic prevails at Nish and in the environs. Nearly all the adults are interned, the robberies and pillaging are indescribable, and the dearness of living passes belief. In spite of all this, everyone believes that the Allies will be victorious."

Mr. Henry Riggs, an American missionary, returned from Kharput, in Asia Minor, confirms the apparent purpose of the Turks to exterminate the Armenian race, says Reuter's New York correspondent. The killing off of the men, he says, is practically complete. He saw skeletons by thousands on the roadside when he finally left Kharput. The air in the vicinity was foul from the dead bodies. Women and children were more like wolves than human beings. Babies were buried with their mothers, who had succumbed to their privations, and often women threw their own children into the Euphrates, lest a worse fate should befall them.

DEATH OF MAJOR AND MRS. ASKEW.

We regret to announce the death, by drowning in the Mediterranean, of Major Claude Arthur Cary Askew and Mrs. Askew. Their vessel was attacked by a submarine on October 5. Major and Mrs. Askew had achieved considerable fame as novelists and writers of short stories. "The Shulamite," their first novel, which came out in 1904, and was dramatised and produced at the Savoy in 1906, attracted much attention. It proved the first of a long series of publications, in all of which Major and Mrs. Askew acted in collaboration. They were married in 1900, Mrs. Askew being the eldest surviving daughter of the late Colonel Henry Leake, of the 44th and 70th Regiments. During the war both Major Askew and his wife had been in Serbia, Major Askew being attached to the Serbian Army, and only a little over a year ago their book, "The Stricken Land," was published, giving a striking account of their experiences while with the Serbian Army in its retreat from Prishtina to Alessio. They are survived by two children.

BUST OF EARL KITCHENER.

The War Office was the scene of an interesting ceremony on October 15, when Mr. Richard Belt, the sculptor, presented to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund Committee a gun-metal bust of the late Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, which he has recently executed. Among those present at the function were Sir George Arthur, Private Secretary to the late Field Marshal; Mr. H. T. Creedy, Hon. Secretary to the Lord Kitchener National Memorial Fund; Sir Reginald Brade, representing the Army Council; and personal friends and comrades of Lord Kitchener. The bust, which stands on an oak pedestal panelled with laurel leaves, has been placed at the head of the grand staircase leading from the entrance hall to the upper floor. In presenting his work Mr. Belt said:—"I did it so that future generations should know the features of the soldier at whose call the great army of free men rallied and bravely left these shores to fight and die for the oppressed, for humanity, and for justice." In accepting the gift and its custody on behalf of the Army Council, Sir Reginald Brade thanked the sculptor for his generosity, congratulated him on the excellence of the likeness he had produced, and declared he could think of no more fitting site for the bust than the office in which Lord Kitchener performed his crowning work.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

The new financial agreement which is reported to have been arrived at between Germany and Turkey lends added point to my comments last week. I then pointed out that Germany had contrived to satisfy Turkish requirements by merely nominal financial transactions, and that since the first loan of £T5,000,000 no gold had actually passed between Berlin and Constantinople. The present transaction is very much on a par with those which have preceded it. Germany, it is stated, will deposit with the Ottoman Public Debt Exchequer bonds to the value of £T50,000,000, against which the Turkish Government will issue paper money for the same amount. The new issue can hardly have any appreciable effect on the financial position, as Turkey's credit already stands at such a low ebb that paper money is worth only about 30 per cent. of its face value, but the transaction will have the effect of giving Germany one more lever with which to control the economic future of the country after the war.

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Judging by a remarkable article which appeared recently in the *Preporetz*, I imagine that the Bulgarian Government was of the opinion that, in view of the approaching meeting of enemy Sovereigns in Sofia, it was expedient to issue a reminder to their allies of the nature of the obligations they had undertaken with regard to Bulgaria. The article is not couched in exactly felicitous terms. There are some very tactless references to Austria's financial condition, while one or two sentences rather suggest the blackmailer approaching an unwilling victim. However, Bulgaria doubtless knows her allies well enough to appreciate the kind of sentiment that will appeal to them; and even if they desired to do so, Bulgaria is sufficiently indispensable to them to be secure from the administration of the mildest of rebukes.

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As I think it will interest my readers, I give the most piquant portion of the article. Commencing with the soothing remark that Austro-Hungarian banknotes have lost much of their value, owing to the low metallic reserve, the *Preporetz* continues:—"For some fourteen milliards of Hungarian notes in circulation the deposit in the State Bank hardly reaches one milliard. The result of this is that one kilogramme of gold is at present worth in Budapest over 14,000 crowns, whereas in July, 1914, the value was not more than 3,280 crowns. As for ourselves, the financial situation is better, considering that we hold pledges from our allies that all our war expenditure will be reimbursed by them by means of long term loans at a very low rate of interest. Glued to the backs of our great allies, the possibility is before us of holding out to the end of the war without fear of bankruptcy."

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In view of the deplorable state in which Greek finances were left by the old régime, it was only to be expected that, sooner or later, the Government would have recourse to a loan to meet their obligations; and the decision to issue a 6 per cent. loan for payments connected with requisitioning and war material will therefore occasion no surprise. It is not improbable that the present issue will form the forerunner of a larger loan. There is much to be said for this method of coping with the financial situation; for whatever the position of the State finances, there is no question that in various parts of Greece much wealth has been amassed during the war. Shipping firms, for instance, have enjoyed great prosperity, and for other undertakings too the war has not been without its compensations. In this connection it will be remembered that M. Negropontes, in his Budget speech, referred "to those classes whose fortunes have disproportionately increased during the war."

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The extent to which Germany and her ally made use of the raw materials of the Empire in the work of preparation for the coming struggle is even now scarcely realised. The British Empire Producers' Organisation provides an apt illustration of the process as regards India's exports of raw leather. "From 1911-1913," says the organisation, "the normal export of Indian cow hides to Hamburg and Bremen was about 3½ millions per annum, but in the first six months of 1914 the figures to these two ports were over 2 1-3 millions. In addition, Austria used to take normally nearly 1½ million Indian cow hides through Trieste, and in the first six months of 1914 took over 1,178,000. In three and a half years before the war these enemy ports together took from India nearly 19½ millions of cow hides. Allowing 50 per cent. for the leather exported from Germany for sale after tanning, enough Indian leather to make over thirteen million pairs of Army boots per year was retained in the two countries. In addition, out of Indian buffalo hides exported to Germany and Austria, enough were retained to make over fourteen million pairs of Army boots per year."

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The figures for the export trade of Morocco for 1915 and 1916 show very clearly the remarkable development of the country in recent years. Of barley, for example, the chief grain export of Morocco, while the exports in 1914 were only 168,300 kilos, in 1916 the total was 121,080,900 kilos. Wheat exports in the same period advanced from 400 kilos to 31,043,300 kilos, maize from 409,400 kilos to 17,124,400 kilos, and beans from 44,700 kilos to 13,983,600 kilos. What this advance in trade has meant to the ports of Morocco may be seen from the description given elsewhere in this issue of the recent progress of Casablanca, the chief port in the French zone. And the process that is taking place at Casablanca is being repeated, though on a smaller scale, at other ports on the coast.

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Almost every day some fresh evidence comes to hand with regard to the thorough nature of the preparations which Germany is making with a view to securing her economic position in the Balkans after the war. The latest indications are furnished by the activities of the Deutsche Bank, which has just established a branch at Bucharest, and will open another at Sofia very shortly. Before the war the German and Austrian banks played a very important part in securing the trade predominance of those Powers in the Balkans, and it is evident that the end of the war will find this means of commercial predation greatly extended. Fortunately there are signs that, even if they are permitted to resume their operations with the same freedom as before, which is very unlikely, these banks will not have the field quite so much to themselves. To say nothing of the British Trade Corporation, we have the prospective formation of a trade bank with branches in Serbia and Greece, and there is every reason for thinking that this will be by no means the only enterprise undertaken with a view to facilitating trade relations between Great Britain and her Allies in the Balkans.

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A statement was recently issued by the Roumanian Legation here which throws a very interesting light on German methods in the occupied territory of Roumania. It seems that the German administration there has granted to the Banque Générale of Bucharest the right to issue notes—a right which belongs only to the Banque Nationale de Roumanie. At the same time, the property of the latter bank in Bucharest has been seized, and out of the proceeds loans have been granted to district councils to the value of 250,000,000 lei. "The Banque Nationale de Roumanie being a private establishment, and its capital belonging to the shareholders," the statement continues, "all principles of private and public right are gravely infringed by the unprecedented measures thus taken by the German authorities. For this reason the General Council of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie protest energetically against such measures, and consider it necessary to draw the attention of the foreign Governments to the judicial consequences which might result for the subjects of Allied and neutral countries should they take a part in the financial transactions made with the property of the Banque Nationale de Roumanie by the German authorities in the occupied parts of Roumania."

COMMENTATOR

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SUDAN TRADE DURING 1916.

Promising Development.

While it may not be quite correct to say that the war has meant the economic salvation of the Sudan it is at least certain that the period covered by the struggle has been for that territory one of most remarkable progress. After the record trade year of 1911 when the external trade amounted to £E3,779.526, trade returns showed a steady decline until in 1914 the figures only amounted to £E3,056,530. It might naturally have been expected that the war would have meant the continuance, if not the acceleration of this decline, but so far from this being the case the external trade for 1915 totalled £E3.498,831, while the figures for the year just passed amounted to £E5,254,087, by far the highest total on record. For the present year we have the figures to the end of July, which show that this gratifying progress has not only been maintained but actually improved. The imports for that period amounted to £E1.709,604 as against £E1.324.922 in 1916, while the corresponding figures for exports are £E2,255,523 and £E1,612.849. In other words imports have increased by 29 per cent., and exports by nearly 40 per cent. It will be evident from this increase that it will not be necessary for the results for the remaining five months to be unduly favourable for the trade returns of 1917 to be far better than those of 1916. The significance of this trade advance will be better appreciated when it is borne in mind that as recently as 1902 the external trade of the Sudan only totalled £E2.135,004. Presuming that the figures for 1917 will be in the neighbourhood of £E7,000,000, as seems very probable, it means that within a brief period of ten years trade has increased by something like 350 per cent.!

This striking economic advance lends special interest to the annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for 1916. In that year, as we have already noted, trade returns were the best on record, and as war conditions may be held to have had a fairly stable effect during the period, an examination of the year's trade should afford some interesting data as to the country's economic development in the future.

Exports and Imports.

Exports amounted in 1916 to £E2,238,403, and imports to £E2,661,468 a very substantial increase on previous figures. In both cases, however, the rise in prices has to be taken into consideration in comparing the totals with those of previous years. How far this factor may be held to have operated may be judged from the statement in the report that at values ruling in 1913 imports in 1916 would have been worth only £E1,913,916. On the same basis exports in 1916 would have been worth £E2.148,613, though in this case it is pointed out that the comparison would be misleading owing to the exceptional prices of agricultural produce in the Sudan in 1913 due to the drought. Happily there are other and far more satisfactory causes than increased prices to account for the improved trade returns. As regards exports there was a considerable increase in quantity of the chief products, notably gum arabic, dura, sesame, and dates and camels, while in the lists of imports, with a few exceptions, almost all articles show an increase. In the latter case an important factor in the enhanced figures is the increased value of Government imports.

The balance of trade was not so favourable in 1916 as in the previous year. In 1915 the value of exports exceeded the net value of imports, while in 1916 there was a balance of imports over exports of £E145.953. The annexed table, given in the report, shows the ratio between imports and exports (not including re-exports), since 1908 :—

1908	the value of exports was	27·2%	of value of imports		
1909	,,	,,	37·9%	,,	,,
1910	,,	,,	50·6%	,,	,,
1911	,,	,,	60·5%	,,	,,
1912	,,	,,	69·7%	,,	,,
1913	,,	,,	56·1%	,,	,,
1914	,,	,,	53·9%	,,	,,
1915	,,	,,	92·5%	,,	,,
1916	,,	,,	85·9%	,,	,,

In 1917, judging by the marked increase in the exports for the first seven months, there should once again be a balance over the imports.

The early effects of the war on the trade of the Sudan are too well known to need recapitulation. There was a natural restriction of demand, combined with a growing shortage of shipping. Fortunately for the prosperity of the country, neither of these difficulties has proved insurmountable, for as it happens, the annual rainfall during the war has been so plentiful that produce has been forthcoming for export in abundance. Consequently, says the report, the principal economic problem has lain in the question as to the most effective method of disposing of this produce. The war itself may be said to have done much to solve this problem. For instance, there is now a strong and, it may be added, a growing demand abroad for dura, the principal food grain of the native population. Thus, while in 1915 46,000 tons of this commodity were exported, principally to Eritrea and Arabia, the quantity being 14,000 tons in advance of previous figures, in 1916 there were demands for dura from England and France and elsewhere, and the exports rose to 56,000 tons. In this connection it is interesting to note that the opinion is expressed that "this opening for dura overseas should remain good for years to come, and even when the world's production of cereals has returned to the normal there will still be opportunities for the sale of dura in England, provided it can be put on the market at a competitive price."

Trade with Egypt.

The conditions under which the war is being waged naturally tend to accentuate the connection between countries with adjoining land frontiers, and one result of the war has been to demonstrate beyond question the value of the Sudan to Egypt as a source of food supplies. Great stress is laid on this aspect in the report, in which it is stated that "in order to augment food supplies in Egypt large areas in the Northern Sudan are being put as fast as possible under wheat cultivation by means of pump irrigation. The total area aimed at is 20,000 acres, but success this season depends on whether the pumps and engines arrive in time. This enterprise is seriously hindered by being undertaken in war time. It is purely an emergency measure, and it is to be regarded as an effort undertaken on imperial grounds as a contribution to the Empire's food supply."

One of the Sudan's principal exports to Egypt is livestock. In 1916 the exports of livestock were smaller than in 1915, partly because of cattle disease, but chiefly because Egypt has been drawing on its internal resources. Obviously, that process cannot continue indefinitely, and it is fully recognised, it is stated, that Egypt will soon be almost entirely dependent on the Sudan for its meat supply, and that special measures are being taken to prepare for that eventuality.

An Imperial Trade.

One aspect of the Sudan trade, and that the most important of all, still remains to be dealt with, and that is that both as regards exports and imports the trade is to an increasing extent carried on within the Empire. Thus, in 1916 the exports to British territory were £E1,718,198, representing 75 per cent. of the total exports, as against £E1,077,505 in 1915, representing 68 per cent., and £E701,977 in 1914, representing 69 per cent. There was a large increase also in imports from British territory. In 1916 the figures were £E2,241,888, representing 88 per cent. of the total imports, as against £E1,405,489 in 1915. It may be mentioned in conclusion that there is no reason to regard this increase of British trade as being in any way due to the withdrawal of enemy competition. As a matter of fact, the Sudan was probably as free from the commercial penetration of Germany and her Ally as any part of the British possessions. Nothing can better illustrate this than the fact that in 1913 the total imports from Germany, Austria, and Turkey only amounted to £E121,033 out of an import trade valued at £E2,109,476.

The Deutsche Bank has opened a branch in Bucharest.

ADEN AS A CANDLE MARKET.

For the following particulars of the Aden import trade in candles we are indebted to a report of the United States Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard :—

Aden normally imports about $20,000 worth of paraffin wax candles per year. Nearly half of the average imports are sent to the various markets in this commercial district which are served by Aden. Owing to the restriction of trade with many of these markets the imports of candles have steadily declined in amount and value since the year before the war. The average annual imports for the past five years have been 235,755 lb., valued at $16,164. The imports for 1916 amounted to 148,544 lb., valued at $9,882, which is less than two-thirds of the amount and value imported in 1913, the last year before the war. The market is supplied mainly from British India. The two principal importers, one a French and the other an American firm, get their candles from the Burma Oil Company and from the Indo-Burma Petroleum Company respectively. Great Britain, France and Holland supply certain fancy and special kinds of candles.

Popular Brands.

The two most popular brands sold here are the "Fez" and the "Cock and Key" respectively. The former brand is packed eight candles to the package, which weighs 13 ozs. The candles are 6½ ins. long. There are 100 packages to the case. A case weighs about 75 lb. The latter brand is packed also eight candles to the package, but the candles are 6¼ ins. long, and a package weighs 12 ozs. There are 100 packages to the case. The "Fez" brand sold before the war at Rs. 19 per case, and the latest price quoted is Rs. 37½ per case. The "Cock and Key" brand sold before the war at Rs. 16, and the latest price quoted is Rs. 31 per case. A brand of candles that is used principally for carriage lamps is imported from Holland. These candles retail in Aden at 22 cents per packet of eight candles, which is 12 cents more than the pre-war price.

Market Requirements.

The "Fez" brand is popular with the Mohammedan natives on account of its trademark. Retailers suggest as possible trade marks for other brands which may be introduced, a green flag, a camel, a horse, or an Arab or Somali dressed in native costume. The name or description of the mark should be in Arabic. The packets of candles most widely sold here are wrapped in strong indigo-blue paper, and any new brands introduced should be similarly wrapped. Local merchants would like a candle weighing a little less to the package and with a smaller number of packages to the case. The small shopkeeper usually buys by the case, and he prefers not to buy so large a case at one time. The local importer or jobber woud find it easier to sell 50-package cases than to sell cases of 100 packages. Candles intended for sale in this market should be made to stand the very hot climate without becoming soft. Cases of candles exported to markets off the coast are carried by pack animals and exposed sometimes for days to the direct rays of a very hot sun. Candles are used by the better class of natives for ordinary lighting purposes. There is also a large demand for use in the various mosques. Considerable quantities of candles are also said to be used in the Arabian interior and in Abyssinia for the adulteration of beeswax. One exporter in Aden is said to have received from the interior a few years ago a large quantity of beeswax which he found to be 40 per cent. adulteration with candles.

The largest quantities of candles exported from Aden go to Abyssinia. The next largest quantity is exported to the Yemen, and to other Asiatic Red Sea Provinces. Smaller quantities go to the British and Italian Somalilands. Considerable quantities are sent in some years to Port Sudan. The fact that all of these places export beeswax may be of some significance in their importance as markets for candles.

Reuter's Baku correspondent in a message dated October 13, says :—The general strike in the naphtha district continues. The town is calm. The theatres and cafés have been closed by the strikers.

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LANCASHIRE COTTON.

An Active Demand.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Although business in the market has been rather irregular demand has continued active and many producers have again tended to strengthen their position. Prices are on a very high level, but there are few indications of easier rates in the near future. Very mixed reports are being received as to the outlook for the American crop. The Egyptian growth continues to make steady progress. Certain qualities are much more plentiful than others. The official estimate of the yield should come to hand within the next week or two. Egyptian yarns have again been in healthy request. Freer buying has occurred in 62's and 82's weft. The coarser counts in carded descriptions are now doing better. Producers engaged on fine numbers have nothing to complain about. Encouraging advices have been received from Egypt with regard to the distribution of piece-goods, the difficulty at the moment is to get cloths abroad. Fair buying has taken place in anticipation of future wants. Rather more business has been done for the West Coast of Africa in a variety of fabrics. India has provided plenty of orders in dhooties and printing cloths, and there are now indications of increased activity in grey shirtings. Manufacturers have presented a stiffer front to buyers than for a long time back. Prices in American yarns have again tended to harden. Quick delivery in superior marks have commanded very full rates. The sales have again been encouraging. A few more lines have been booked in fine yarns for India. Shippers to Egypt are making representations to the Government, through the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, to provide more boats to that outlet.

EGYPTIAN COTTON RESTRICTION.

A Lancashire Protest.

The Council of the Oldham Chamber of Commerce have sent a protest to the Foreign Office of the Board of Trade in regard to the proposed reduction of the cotton crop acreage in Egypt, which the Council considers a most serious matter for the trade of Lancashire. In regard to Indian raw cotton, Mr. R. H. Jackson, of Messrs. Hoyle and Jackson, Primrose Bank and Chamber Mills, Oldham, and a Vice-Chairman of the Master Cotton Spinners' Association, has informed the Council that he had seen samples of Indian cotton, but they were practically of no use to Lancashire, the staple being too short. The Secretary, Mr. J. C. Atkins, was instructed to write the Imperial Institute for the samples, and Mr. R. H. Jackson and Mr. C. C. Newton, manager of the Lion Mill Co., Royton, were appointed to examine the same and present a report to a future meeting.

EGYPT'S FINANCES.

Improved Figures for June.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, Sept. 21.

The State accounts for the first quarter of the financial year have just been published, and give figures which reveal an improvement on the corresponding period of last year. Revenue amounts to £E5,063,868, and expenditure to £E4,826,454, as compared with £E4,591,290 and £E4,781,351 respectively. Revenue has, therefore, improved by £E472,578, and expenditure, in spite of the increased cost of everything, has only risen by £E45,103. There is, as a result, a surplus of £E237,414, as against a deficit of £E190,061 at the end of June, 1916. On both sides of the account are included the Ghaffir receipts and expenditure, which did not figure in the Budget last year. The Ghaffir tax shows, so far, a surplus; but even taking that into consideration, this year's figures for the first quarter are a decided improvement on those for the June quarter of 1916.

Chief Increases.

During the month the principal items on the revenue side were:—Land tax, £E574,672; Customs, £E229,497; tobacco dues, £E159,498; judicial fees, £E114,634; railways, £E363,274; Ghaffir cess, £E106,774. For the quarter, land tax shows an increase of £E113,794; Mixed Courts fees, one of £E41,080; Domains receipts, one of £E25,223; and sundry miscellaneous receipts, one of £E75,580. The main decreases are:—Tobacco dues, £E162,442; railways, £E30,070, and interest on investments, £E21,440. The chief items of expenditure during the month were:—Irrigation, £E99,240; railways, £E253,878; War Office, £E66,877; Ghaffirs, £E62,181. Compared with last year, expenditure on irrigation has risen by £E19,649, but that on railways and the Egyptian War Office has decreased by £E202,103 and £E32,095 respectively.

INDIA GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The following statement shows the form in which the balance of the reserve was held on the 30th ultimo:—In India—Gold, £15,000. In England—Cash placed by the Secretary of State at short notice £6,062,154, British and Colonial Government securities (value on 30th ultimo) £27,431,499, together £33,493,653, making a total of £33,508,653.

The Aboukir Company has received a telegram from Egypt stating:—"Sold 3,000 kantars of cotton on satisfactory terms."

The directors of the South Indian Railway Company, Ltd., have decided to pay a final dividend of 1 per cent., less income-tax, from surplus profits on January 1, 1918, in addition to the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., for the half-year ending December 31, 1917, making a total distribution for the half-year of 2¾ per cent., and, together with the payment that was made on July 1, 1917, a total payment of 5½ per cent. for the year.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Supply of Raw Materials.

Dr. Addison, the Minister of Reconstruction, after consultation with the other Government Departments concerned, has appointed a committee to consider and report upon questions connected with the supplies of raw materials which will be required by British industries for the purpose of restoring and developing trade after the termination of the war, and the best means of securing and distributing supplies, due regard being had to the interests of the Allies. The Committee is requested, in regard to many commodities which might not be available in sufficient quantities and at reasonable prices through the ordinary commercial channels, to consult members of the trades concerned with regard to any steps that may be necessary to safeguard the needs of industry and to secure convenient and equitable distribution.

The Committee, which will be known as the Central Committee on Supplies of Materials, consists of the following:—Sir Clarendon Hyde (chairman), Sir Henry Birchenough, K.C.M.G., Cecil Budd, Esq., Sir Charles W. Fielding, K.B.E., Sir H. Babington Smith, K.C.B., Wallace Thorneycroft, Esq., and Andrew Weir, Esq. The secretary is Mr. J. F. Ronca (Board of Trade), communications to whom should be addressed at the Ministry of Reconstruction, 2, Queen Anne's Gate Buildings, Westminster, S.W.1.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Action of the London Chamber of Commerce.

At a meeting of the Council of London Chamber of Commerce on October 10, the question of reconstruction as affecting industry and trade was referred to the trade sections concerned, with a view to the formulation of a definite policy in the interests of manufacturers and merchants, and it was referred to a special committee to report as to the desirability of the early release from military service, after the war, of men in commercial occupations, including principals, partners, clerks, and technical experts, whose places have been kept open for them or whose services will be urgently required after the war. Arrangements were also agreed upon for a public meeting of merchants and others on the question of Government control of trade.

PROHIBITED EXPORTS.

Complete List Available.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence has received from the War Trade Department (says the *Board of Trade Journal*) a number of copies of the list of goods the export of which from the United Kingdom to certain or all destinations is prohibited by the Royal Proclamation of May 10, 1917, as amended by the Orders-of-Council of June 22, July 13, August 14, and August 28. The list is thus complete to date, and, within the limits of the available supply, British firms may obtain gratis copies of the list on application, either personally or by letter, to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2. In making written application, envelopes should be marked "Prohibited Exports."

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

The Anglo-Persian Oil Company has, it is stated, agreed to lease for 99 years a wharf at the King's Dock, Swansea, embracing 4,444 square yards, for the purpose of importing and exporting petroleum. A minimum rental of £10,000 per annum is guaranteed by the company, but in the event of only two or three boats being sent to Swansea by the company the income to the Swansea Harbour Trust will be about £40,000 a year. The company proposes to construct refining works at Skewen, about a mile from the dock, to which the crude oil will be pumped through a pipeline and then returned to the wharf for shipment.

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ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
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SARSAPARILLA
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Life-Saving Apparatus.

In these days of submarine warfare a really good life-saving apparatus is a most valuable acquisition. It is well known that kapok, a light and resilient fibre, is remarkably buoyant, its buoyancy being five times greater than that of cork. One pound of kapok immersed in water will, it is found, support twenty-five times its own weight. Experiments further prove that a fully-dressed person of average weight, when in water, requires a buoyancy of 8 lbs. to 10 lbs. to keep afloat, and that a lifebelt or jacket capable of supporting over 15 lbs. of dead weight in water will keep the head and shoulders well out of the water. Based, apparently, on these factors, a very efficient life-saving apparatus has been designed in the form of a waistcoat, which weighs about 2 lbs. and contains 1 lb. of the best kapok, so that there is an ample margin of buoyancy for supporting a fully-dressed person. It is made in either blue or khaki-coloured cloth, and it seems that this novel life-saving waistcoat is already attracting the attention of travellers.

Another life-saving apparatus is in the form of a suit or overall. Although not attractive in appearance, it has many advantages over the ordinary cork belt or life-buoy: one great point in its favour being that the person wearing it is kept warm whilst afloat, and the bad effects of cold and exposure are avoided. One has simply to step into the suit, or overall, and pull it up round the neck. The wearer can easily support five others in the water. A pocket is provided to carry liquid refreshments, and a whistle by which to direct rescuers.

Synthetic Rubber.

The synthetic production of indiarubber appears to have got beyond the laboratory stage in Germany, and is now being worked on a commercial scale. The basis of the process is, apparently, acetylene, which, by the addition of suitable re-agents, is first converted into "isopren," and the conversion of the "isopren" into rubber is accomplished by the method worked out by Hofmann, using a suitable catalytic agent.

Aluminium from Clay.

"Necessity is the mother of invention," as it is proved by the incessant research work of the Germans for the discovery of substitutes for metals and other materials of which they are in great need. The attempts to produce aluminium from clay, according to the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, have been crowned with success, and will make Germany independent of foreign supplies of bauxite in the future, which latter is, however, also available in **Hungary**.

"Mineral Wool" from Basalt Rock

Basalt is a hard, dark-coloured rock of igneous origin—*i.e.*, produced by the solidification of molten lava. It occurs either as intrusive sheets, like the Edinburgh Castle Rock and Salisbury Craig in England, and some craggy promontories and hills seen in Southern Italy and on the coast of Eastern Mediterranean, or in vertical columns as in the Giant's Causeway in Ireland, in some parts of Calabria in Italy, in Syria, and other parts of the Near East. Basalt rocks also occur in Bohemia, Croatia, and the Balkans. It is now reported that an American firm operating in Australia has started works near Melbourne for turning the local basalt into "mineral wool" for use as an insulator in packing machinery and ice-chests, and as a substitute for asbestos. The basalt is melted down with a proportion of freestone (*i.e.*, any stone easily worked with tools, but especially fine-grained sandstone) and limestone, and then steam, at an immense pressure, is forced through the fluid. The liquid rock thus aerated flies into the air and falls in flakes on the floor..

The process is apparently simple and inexpensive, and if the product proves a good substitute for asbestos there is every possibility that a new mining industry may be created in certain districts in the Near East where basalt, freestone and limestone are often found in close proximity and not far from the sea.

Engineering Prospects in Morocco.

France, according to authentic statements, is at the present time paying more attention to the development of colonial agriculture than she has ever done before. Preparatory measures are already being taken, and the chief effort is being directed at the moment to Morocco, where the prospects for creating a profitable industry are particularly good. For some years past annual shows have been held at Rabat, and although at first they excited more curiosity than interest, they have done valuable educational work, and agriculturists are now fully appreciating the value of modern tillage methods. As Morocco is almost entirely lacking in up-to-date farm requisites, there is a great opening for the agricultural engineer when he is able to supply the demand. A large number of big estates are being created by European settlers, who will require considerable quantities of machinery; and while it is hardly possible to deal with all these needs at the moment, it is nevertheless certain that Morocco will be a good market for all kinds of requisites as soon as manufacturers are able once more to prepare for the foreign and colonial trade. In the meantime, British firms desirous of acquiring business in Morocco should start now to arrange their plan of action, remembering that success will probably fall to those first in the field.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department has issued a new list of additions to the statutory list of firms of enemy nationality or enemy association with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade. Copies of this list can be obtained at a trifling cost from the Superintendent of Publications, H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

Sir Charles H. Armstrong has been elected chairman of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in succession to the late Colonel F. Firebrace.

AMERICAN TRADE WITH TUNIS.

In a recent report, Mr. Edwin C. Kemp, United States Consul at Tunis, gives the following particulars of American trade there:—

An increase in American trade with the French protectorate of Tunisia waits principally upon improved shipping facilities. Although Tunisia is one of the world's smaller markets, the importation of American goods, valued in 1916 at 1,576,608 dols., could probably be more than doubled if adequate means of transportation were established. The French and English embargoes have particularly increased the demand for American goods, already augmented since the beginning of the war by the closing of German and Austrian sources of supply. Before the war Austria, with a direct steamship line to Tunis, considered the market worth the establishment of a commercial museum at Tunis; but this is now closed; there is also an Italian commercial museum as well as a British chamber of commerce.

A preliminary canvass showed orders immediately available for 7,000 tons of agricultural and mining machinery and accessories, iron and steel products, tin plate, wire, rails, pumps, hardware, tools, machine tools, mineral oil and lubricants, carbide, binder twine, textiles, sulphur, meat products, etc., besides orders for coal, of which, it is stated, 5,000 tons per month could be used.

Another factor that would greatly facilitate the sale of American goods in Tunisia would be a branch American bank at Marseilles. Such a bank could easily handle the Tunisia business, and also aid in establishing the credits that competition after the war will make necessary. As it is, the smaller dealers claim that cash terms and long delays in shipping now tie up more capital than they can afford, and so they prefer to go without the goods. Lastly, but very important, is the need for catalogues in French. A good translation, cheaply printed and inserted in the regular English edition, would, in most cases, serve every purpose. If the American manufacturer should attempt to make up an order from a catalogue in French he would better appreciate what he is asking his French customer to do when he sends him a catalogue in English.

In most lines of goods the sending of a personal representative to Tunisia is hardly advisable at present; but as Tunisia, with Algeria and Morocco, may be considered an extension of the French market, a representative sent to France might find it profitable to include French North Africa in his itinerary. Many firms in Tunis have branch houses in Algeria and vice versa. The markets are very similar, the chief differences being in size and in the tariff schedules, in which Tunisia has the advantage of a lower rate than Algeria.

The Ceylon Government has prohibited the importation of tea into the Island, whether for local consumption or for transhipment, except under licence from the Principal Collector of Customs.

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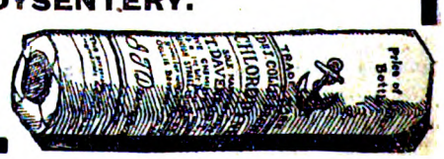

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MOROCCO.

The Development of Casablanca.

Constant witnesses of the reforms and progress realised at Casablanca since the establishment of the French Protectorate cannot be so greatly impressed with the results (says a Paris contemporary) as those who only see them after an interval of some years. It is only the latter who can make an exact comparison of what the great port of Western Morocco was some years ago and what it is to-day.

The traffic of the port of Casablanca, which was valued at a dozen million francs in 1907, amounted in 1916 to 107,843,359 frs. After the war the trade of Casablanca will certainly exceed the results obtained up to now, and when the port works are completed and Casablanca is connected by rail with the Southern capital increased prosperity will result. France's share in the trade has continually increased since the occupation. Out of imports valued at 85,870,230 frs. in 1916, French commerce was represented by 51,205,510 frs. During that year the imports from that country into France amounted to 19,072,355 frs.

Sugar heads the list of the principal articles of import. For the natives of the Chaouia and the hinterland, France imported, in 1916-17, sugar worth 17,113,503 frs. After sugar cottons take second place in the list of imported articles. They come almost entirely from Manchester. Out of the total imports of 10,231,000 frs., British imports in these goods represented, in 1916, 8,948,647 frs. In the case of woollen cloths, French industry has benefited by the absence of German and Austrian competition. From 208,000 frs. in 1913, French imports of these goods reached, in 1916, 538,000 frs. The same progress has been made in the case of Lyons silk goods, the muslins of St. Quentin, and articles of European consumption.

The name of the Odessa Merchants' Bank has been changed to the Russian Trade and Transport Bank, and the head office has with the approval of the Russian Minister of Finance been transferred to Petrograd, leaving a branch at Odessa.

THE TRADE OF EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Cairo, September 25.

Increased Exports in August.

The Customs returns for August show a falling off in imports, but a considerable increase in exports. Thus, imports during the month came to £E2,304,958 and exports to £E2,717,821, as against £E2,708,283 and £E1,119,343 in August, 1916. For the eight months the former are £E759,022 down and the latter £E7,125,497 up on last year.

The principal imports during the month were:—Skins, £E21,322 (two-thirds from Great Britain and the balance from France); flour, £E70,186 (practically all from India); coffee, £E27,142 (40 per cent. from India and the balance from Abyssinia, Brazil, and Massawa); mineral oils, £E24,593 (75 per cent. from Great Britain and 20 per cent from America); stationery, £E45,155 (just under half from Italy and 30 per cent. from Great Britain); coal, £E113,744 (all from Great Britain); drugs (£E24,763 (France and Great Britain practically share this trade); textiles, £E1,140,411 (Great Britain sent 60 per cent. of the whole category, but 90 per cent. of the cotton and wool tissues, whilst India supplied all the sacks, as usual (£E235,393); worked iron and steel, £E57,098 (of which 75 per cent. from Great Britain); machinery, £E35,050 (Great Britain supplied half), and tobacco, £E212,549 (of which Greece sent 80 per cent.). It is noteworthy that no chemical sugar, manures, benzine, or petroleum were imported during the month, that coal imports fell from 99,000 tons to 15,000 tons, but that flour imports increased by 626 tons from 1,734 tons.

Chief Exports.

The chief exports during the month were:—Cotton seed, £E40,911; cotton cake, £E30,328 (all of which went to Great Britain); skins and tanned goods, £E62,776 (of which half went to Greece); sugar, £E61,196 (40 per cent. to Greece and 45 per cent. to India); gum, £E33,906 (60 per cent. to France, 20 per cent. to Australia); cotton seed oil, £E23,922 (practically all to France); alcohol, £E12,244 (half to Greece); caustic soda, £E13,967 (all to Italy); cotton, £2,275,732 (54 per cent. to Great Britain, 20 per cent. to Italy, and 25 per cent. to Japan); cigarettes, £36,838. No eggs or wool were exported during the month; exports of cotton seed were 20,504 ardebs less, but those of sugar 538 tons, of gum 582 tons, of cotton 50,697 cantars less. On the other hand, although exports of cigarettes fell off by 3,811 kilos, the value was £E12,648 more.

Increased Trade with Sudan.

Trade between Egypt and the Sudan appears to be flourishing. Imports into Egypt during the month rose from £E36,640 to £E182,757, and exports into the Sudan from £E81,347 to £E113,547. For the eight months imports into Egypt have nearly doubled. The principal items under the latter are:—Live stock, £E34,515 (9,709 head); millet £E12,793; sesame, £E9,560; gum, £E22,231; and cotton, £E52,832. Exports into the Sudan were:—Refined sugar, £E32,875; and cotton tissues £E21,497; the other items were small.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

The Council of the London Chamber of Commerce has passed the following resolution:—"That this Council welcomes the establishment of the new Commercial Intelligence Department instituted under the joint auspices of the Foreign Office and Board of Trade, and offers the cordial support of the Chamber in any measures which may assist the development of the new Department on business lines, as a step towards the establishment of a Ministry of Commerce."

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Authorised Capital - £2,000,000. Subscribed Capital - £1,400,000
Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

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Tel. Address: "GEORGE LIONDA, SALONICA."

Bankers: In England—The National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William St., London, E.C.; The London and South-Western Bank, Ltd. (F.B.), Fenchurch St., London, E.C.
In France—Société Générale, Boulevard Haussmann 29, Paris.
In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Pirœus.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Anchor Line (Henderson Brothers).—The transfer books of the 5½ per cent. preference shares and the 4½ per cent. debenture stock will be closed from 18th to 31st inst. inclusive.

Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Company announce that they have now received the necessary funds for the payment of the coupon of the Royal Roumanian Government 4½ per cent. gold bonds, 1913, due on October 1, and that such coupons can now be lodged at their counting-house between the hours of 11 and 2 o'clock.

Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons announce that the coupons and drawn bonds of the Piræus, Athens and Peloponnesus Railway, 4½ per cent. bonds due on the 15th inst., are now being paid at their office, Austin Friars House, E.C.

The Eastern Telegraph Company, Ltd., announce the payment by warrants on November 1, of interest for the half-year to October 31 on their 4 per cent. mortgage debenture stock. The transfer books of the debenture stock will be closed from the 26th to the 31st inst., both days inclusive.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian — Gemsah. — Production for week, 633 tons (previous week 21 tons); Hurgada, 2,923 tons (against 3,440 tons).

Baku Russian.—Week ended October 6, 72,700 poods.

Black Sea Amalgamated.—Production of crude oil for week ending October 6, 20,670 poods (333 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended October 7, 70,200 poods.

Maikop Combine.—Production of crude oil for week ending October 6, 21,846 poods (352 tons).

Maikop Orient Oil.—Plot 435a, well 3.—Production, week ended October 6, 10,500 poods.

North Caucasian.—Week ended September 5/18, 691,840 poods (11,159 tons). Week ending September 12/25, 551,840 poods (8,900 tons). Week ending September 19/October 2, 418,800 poods (6,755 tons).

Russian Petroleum.—Estimated production week ending October 6, 45,100 poods.

TURKEY'S FINANCIAL LIABILITIES.

The Turks, says *Reuter's* Athens correspondent in a message dated October 10, as is well known, have from time immemorial lived from day to day, but the day seems not far off when they will, so to say, have to go through the bankruptcy court. In this connection the following information is of interest. The loans made by Germany to Turkey for the internal needs of the Ottoman Empire since Turkey engaged to join the Central Powers amount to 93,000,000 Turkish liras. Further, Germany has lent Turkey 25,000,000 liras for the payment of:—(a) Military transports by the Anatolian and Baghdad railways. (b) Coupons to bondholders in Austria and Germany. (c) War material and military equipments ordered in Germany.

Turkey owes Germany another 25,000,000 liras for ammunition supplied. The loans made by Germany to Turkey since she became the Ally of the Central Powers amount to no less than 143,000,000 liras, to which must be added 38,000,000 liras. Of this latter amount 24,000,000 liras were borrowed in Austria for the payment of amounts due to the Oriental railways and for the cost of heavy artillery ordered from the Sooda works. Of the same amount the sum of 8,383,000 liras is said to have been set aside for the payment of coupons to bondholders in England and France and of certain liabilities of the Ministry of War.

NEW GREEK LOAN.

In the Chamber to-day, says Reuter's Athens correspondent in a message dated October 11, M. Negropontes, Minister of Finance, introduced a Bill authorising an internal loan of a hundred million drachmae, which will be devoted to the payment for goods requisitioned and war material.

An earlier message refers to the loan as being a Six per Cent. issue.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Avenue,
London, E.C.2.

The better tendency referred to in our market report last week has continued, and there has been a revival of activity accompanied by an improvement in prices. The factors underlying this improved state of affairs are the further recovery in the price of cotton and the big expansion in the note issue of the National Bank of Egypt; which is a good barometer of the active trade conditions ruling in Egypt.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds have been bought at 84, and are still wanted, but sellers are asking 84¼. In Egyptian 3½ per cent. preferences there is a persistent demand, but sellers are scarce. Bank shares have been a strong market, the feature being a rise of ⅝ in Nationals to 16⅝, and of ⅜ in Land Banks to 7. Agricultural Banks also are up 3-16 at 6 5-16 and Anglo-Egyptians 1-16 at 13¼. Ionian Banks are wanted at the improved price of about 4¾.

In land shares, the activity has so far been confined to Aboukirs, which are 1s. 3d. better at 19s. 9d.; to Allotments, which have been bought on Egyptian account, and which are 1-16 better at 3 1-16, to Delta Lands, which are 3d. higher at 13s. 6d., and to New Egyptians which have improved 4½ to 13s. 7½d.

In miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Waters have been done in a small way at 12⅝, and there has also been a certain amount of business in Markets and Salts round last week's prices. Khedivial Mails have been exceptionally dull and show a drop of 1s. at 34s., although the figures for the year to June 30 last are expected to make a very excellent showing.

In Greek Government bonds, beyond a fall of one point in Rentes to 43, there is no quotable change; but there are some small buyers about of Greek Currant Bonds round 92, with large buyers at 91.

Paris Bourse.

Prices generally have shown an upward tendency. Greek shares have been in considerable favour on the Exchange.

Oil Shares.

The only change on Wednesday was in Anglo-Egyptians (B), which declined 6d. to 28s.—29s.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended October 14, 3 p.m.:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,124
Sailings	2,094

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons gross or over	12
Under 1,600 tons gross	*6
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	†5
British fishing vessel sunk	‡1

* Including one sunk during week ended September 30 and one sunk during week ended October 7.

† Including two attacked during week ended October 7.

‡ During week ended October 7.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 12	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84¼
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	73½	71½xd
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61	61½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61	61½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55½	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	58xd	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	91	92
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	84 sem	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	81	80½xd
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	71½	70½xd
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅜	6⅜
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7⅜	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13⅛	13⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅛	3⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¾	4½	4⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅜	7
National Bank of Egypt	13½	16	16⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6½	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	75	72½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	18/6	19/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3	3⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	11⅜	11⅜
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4⅜	4½
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/3	13/6
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/3	13/7½
Sidi Salem Co.	1⅜	15/-	15/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	39/-	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅜	26/6	25/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1⅜	25/6	25/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	35/-	34/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3½	3½

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National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	15½
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅝
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New	Frs.	77½
" Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	82
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85½
Privilégiée		75
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6
" Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.		27
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		—
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4½
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	105
" Jouissance	Frs.	165
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	4⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda		23/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	725
" Fondateur	Frs.	800
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	373
" 1903 "	Frs.	269½
" 1911 "	Frs.	274
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅜

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Oct. 5.	1917. Week Oct. 4.
Cattle markets	670	247
General markets	380	379
Receipts (£)	1,050	626*
Total for year	40,879	44,289

* Bairam holidays.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
October 11, 12 13, 14	910,000	470,000

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Hist.

THE NEAR EAST

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 338.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The German Emperor's visit to Constantinople finished, after the orthodox manner, with a banquet and a telegram of thanks speeding the parting guest. The Kaiser speaks of these "unforgettable days," and looks forward to the co-operation of Germany and Turkey in spreading German "kultur" after the war—in other words, to Turkey buying German goods to pay for her war loan. But no further statement has been issued as to the object of the Imperial excursion, or even whether that object has been achieved. The telegrams, of course, convey nothing, and are meant to convey nothing, but it is more than probable that the Kaiser has heard some plain speaking in private, both at Sofia and Constantinople, as to the interminable duration of the war.

Whatever currents there may be in either capital making for a speedy peace, the Kaiser will have found it necessary to conciliate, lest these should progress from the desire for a speedy peace to the demand for a separate peace. Sofia has made it quite clear that Bulgaria is dissatisfied not only with the length of the war, but with the promised rewards. Turkey can look for no rewards—for she cannot seriously expect any longer that Egypt will be reduced—but she may at least desire her lost provinces back again. On this point, no doubt, the Kaiser has been full of assurances as to the restoration of Mesopotamia; but whether any plans have been laid for a resumption of the Turco-German offensive either before Baghdad or Gaza will not be known for some time.

It must be remembered, however, that the Kaiser is almost as much concerned for the recovery of Baghdad as the Sultan. Many millions of German money have been sunk in the railway, and German plans for the control of the Persian Gulf are merely postponed, not abandoned. The Emperor has certainly not discouraged the German banks from investing their money in this scheme, and the banks, whose business it is to take note of facts and not of rhetoric, will scarcely feel that their holdings in Asia are very secure. In view of the recent action of the Deutsche Bank, which undoubtedly realises that its opportunities in Western Europe are likely to be severely limited in future, and is therefore extending its operations in the Near East—a branch has been opened at Bucharest as well as Sofia within the last few weeks—their influence on policy is likely to be weighty, if not decisive.

On the assumption that Germany wins the war in the East and agrees to a draw more or less disadvantageous to herself in the West, the German financiers are now beginning to act. It is, of course, an assumption that none of the Allies will admit for a moment, but it is worth while examining as the key to many movements otherwise inexplicable in Germany at the moment. It means, presumably, that the Colonial party which held the Government's ear at the beginning of the war is out of the saddle for the moment, and the exponents of rail-power as against sea-power have won the day. The Balkans are to be used as a German bridgehead into Asia—a fact which explains the silence of Germany as to the Near East in its answer to the Pope—while the real indemnity for the war is to be obtained from Turkey and Russia.

Germany appears to argue that although the Balkans and Asia Minor have been impoverished by war, they are countries which are naturally rich and could be developed by modern industrialism. Moreover, they have plenty of cheap labour, and the war has taught Germany a good deal as to the possibility of controlling, by methods not far removed from those of the slave-proprietor, the labour of people under her control. It is quite true that thousands of people die when they are forced in this ruthless fashion, but we may be quite sure that from the point of view of German finance this is a matter of no importance, while from the political standpoint it may even be regarded as a recommendation. Nothing so effectually lessens the so-called "Slav peril" as a diminution of the Slav population.

Fortunately, there is reason to hope that this danger of German concentration in the Near East is understood by the Allies, whose Balkan policy has improved since the occultation of Viscount Grey. It is no longer possible for even the most insular politician to pretend that Britain has no concern with the destiny of Constantinople, and the late negotiations in London over the Italo-Jugoslav problem indicate that we are not now content with merely passive methods. It is probable that while the military issue of the war will be more and more concentrated in the West, the political issues will be more and more settled in the East.

It may be admitted that, if this hypothesis were sound, Germany would emerge from the war, if not with profit, at least with the prospect of making profit

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in the next twenty years. Her actual boundaries might not be enlarged, but her sphere of influence would be enormous, and her Allies or dependents would not be long before they discovered that the Teutonic camel in the tent had thrust them outside. More and more does the question of finding markets for Germany after the war become the urgent pre-occupation of her manufacturers, and therefore of her financiers. America is definitely closed to her, and the same German newspapers which, for obvious reasons, profess to ridicule the military contribution of the United States are openly pessimistic as to the future of German commerce in the Western hemisphere. It is admitted that the prospects of exploiting the British Empire are not much more favourable, and the vision of a reconciled and friendly France, which appeals so strongly to the leader-writers of Berlin from time to time, does not delude the business men. There remains, therefore, only the East, and thither Germany is now driven irresistibly alike by her military successes, her political instinct which leads her to follow the path of least resistance, and her financial necessities.

Very meagre reports of the proceedings in the Greek Chamber have so far been received in London. The members of the late Administrations have made their defence, and in one case—that of M. Ralli—the spectacle of a very old man defending his political honour in a speech that lasted no less than fourteen hours appears to have excited some sympathy among the auditors. But the upshot is as was expected: the Cabinets of King Constantine are to be tried on a charge of treason. No other course was possible, in view of the evidence that has been published since the abdication, and the Government of M. Venizelos has done wisely to insist on this act of justice to the country being done.

In the course of these debates, M. Venizelos incidentally revealed the whole of King Constantine's policy in one pregnant sentence. "On the capture of Janina," he said, "I was expounding to him the advantages of an abandonment of Greece's neutrality, and he replied, 'How can I affront the Emperor and go to war against him?'" Clearly the Kaiser knew his man when he telegraphed to "the husband of my sister, whose place is by my side." The King's further statement that, "He would rather commit suicide than abandon neutrality to fight on the side of the Entente," was in a sense prophetic, for he has in fact committed political suicide.

In connection with this matter, it is to be noticed that the Archbishop of Athens has been degraded, and certain other bishops share his fate for having taken part in the ceremony of anathema against M. Venizelos. When the clergy unwarrantably interfere in politics as these ecclesiastics did, they have nobody but themselves to thank if they are subjected to temporal penalties when the side they espouse loses the day. Some of the recent activities of the Greek Church have by no means tended to edification, or even to the strength of the Church itself.

Changes, however, are not confined to the Greek branch of the Orthodox Church. The Russian revolution has been responsible this last week for two very significant steps. In the first place, the Orthodox Church in Russia is to be democratised, and to receive an elective priesthood and other boons; in the second place full liberty has been given to the Roman Catholic Church; there is complete freedom of association for all religious orders, including even the Jesuits, who have been banned before now in Catholic countries, and freedom to teach in the schools; and no restrictions will be put in the way of conversion to Catholicism (or presumably to any other religious body). These two decisions are of very considerable importance, and they are certain to effect in one way or another the whole of the Balkans as well as Russia proper. Those who know the Russian Church best are by no means certain that it will profit by, or even welcome, this new liberty; on the contrary, the same tendencies towards disintegration which have shown themselves in the State this last six months may manifest themselves in the Church.

In that event, the soil would be receptive for the progress of Catholicism. The Roman Church retains its ordered discipline and the tradition of centuries intact, whereas the Orthodox Church in Russia cannot but be shaken in both respects; the Roman Church is better equipped intellectually than the rival whom it has never ceased to regard as schismatic, and Propaganda is certainly not without plans for the conversion of Russia, which it can hope to reach through Poland, most Catholic of countries, and the Ukraine, whose Uniat Church recognises the authority of the Vatican. Catholicism has gone ahead, numerically although not perhaps politically, in many parts of the Continent in late years, notably in Prussia and Holland; but no such opportunity has opened out before it as the present since the discovery of the Indies.

It was pointed out in these columns some weeks ago, in commenting on the Papal Note, that the real, if unexpressed, aim of the Vatican was a threefold one—the restoration of the temporal power, the political preservation of Austria as the bulwark of the Papacy, and the reunion of Christendom under the sway of Rome. The first appears to have definitely failed, the second is directly contrary to the programme of the Entente, the third lies altogether outside their ambition. But its development, although it is certain to be slow, should be carefully watched among the deeper movements which are making for the reconstruction of Europe. The prospect of reuniting Christendom is one to appeal to the most ambitious of men, and in the event of Rome obtaining any considerable influence in Russia it may be accepted that the numerically weaker Christian Churches of the Balkans would be at least equally receptive. With the different doctrines (which, to the non-theological eye, are perhaps not very different) we are not directly concerned, but spiritual movements are seldom without their temporal consequences.

The Jewish question appears to be still exciting controversy in Roumania. M. Take Jonescu, in discussing the problem of Jewish liberties in the Chamber at Jassy, remarked that, "when the Jews are fellow-citizens like ourselves, we are determined that they should not be foreigners to us, and that we should not appear to be their brothers while being really their enemies." But while concluding his speech with a declaration that he would not lay down his arms until the Jewish question had been solved, he entered a caveat against the idea that when new provinces were attached to Roumania in which were Jews who had fought under the enemy's flag, these latter should have privileges which were denied to the Roumanian Jews. It is evident from the tone and heat displayed in his speech that the opposition displayed to the enfranchisement of the Jews is not yet defeated in Roumania.

One need not make much of the Turkish bulletin reporting a British repulse in Mesopotamia. The Turkish claims are unusually modest, and we know from experience that their communiqués have a habit of dealing with shadows, while the British deal with matters of substance. It is to be noted that the Turkish communiqué admits that the Ottoman Mesopotamian Army is on the defensive.

That Germany should have gone to the assistance of Austria on the Isonzo may or may not be an indication that Austria is fought to a standstill, and needs help from her more powerful Ally. However that may be,

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it certainly indicates that Germany is alive to the vital character of the Adriatic problem. If Italy can defeat Austria, as she seems to have defeated her pretty thoroughly already, not only will the Central Powers lose their outlet on the Adriatic, but they will have to resign themselves to the creation of the Jugoslav State, which means the end of Austria as at present constituted, and consequently of Germany's ambition to dominate the Southern Slavs and the Balkans. The latest move is apparently an indication that Berlin regards the Southern Slav question as more serious than the Roumanian, the forces that have been used on the Isonzo having been presumably diverted from Moldavia, since they could hardly have been spared from the Russian front at the present time, largely denuded as it is, and certainly not from the west. The blow follows hard upon rumours of further mutinies and strikes in Austria, and it may be taken as indirectly an answer by Germany to Count Czernin's now celebrated peace speech.

It is to be hoped that the recent publication in a contemporary of a large "diagrammatic map of the future South Slav State" is not intended to represent a resolve on the part of the supporters of the Southern Slavs in this country to repudiate M. Pasitch and his efforts to come to a working agreement with the Italian Government. The map, as it stands, is a very deliberate challenge to any understanding with Italy, as it bars her from any part of the Dalmatian coast, while allotting her the islands of Lussin and Lissa. It may be that the Italians will ultimately be content with such an arrangement; but it is evident that they are far from accepting it at the present moment, and those who are working for an amicable agreement between the two nationalities can only regret that the work of reconciling conflicting claims should be rendered more difficult by such aggressive challenges as this particular map.

From another point of view, moreover, the map seems to be deliberately provocative. No internal boundaries within the future Southern Slav State are indicated, and for the purposes of the propaganda that it is intended to serve there may well have been no particular need for them. At the same time, there is reason to suppose that, if the different elements in the future federated State could be consulted, they would favour the recognition of such boundaries, and that they will insist upon this recognition in due course, on the ground that the State is not merely a Greater Serbia, but is to be, in the terms of the Corfu Agreement, "the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes." The absence of internal boundaries would by itself not be so noticeable, but it coincides with a marked rebuff to Montenegro, in carefully excluding Skutari from the new State. On the merits of the Montenegrin claim to that town there is no need to enter here; but clearly if one of the countries forming the new federation had received consideration at the hands of the authors of the map, the southern boundary must have been extended to the River Drin.

The omission can hardly have been due to modesty or to a judicial weighing of rival claims, in view of the fact that Zara, with its Italian municipality, is annexed, under the disguise of a free city. The publication in which the map appears has recently come forward as the champion of a scheme for the removal of Montenegro from the category of European States before her people can be given an opportunity to decide their own fate, and it can only be supposed that the ignoring of Montenegrin aspirations in this map is part of an underhand campaign to sow discord between two of Great Britain's allies. All true friends of the Balkans must deprecate these unsavoury propagandist efforts. It is well known that there are feuds and rivalries in the Balkan Peninsula, but the only dignified rôle for Britons to play is to refuse to be a party to them, and to spare no effort to bring all the peoples together in peace and amity.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, September 27.

The Nile Flood.

The flood is attracting to itself considerable attention, and everything points to this year's being not only higher than that of 1916, which beat all records for twenty-two years, but also approaching measurably to the highest on record. The levels on the Blue Nile at Roseires have been steadily rising during the past month, and the last few days they have been fluctuating in a most remarkable manner. They are at present well above the point where they stood at this date last year, and are about three metres above normal. Down in Middle and Lower Egypt the river has assumed the proportions of a raging torrent, and the scene at the various bridges is wonderful. As a result of this continued rise in the levels divers tracts of land in Upper and Middle Egypt, where, owing to the good water supply earlier in the year, cereals were being grown, are under water, and there is a danger of further tracts being flooded. Every precaution is being taken to protect the river banks and to prevent any breaches, which might quite possibly take place owing to the extra pressure that is being brought to bear on them. The White Nile is slightly above normal, but that only affects the river in Egypt at low flood. Everything indicates that, whatever happens, there will be an abundance of water for all purposes from now onwards until the next flood. This is highly satisfactory owing to the necessity for extending cereal cultivation as much as possible so that the country can be self-supporting; but the flood itself will seriously preoccupy the authorities for some time yet.

The Cotton Seed Question.

The conditions under which cotton-seed for sowing (Takawi) will be controlled by the Government during the coming season have now been published. No factory will be allowed to sell or deliver Takawi, unless it is specially licensed to that effect by the Ministry of Agriculture, and no seed may be delivered to anyone, unless that person produces a permit from the Ministry authorising the delivery to him of a stipulated quantity. As in past years, the Ministry will distribute Takawi on credit and for cash to the cultivators, mostly of the smaller category. The new system, which is the result of the purchase by H.B.M.'s Government of all the cotton-seed available for export, will create an enormous amount of extra work; but the Government considers that the results that will be obtained from it will more than compensate for the additional expense and labour entailed.

Death of the Rector of Al Azhar.

On Friday last the death of Sheikh Selim El Bishri, the Rector of Al Azhar University, took place. He was accorded a most imposing funeral. H.H. the Sultan, H.E. the High Commissioner, the Commander-in-Chief, the Prime Minister and the Sirdar were specially represented, and in addition the attendance included all the Under-Secretaries, the Ulema headed by their directors, the students of Al Azhar, the School for Cadis and other institutions in which the Rector was interested, and a vast concourse of notables and officials. Those in a position to judge state that his funeral was one of the largest ever seen in Egypt of late. One interesting feature was the coffin, which was a plain wooden one, open to the sky, and not covered with any pall. A special service was held in Al Azhar Mosque, where addresses were delivered.

The late Rector of Al Azhar was a most remarkable man. He died after but two days' illness at the age of ninety-three, in full possession of all his faculties, and an analysis of the crowd which attended his funeral testified to the great esteem in which he was generally held. Everyone who came in contact with him was always struck by his strong personality and the wide

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outlook that he took on life. Sheikh Selim El Bishri exercised throughout his long career a conciliatory influence over his co-religionists, and always preached unity amongst all communities. He himself put this doctrine into practice in 1910, when on the occasion of the Adana massacre, he had the courage to publish a protest against the action of the Turks, which bore testimony, by the dignity but obvious sincerity of its tone, to the religious tolerance of which he was himself such an advocate. Sheikh Selim's breadth of mind enabled him to play a prominent part in the reforms in religious education which have been introduced of late years. The various crises which have arisen at Al Azhar owe their successful settlement to his wise intervention, and the more satisfactory character of the instruction now given at that great institution and at the other religious colleges, including the School for Cadis, which was created a few years ago under his management, is due to his recognition of the fact that the principles and system of Moslem education badly needed modernising.

Interesting Development in Local Government.

An important advance in local self-government in this country has just been made. At one of its recent sittings the Council of Ministers approved of a scheme providing for the creation of what are to be known as Village Councils. These bodies, which will comprise an elected and nominated element, will fill a rôle somewhat similar to that of the urban district councils at home. They will look after the hygiene of the village where they are created, and do other local municipal work which would be for the benefit of their fellow-villagers, and of the country in general. They will also have the right to levy local taxation to enable them to carry out any work of improvement, but their activities will be subject to the approval of the Municipalities and Local Commissions Section of the Ministry of the Interior, which, under the able direction of Dr. W. Betts, C.M.G., exercise an effective control over the various local government bodies operating in the country.

The decision to create Village Councils is an excellent innovation; for while on the one hand it will conduce to the improvement of the conditions of village life, which are at present notoriously deplorable, by the spirit of emulation which will be engendered amongst adjacent villages, on the other hand it will give the people in the villages an opportunity to fit themselves for the higher forms of local government which exist. It is worthy of note that these Village Councils have been created in response to popular demand, and that they will receive no financial assistance from the Government, but be entirely self-supporting. This marks an interesting development in national character, for up to comparatively recently the people showed little active interest in the question of local government, and steadfastly refused to lend any financial assistance in the matter. Now in order to obtain the benefits of these municipal bodies they actually impose on themselves voluntary taxation.

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SUDAN NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Khartoum.

The Late Colonel Lewis.

The news of the death of Lieut.-Colonel R. P. Lewis somewhere on the Flanders front has been received in the Sudan with very great regret. He had spent many years in the Sudan, and had acquired friends wherever he went. He sprang early into fame as wicket-keeper for Oxford University when he was an undergraduate at University College. Subsequently he took up journalism in London, and was connected with the *Idler* after its transfer from Robert Barr. The enterprise was not very successful, and on the outbreak of the Boer War he joined the Devonshire Regiment and adopted the profession of a soldier, though he always kept up a great interest in things literary. He was seconded later to the Egyptian Army, and was attached to the Sudan Government. Posted as Inspector in the Western Bahr-el-Ghazal, he remained there for some years, but, unfortunately, contracted black-water fever, and was ordered to be employed in a less fever-stricken district. He was then appointed intelligence officer, and was acting in that capacity upon the outbreak of war. In 1915 he was able to do a short period of service at Gallipoli, and in the following year he returned to the British Army, and after being employed for a while in Egypt, was given the opportunity to go to France. When he was wounded he was in command of a battalion of the Manchesters.

A man of very wide acquaintance and varied experience, he was a most amusing *raconteur*, and won friends wherever he went. He took a great interest in racing at Khartoum, and owned several ponies, and was not infrequently successful with them. He was of a remarkable generosity, not only in subscribing to the known objects of charity, but in helping privately in cases that never came to public notice, and his death is an intimate loss to every man who knew in him a genial companion, a sportsman, and a typical English gentleman.

A Record Flood.

The common idea of Egypt as the land flowing with milk and honey is somewhat erroneous. The milk is too often buffaloes' or goats', and honey takes no place in the products of modern Egypt. The prosperity of Egypt not only depends on the Nile, but also on the control of it. If the flood is too big, it tends to raise the level of the water so near the surface of the soil that the land is water-logged, and the crop will not materialise. To those who have travelled through the Delta and observed how near the level of the fresh water is to that of the sea it must always be a marvel how the land is not a mass of salt from the infiltration of the sea. Thus the management of the Nile flood is a most important factor in the prosperity of Egypt, and it was this that prompted the building of the Assouan dam, one of the greatest modern works, and one that can bear comparison with the amazing structures of ancient Egypt. How this problem may best be solved—namely, how to provide Egypt with a steady flow of water which will neither fail in a poor year nor tend to wash the country into the sea in too high a flood—is under the consideration of the experts. In the Sudan, on the other hand, there are no difficulties of that sort. It is true that good land may be flooded out, but only to bring more within the reach of cultivation, and there the higher the flood the better pleased is the native, who is provided with irrigated land at no cost to himself. The bank of the Nile is almost always a little higher than the land a little distance away. If the flood reaches a certain level a vast area parallel to the river is flooded, and upon this a good crop can be obtained with little trouble. In some places the area flooded is sufficiently large to be called a basin, and steps have been taken in some of them—in fact, the great majority—to ensure that the water can reach them in a comparatively low Nile. Even so, a high Nile will fill the basins much more, and it will also flood a lot of land that in normal times is not considered as arable, because it is too far from the river to work to profit, and there is not enough rain to grow a rain crop. This year the river has beaten all its own records for a very considerable period, and the view to anyone travelling into Khartoum from the north is in remarkable contrast with its ordinary appearance. The water extends sometimes on both sides of the railway line, and there is always a vast sheet of water visible. As the Nile drops this all becomes available for cultivation, and that, too, of the simplest kind, as the soil has been so long without being flooded that it can be assumed to be free from the cut-worm or suchlike pest of perennial cultivation. The river has remained at the height of flood for so long a time that very likely it may be impossible to get the water off some of the basins before the land gets water-logged. Even so, there will be so great an expanse added to

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the normal area that it will be practically impossible for the natives available for the purpose to get the land all under cultivation. Not only the banks of the Nile profit, but there are many little islands which, after being flooded, are covered with grass, and save the trouble of growing fodder. When it is remembered that in native calculations one-quarter of the crop, on land worked by water-wheel, has to go to feeding the animals that work the wheel, the value of an extraneous source of forage can be easily imagined. At the present moment the natives are hoping for a fully average crop from the rain lands of the Gezira, which forms the chief supply for marketable purposes owing to its vicinity to the railway. Over and above that they hope to get a certain amount of results from the overspill into some of the large marshes on the banks of the Blue Nile. There is the vast crop to be raised on the land vacated by the sinking Nile on the White Nile, which, being very shallow and broad, provides an exceptionally large area for cultivation of this sort. Further north there is every basin full, and enormous extents of open country flooded for this year for the first time almost within the memory of man. All this will be only supplementary to the very large crops that can be obtained by the water-wheel when the lift is reduced to a minimum and the water stays high for a long time. Labour to deal with all this will be the main problem, and that has been the great difficulty in the Sudan for a long time, and will be so until the population has adjusted itself to the needs of the country. For that, time is the only cure.

THE SITUATION IN GREECE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, September 30.

The Food Shortage.

The food question has become somewhat acute, and M. Venizelos has taken the matter in hand for the present.

A notice appeared in the papers the other day to the effect that no vegetables of any description, fresh or dried (with the exception of tomatoes), no macaroni, rice or other farinaceous food, and no fresh fish must be served in any hotel or restaurant until further notice, and that only on two days in the week may sweet dishes be served. A severe penalty will be inflicted in case of contravention of this order. This somewhat drastic measure, which practically reduces the diet of these establishments to only bread and meat, eggs and cheese, is said to be due to the extreme difficulty, if not impossibility, of the general public to obtain vegetables and fish of late.

The hotel-keepers apparently have, through arrangements with contractors, been able to buy up almost all this produce, which is brought on the market in limited quantities, and the general public have, therefore, been unable to obtain any, to the distraction of housekeepers. The scarcity of vegetables in Athens is said to be due to the insufficient means of transport from country places and from the islands. Scarcity of steamers and the reduced number of trains, through want of fuel and owing to military requirements, have prevented the daily arrivals of country produce, and this state of affairs, coming on the top of the scarcity of rice, macaroni and flour, has called for serious measures to appease the growing dissatisfaction and anxiety of the people.

The Shipping Problem.

Since the blockade was raised, it is alleged, very small quantities of foodstuffs have arrived in Greece, and the inability of the Greeks to use their own steamers as they wish for their own purposes has evoked very unfavourable comment. There are apparently hundreds of tons of general merchandise waiting in England for shipment to Greece for the transport of which English steamers are not available. But Why should we not be allowed to use our own steamers? it is asked. It is hoped that the situation will improve in a short time after the arrivals of further supplies now on the way, but in the meantime it is very unsatisfactory. Further, the suspension of the parcels post from England to Greece is also a great drawback, as many articles were formerly brought by this means.

New Salonika.

The reconstruction of Salonika is occupying the attention of the Government, and arrangements are being made to obtain the services of Mr. Mawson, the English architect, who is expected to arrive soon with a body of assistants to draw up plans for the rebuilding of the town. A great deal of dissatisfaction, if not dismay, has been caused by a proposed scheme to expropriate parts of the burnt quarter, and after the plans of reconstruction have been completed, to sell the sites at auction or otherwise, a measure which would doubtless deprive many of the original holders of their property at a great sacrifice. In the meantime, as can be imagined, after such a large fire, the life and trade of the town are completely disorganised. Things are lifeless, while the desolation and misery are, it is said, indescribable, and one wonders how the homeless thousands are to get through the coming winter.

News in General.

Some of the events of December 2, 1916, are being shown on the cinema film; but when the pictures were taken by the Royalist party it was little thought that they would be used for the purpose of illustrating their own misdeeds to the world. One of the scenes shown is the transfer of the Venizelist prisoners from the Chamber, where they were kept for some time, to the Averoff prison, and the ill-treatment they received on that occasion is fully testified to by the camera. Another film illustrates the public anathematising of M. Venizelos by the Church on the Champs de Mars. The pictures show the whole proceedings, and how an effigy of M. Venizelos was stoned by the vagabonds collected there for the occasion. This may be taken as one of the most disgraceful episodes in the reign of Constantine, and indicates the extent to which his hatred of the eminent statesman carried him.

No rain has yet fallen in Athens, and the scarcity of water is greater than ever. It is an additional anxiety for householders, already harassed by the difficulty and expense of procuring anything to eat, and also the means of cooking and lighting. Projects have from time to time been submitted to improve the water supply of the city, but year follows year without any decision being taken, and the present state of affairs is somewhat of a reflection on past Governments. One of the effects of the scarcity of water is that the streets are never watered, and with a strong wind the city is enveloped in dust.

A censorship of correspondence has been established at the Post Office, and, probably owing to an insufficient or inefficient staff, considerable delay results in the despatch of letters. If the Government intend to maintain a rigorous censorship of all letters leaving the country, it is to be hoped that arrangements will be made to avoid delay as much as possible, for at present a letter to England through the Greek Post Office may take about a month to reach its destination.

LOST MEDITERRANEAN MAILS.

The Postmaster-General announces the loss at sea through enemy action of:—(1) Letter mails for the Salonika Force and Hospitals at Malta containing letters, etc., but not parcels, which reached the Army Post Office, London, for dispatch between 2.20 p.m. on the 5th and 2.20 p.m. on the 6th inst. (2) Letter mails containing letters, etc., but not parcels, for the civilian population of Salonika and district and many of the Greek islands, which reached the General Post Office, London, for dispatch on the 4th inst. (3) Parcels mails containing parcels for the hospitals at Malta, which reached the Army Post Office, London, for dispatch between noon on the 5th and noon on the 6th inst.

THE KAISER'S TURKISH TOUR.

Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent states that, according to a Constantinople telegram, the Kaiser has addressed the following telegram to the Sultan:—"Before leaving the territory of the Ottoman Empire I must again express to your Majesty my warmest and most cordial thanks for the tokens of friendship and the hearty hospitality which your Majesty lavished upon me during the unforgettable days I have spent in Constantinople. I am extraordinarily gratified at the friendly relations which developed between us on the occasion of my visit to your capital, relations which I am convinced constitute a strong guarantee that the existing ties between our countries will daily grow in strength and durability."

The Sultan replied:—"I am gratified at your Majesty's friendly visit, and retain the most pleasant recollections of the agreeable days we spent together. Your Majesty may be sure that I and my people will ever remember this striking proof of sincere friendship, and that the alliance which so closely unites our two countries will thereby be still more firmly established."

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SYRIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Fall of Jemal Pasha.

Jemal Pasha, if report be true, has at last paid, in part, the penalty of his evil deeds in Syria. So long as his policy of terrorism had an outward show of success he received the favour and approval of the Constantinople Government; but, as soon as the disastrous consequences that such a policy was sure to entail in the end began to reveal themselves, the Young Turks, as is their wont, made a scapegoat of him. By the public avowal of the Grand Shereef of Mecca, one of the determining factors of his revolt against the Turks was the atrocities committed by Jemal against the Arabs of Syria. Since then the continued aggravation of the situation provoked a series of revolts, first that of the Druses of Hauran, then that of the Ansairi of the Lattakia mountains, and finally that of the Bedouin of Syria and Palestine, who have now made common cause with their erstwhile enemies the Druses. It will probably not be very far from the mark to set down the defeat and capture of the Turkish garrison at Akaba as due in no small measure to this spread of the spirit of revolt, of which a small force of the troops of Emir Faisal, the eldest son of the King of the Hejaz, was able to avail itself. But it was Jemal's culminating crime, the persecution of the Jews, that brought matters to a head and precipitated his downfall. This roused all the Jews of the Old and New World, and it may well have been the pressure that Jewish finance exercised on the military party in Germany that made the Emperor summon the Nero of Syria to Berlin, ostensibly to grant him a decoration, but, in reality, unless all indications are at fault, to mark his recall.

The New Governor of Syria.

There can be no better proof of the Young Turks' conviction of the error and failure of Jemal's terrorising policy than his replacement by Izzet Pasha, who was instrumental in effecting the pact between the Imam Yehya, the supreme chieftain of the Yemen, and the Turkish Government, which pact testified to his statesmanship and his wise spirit of compromise. The writer was told by persons who knew Izzet Pasha intimately at Damascus that he represents the best type of Turkish gentleman. He is said, by the way, to have received his military education in the same institution as the Kaiser. But the statesmanship of Izzet is not likely to improve a situation which, from the political standpoint at least, would seem to be irretrievable. The spirit of open revolt has gained virtually the whole chain of Bedouin tribes running from Maan in the South to Aleppo in the North, as well as the Druses of Hauran. The King of the Hejaz having pushed his military operations as far north as Southern Palestine, and by the occupation of Akaba and the territory surrounding Maan established a point of contact with the British forces at Gaza, on the one hand, and with the Bedouin and Druses of Syria on the other, is now in a position to keep the spirit of revolt among the latter aflame and to impart a more militant and practical character to the anti-Turkish movement, which had so far been in a smouldering state. A more or less regular line of communication between the northernmost base of the Hejaz Arab forces and the Bedouin and Druses of Syria and Palestine is now established. Refugees from Syria relate that, while Damascus and other inland towns, such as Homs and Hama, are now suffering less from famine and disease, the situation in Beyrout and the Lebanon is much more serious. Typhus in Beyrout is said to have been claiming victims by the hundreds. When the last reports published by American missionaries, who left Syria a few months ago, state that the calamity which has befallen this unhappy country surpasses in magnitude that of Belgium, and describe Syria as one vast cemetery, the appalling conditions obtaining there may well be imagined. Although the callousness of the Turk might make him proof against all this suffering, he has at last become alive to the gravity of the situation, and it is reported that the authorities have lately been making a serious effort to alleviate the prevailing misery by a free distribution of foodstuffs. When talk of peace is being so persistently kept up by Germany it is natural that the Turks should be actuated by the desire of appearing at any international congress with some semblance of respectability, with a view to obtaining a hearing for their claims. It remains to be seen how far Izzet Pasha will succeed in bringing things back to a state approximating the normal.

Military Service.

The last order with regard to military service was that the military exoneration tax was to be no longer accepted, save in particular cases, when the tax should be in the form of a quantity of wheat worth, according to present prices, £400.

Although the Organic Law of the Lebanon has been abolished, and the Mountain has been divided into three districts, the first of which was annexed to the Vilayet of Beyrout, the second to Tripoli—which was detached from the latter as a Mutessarifiet—and the third to Baalbeck, nevertheless, regular conscription has not yet been applied to the inhabitants. The Turkish authorities, however, are said to have practically mobilised the Lebanese for auxiliary work, such as road-building, trench-digging, and other works of defence.

Germany and the Palestine Jews.

The success attending the agitation promoted by Jews abroad in favour of their oppressed co-religionists in Palestine may be gauged from the fact that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berlin has instructed the German Military Headquarters in Turkey to send a Commission of Inquiry to Palestine in order to investigate the charges of wholesale massacre and pillage committed on the Jews there. The Jewish Societies in Germany have collected considerable sums of money with the object of sending another deputation to Palestine on the same mission. The American Diplomatic Agent at Stockholm reports that the number of Jews sent out of Jaffa and Jerusalem amounts to 14,000. Again, the delegates of Jewish Societies in Buenos Ayres called on the President of the Argentine Republic, and requested him to assist the Spanish Government in its defence of the persecuted Jews in Jaffa and Jerusalem, and the President promised them all help in this connection.

The Ottoman Government, evidently perturbed by this world-wide agitation, published an official notice to the effect that it did not order the evacuation of Jaffa and Jerusalem as a measure of retaliation or revenge taken against certain elements of the population, but rather as a military measure meant to facilitate the Army's task in defending these two towns.

The Arab Spirit.

A story which reaches me serves to contrast, in a striking manner, the new methods which the Arabs are introducing into the country with Turkish terrorism. A party of fugitives from Syria report that they were joined by a traveller, who from the outset seemed to them rather suspicious, on account of the excellent variety of food with which he was provided, while they had encountered great hardships in obtaining the simplest food and even water on their journey. Further, he continually plied them with questions which betrayed a more than ordinary inquisitiveness; so that, finally being satisfied that he was a spy, they reported him to the Emir Faisal. The latter sent for the man, and, after ordering £20 to be given him, said to him, "Now, go back, my son, to whence you came, and tell those who sent you that there is no need for them to resort to such hidden ways for getting information about us, as we have nothing to hide; they can in all safety send openly men from their part who can go back to them to report what they have seen."

WORKERS NEEDED IN SALONIKA.

For those unable to take up active military service an opportunity to do exceptional work is offered by the Y.M.C.A. An urgent appeal from Salonika has been received by Sir Arthur Yapp, begging for more workers to be sent out at once, otherwise some centres will be compelled to close. The work presents great possibilities, for, to quote an officer lately returned from Salonika: "The only people who do anything for the troops out there are the Y.M.C.A." They are in need of more marquees, more reading-rooms and literature, more concert parties, and games. It is hoped that many will come forward to aid in the national work that is being done in this quarter of the war zone.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE RISE OF NATIONALITY IN THE BALKANS.

"The sins of the European Concert have come back to roost, and this country is paying for its mismanagement of the Balkan problem a generation ago by a situation in which French and British blood is being shed, and shed inevitably, upon the soil of Macedonia." Such is the blazing truth which the learned writer of "The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans" would have his readers realise. The seething unrest of South-Eastern Europe has been a constant menace to the peace of the nations for at least two centuries, and no final settlement can ever be made until it is recognised by all those who look for peace that it is not the interest of the "Great Powers," but the prosperous future of the Balkan nations themselves which must be the primary consideration in all coming arrangements. During the past two centuries three central facts have dominated Balkan history. First, the persistent struggle for freedom of the subject Christian races against the bloodstained and incompetent rule of the Ottoman Turks—a race "utterly incapable of constructive work or probity of administration." Second, the perpetual intermeddling of the Great Powers in Balkan affairs in their own purely selfish interests, and third, the steady rise of national feeling among the Balkan peoples themselves. Dr. Seton-Watson enlarges upon these facts most convincingly. No more terse and well-balanced account of the various Balkan nations exists. Their slow and painful progress towards self-government must find a sympathetic response in the minds of most readers. To-day's events are but the recurrence of the tragedies of centuries. It is interesting, for example, to recall just now that in earlier days, "in less than sixty years there were no fewer than five foreign occupations of Moldavia and Wallachia, four Russian and one Austrian." Of all figures that move across the scene it is a Hohenzollern Prince who—quite justly as we believe—receives the highest praise. "The accession of Prince Charles of Prussia may be regarded as the turning point of all Roumanian history. His long reign of forty-eight years has completely transformed Roumania from a corrupt and backward dependency of the Turks to much the most powerful, independent State in South-East Europe, and a very large share of the credit for this transformation falls to King Charles himself, alike as statesman, as soldier, and as organiser."

With regard to the Young Turks, the author shows how much the democratic peoples were once mistaken. "Few events have been more misunderstood than the Young Turks Revolution of 1908." The account here given of the incompetence and ruthlessness of the gang that have captured the Government in Constantinople will be a revelation to some. How the revolution has led to the present crisis is clear. "As time passed it became more and more obvious that the sole hope of salvation lay in the army. Hence it was absolutely inevitable that the Young Turks should fall under German influence, since the Germans alone could be relied upon to reorganise the army without at the same time interfering with the autocratic designs of the Committee of Union and Progress."

In Part II. Dr. Seton-Watson describes the formation of the Balkan League, the unexpectedly successful Turco-Balkan war, the tragic break-up of the League, and the second Balkan war.

There are doubtless many points still obscure in this tangled web, but the author illuminates others, and particularly with regard to Bulgaria reveals much of which the British public were quite in the dark at the time. The sympathy of England was undoubtedly with Bulgaria even when the second Balkan war happened, a position largely due to the extraordinary way the Bulgarian authorities controlled the war news in their own interests. Detailed reports of battles fought at Tcherkeskoj and Tchataldja—which never occurred—on the 3rd to the 9th November, 1912, were supplied to the *Reichspost* of Vienna, and thus to the world; and in the same way, seven months later, "on 30th of June it was announced officially from Sofia that the Serbian troops had opened sustained fire upon the Bulgarian lines between Zletovo and Shtep." It is now known beyond doubt that Bulgaria deliberately planned a surprise attack on her erstwhile allies at the very spot, naively thinking that by taking forceable possession of much coveted territory without a declaration of war they would be able to appear before the Conference table in Petrograd in a more favourable position from being in actual occupation of the land she hoped then to obtain by treaty. The whole occurrence is unpardonable. "In all the grim story of modern Balkan warfare this repulsive incident stands out above all the rest . . . that on certain sections of the front Serbian and Bulgarian officers dined together on the evening preceding the final 'stab in the back,' and the very men who a few hours before, with the fatal orders in their pockets, had been clinking glasses with their Serbian comrades, crept back at the dead of night in the hope of slaughtering them unawares."

Macedonia will still be a perplexed problem when the conclusion of the war comes. "With the single exception of Hungary there is no part of Europe where the medley of race is so great." "Peopled with a fluid population of Turks, Albanians, Jews, Greeks, Bulgars, Serbs, and Vlachs, Macedonia has been the home of ceaseless and varying racial animosities, of rival racial and ecclesiastical propagandas, both backed, as the Christian States of the peninsula grew stronger, by its particular racial affinity beyond the Turkish frontiers."

But, in spite of all, Dr. Seton-Watson is not without hope that this restless corner of Europe may some day see peace. The Balkan nations must realise that there is no future for them until they agree among themselves. "A definite accord between Serb and Bulgar would obviously be the prelude of a new era in the history of Balkan independence," and the only hope of this is to restrain once for all those outside influences which have busied themselves in fomenting the Serbo-Bulgarian feud.

The History unfortunately breaks off where we should much like to learn more of the author's views. Owing to "his departure from London on military duties" the book is published incomplete; but Dr. Seton-Watson has now returned to London. The missing chapters may some day appear as Part III., and we must hope that they will narrate the dawn of a new and better era in these much tried lands.

The Rise of Nationality in the Balkans. By R. W. Seton-Watson (London: Constable and Co., Ltd., 1917. 10s. 6d. net.)

THE LATE CANON STERLING, M.A., M.B., B.Sc., Durh.

(Captain R.A.M.C. Hon. Canon St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem. Medical Missionary C.M.S., Gaza.)

A large circle who, within recent years, have been associated with Palestine and Syria will learn with sorrow that Captain Sterling, R.A.M.C., passed away at St. Thomas's Home, St. Thomas's Hospital, London, on the 17th inst., after a prolonged and painful illness. Robert Sterling was a man of varied gifts and extraordinary energy. After taking his arts' course and being ordained, he elected to pursue further studies at Durham University with a view to medical mission work. In these medical studies, although carried on while he was doing regular clerical duties, he greatly distinguished himself. In 1892 he was sent by the C.M.S. to Gaza, where he gained an ever-increasing influence among the people of that city and the whole district around by his surgical skill. While immersed in this work, together with the clerical supervision of the mission station—duties which would have absorbed all the energy of most men in such a hot climate—he found time to acquire a quite unusual mastery of Arabic, so that he was not only able to speak and preach with fluency, but he also published two books, "A Grammar of the Arabic Language," which has for long been used as a text-book at Oxford University, and "Arabic and English Idioms." During the twenty-two years that Dr. Sterling was associated with this station he greatly extended the work; he rebuilt the hospital, making it the chief surgical centre in the whole district, and he made regular itinerating tours, reaching as far south as El Arish. His influence among the people of the land was unique, and he will be remembered for many years to come. The late Bishop Blyth, as a recognition of his appreciation of his work, made him an Hon. Canon of St. George's Collegiate Church, Jerusalem. Soon after the outbreak of the war Dr. Sterling joined the R.A.M.C. as lieutenant, and after a year was made captain. Though considerably over the ordinary military age for foreign service with the R.A.M.C. he was, by his own request, transferred, after a period of service at home, to the Palestine front, where his knowledge of the land and the people was of considerable value to the military authorities. Before he was finally invalided home he had the melancholy satisfaction of viewing his old home in Gaza from a high point within the British lines. He will be sadly missed by his friends, both European and Palestinian, who will all sympathise with his wife and family in their heavy loss.

A HOSPITAL BOMBARDED.

The following statement is issued by the Roumanian Embassy:—

"On October 11 and 12 the town of Galatz was bombarded by the enemy. On October 11, 140 shells of heavy artillery, and on the 12th 30 bombs, were dropped by five aeroplanes on the town. Four inhabitants were killed and 20 wounded. The principal hospital, in which there were 650 wounded and nurses, was hit by thirty-two shells, several patients and nurses were dangerously wounded, the chapel destroyed, and the hospital had to be evacuated. These proceedings are contrary to the rules of the Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, Article 27. The Roumanian Government raises the strongest protest against the bombardment of a hospital, and, according to Article 3 of the same Convention, will hold the enemy responsible for all the damage done."

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. October.	1917. October.		1336. Muharram.	5678. Heshvan.
26	13	Friday	10	10
27	14	Saturday.....	11	11
28	15	Sunday	12	12
29	16	Monday	13	13
30	17	Tuesday	14	14
31	18	Wednesday	15	15
November 1	19	Thursday	16	16

The Serbian Minister has returned to town from Bradford.

Prince and Princess Murat arrived in London on October 18 from the Continent.

General Vallesono, of the Roumanian Army, arrived in London on October 19 from Jassy.

Dr. Angelescu, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister at Washington, has left London for Paris.

Monday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Queen Marie of Roumania, who was born in 1875.

M. Naoum, ex-Greek Minister at Sofia, has been appointed Director-General of the Greek Foreign Office.

Colonel Ferigo, formerly Military Attaché to the Italian Legation in Roumania, left London on October 19 for Rome.

Prince D. Bogdan, a member of the Roumanian Parliament, and Princess Bogdan left London on October 19 for Paris.

It is reported that the ex-King Constantine has undergone a successful operation, and that his condition is satisfactory.

Colonel the Earl of Stradbroke has arrived in England on leave from Egypt, and is staying at Henham Hall, Wangford.

M. Rendis, who has been appointed Greek Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation at Stockholm, has arrived in London on his way to Sweden.

M. Victor Jonescu, the newly-appointed Roumanian Minister to Lisbon, left London on October 18 for Paris on his way to Portugal to take up his new duties.

Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli have endowed six beds in University College Hospital for the treatment of Bright's disease in memory of their late son, Captain Leo L. Ralli, A.S.C.

The King has given authority to Mr. Frederick Parker Walton, Director of the Sultania School of Law, Cairo, to wear the Insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile.

Among recent wills is that of the late Lieut.-Colonel Colin William Macrury, late I.M.S., of Broadwalk Hotel, De Vere Gardens, Kensington, who left estate of the gross value of £7,973.

The sudden death is reported of the prominent Slovene patriot, Mgr. Janez Krek, one of the most effective orators of the Vienna Parliament and a strong supporter of the unity of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

General Mavrocordato, of the Roumanian Army, attached to the Headquarters of the Allied Armies at Salonika, attended by Lieutenant Michael Sturdza, A.D.C., has arrived in London from Roumania.

It was announced in the *London Gazette* on October 18 that Lieutenant-General Sir H. B. B. Watkis, K.C.B., Indian Army, had been appointed to be General, vice Sir M. H. S. Grover, K.C.B., K.C.I.E.

A telegram from Cairo states that the Alexandria Sporting Club has given £4,000 from racing profits to military charities. In pre-war days racing did not realise more than a few hundred pounds profit annually.

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, has expressed to the family of the late Major Claude Askew, the well-known novelist, his profound sympathy with them in connection with the tragic death of Major Askew and his wife.

Prince and Princess Alexis Karageorgevitch of Serbia, who have been visiting Yorkshire recently in connection with meetings arranged by the Serbian Consul at Bradford in aid of the Serbian Relief Fund and the Serbian Red Cross, left London on October 23 for Paris.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* telegraphs that the Holy Carpet has returned from Mecca, and that the new Sultan presided at the usual ceremony. The returning pilgrims state that the pilgrimage passed off in the best conditions.

A marriage has been arranged between Lieutenant Errol Mews, R.F.A., second son of Mr. Herbert Mews, of Whychcote, Portslade, and Ruby Evelyn, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Constantine Ionides and Mrs. Ionides, of 10, Second Avenue, Hove.

It is stated that, as a result of the fire at Salonika, out of a total civil population of 278,749 no fewer than 73,448 were rendered homeless. At present 7,592 persons are in tents and 65,856 in houses and public buildings, all overcrowded, and fully half are children under 12.

On Sunday, October 21, the anniversary of the Battle of Navarino was celebrated in Greece for the first time. There was a celebration at the Olympia Theatre, Athens, in the presence of King Alexander, M. Venizelos and all the Cabinet Ministers and the entire Diplomatic Corps.

The Sirdar, reporting on the results of "Our Day" in the Sudan, says:—"'Our Day' appeal in the Sudan has realised £8,214 to date. Owing to distance of out stations, it will take some time denitely to ascertain the final amount subscribed."

At the Serbian Church in Corfu, on October 21, a service in memory of Major Claude Askew and of his wife, Mrs. Alice Askew, was conducted by the Archbishop of Serbia, who paid an eloquent tribute to the benevolent work of Major and Mrs. Askew, to whom, he said, the Serbian people owed eternal gratitude.

Commissioner Booth-Tucker, the head of the Salvation Army in India, who is at present in London consulting with General Booth in regard to the extension of the work in that country, has arranged to address several meetings in London on Indian problems, the first of which took place at the Congress Hall, Clapton, on October 21.

Colonel P. Peshitch, of the Serbian Headquarters Staff, had the honour of being received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 19, when he delivered to his Majesty an autograph letter from the Crown Prince Regent of Serbia. The same day Major N. Arion, Roumanian Military Attaché, had the honour of being received in audience by the King.

The War Office announce that the King has approved of the dignity of a Knight Commander of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George being conferred upon Major-General Sir Harry Triscott Brooking, K.C.B., Indian Army, in recognition of distinguished services in the field in connection with the capture of Ramadieh, on the Euphrates, which was effected on September 29.

A first list of subscriptions received at the Greek Consulate at Newcastle for the Lord Mayor of London's fund for the relief of sufferers by the Salonika fire has now been issued, giving a total of £128 10s. 11d. This sum has been forwarded by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle, together with a contribution of 200 guineas from the Consul for Greece there, Mr. Leonard Macarthy.

Miss Hughes, Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society since 1904, is resigning her post on her approaching marriage with Mr. R. W. Frazer, formerly of the Madras Civil Service, and afterwards Secretary of the London Institution. Her successor will be Colonel H. A. Rose, late of the Punjab Civil Service. He is an authority on Indian ethnography, and was the author of the Punjab Census report for 1901.

M. Politis, Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking in the Chamber, said that the idea of a signature of peace had been circulated by persons, parties, and Governments who have an interest in deceiving public opinion. The truth, however, was that peace was not imminent, and the war would be a long one.

It is understood that, according to present arrangements, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, Minister of Education, will act as representative of the India Office in the House of Commons in the absence of the Secretary of State in India. Mr. Fisher is already familiar with certain aspects of Indian conditions, for he was a member of the Public Services Commission, and in that capacity visited the country.

Our Khartoum correspondent, writing on September 27, says:—H.E. the Acting Sirdar and Governor-General, arrived from Erkowit with his staff on the afternoon of the 24th. His arrival was private, and he proceeded at once to the Palace. The morning being the first day of the Feast of Bairam, he held a levée, after reading out the list of those who received decorations and robes of honour, and presenting those who were in Khartoum with their honours. It is expected that he will proceed north shortly. He will be joined at Atbara by Mrs. Stack, who has been staying at Erkowit.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lewa F. Carroll Pasha, Principal Medical Officer, Egyptian Army, and Lewa R. C. R. Owen Pasha, C.M.G., Governor Mongalla Province, returned to Khartoum at the beginning of October on the expiration of their leave.

The Rev. A. H. Longley has obtained leave of absence for one year, and the work of the Delta Chaplaincy will be carried on by the Rev. A. E. Stanley, M.A., who, with the Bishop's sanction, has kindly agreed to take his place while he is on furlough from his duties as chaplain in India.

Major R. Pringle, of the Finance Ministry, Cairo, is shortly leaving Egypt for good, says the *Egyptian Mail*. He has been requested by the Egyptian Government to assist Sir A. L. Webb in London in the purchase of stores required in Egypt. He has served Egypt for many years, and will be greatly missed by his numerous friends in that country.

OBITUARY.

SIR PARDEY LUKIS.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Charles Pardey Lukis, K.C.S.I., M.D.London, F.R.C.S.England, Director-General of Indian Medical Services, aged sixty years.

Sir Pardey received his professional education at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and entered the I.M.S. in 1880 at the top of the list. In the following year he served with the Waziristan Field Force, and three years later in the Zhob Valley. He was transferred to the civil branch, and was appointed to various posts in the United Provinces. In 1899 he became Civil Surgeon of Simla, and was later appointed honorary surgeon to the Viceroy.

He became, in 1905, Principal and Professor of Medicine in the Calcutta Medical College, and First Physician of the College Hospital. He was appointed Director-General in 1910, and has thus held that appointment for some eight years, a period during which remarkable progress was made in original research in medicine in India, a subject in which he took special interest. He was the editor of a journal devoted to this subject, and was the author of "A Manual of Tropical Hygiene."

Sir Pardey had passed the age for retirement, and had remained in his post at the earnest request of the authorities, who desired him to retain it until the end of the war. He leaves a widow, the daughter of the late Colonel John Stewart, R.A., C.I.E., and sister of Mrs. F. H. Skrine. The family consists of two sons and three daughters. The eldest son, it will be remembered, took a commission in the London Regiment immediately after the outbreak of war, and was killed in France in March, 1915.

As we go to press we learn of the death of Sir William James Herschel, I.C.S., retired, which occurred on Wednesday morning at his residence, the Rectory House, Warfield, Berks.

Colonel H. P. Ralston Crawfurd, I.A., has died at Kensington after a short illness. He obtained his commission in 1855, and served with the Burmese Expedition of 1885-86, for which he received the medal with clasp.

Lady Meade died on October 21 at her residence in Stafford Terrace, Kensington. She was the daughter of Lieut.-Colonel Malcolm, Resident of Baroda, and married in 1853 Sir Richard John Meade, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., who died in 1894.

Major Ernest Glanville Waymouth, R.A., who died on October 16, aged 48, obtained his commission from Woolwich in 1888. He saw service in the Nile Expedition in 1898, and was mentioned in despatches for his services, receiving the 4th Class of the Medjidie and medal.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry W. J. Bagnell, I.C.S., retired, at the age of 56. He was the son of the late Rev. Henry Bagnell, rector of Nuffield, Oxfordshire, and was educated at Eastbourne College, at Keble College, Oxford, and at Trinity College, Dublin, and joined the Indian Civil Service in 1882.

The death took place at 20, Ennismore Gardens, on October 19, after a short illness, of Lieutenant-Colonel W. B. Miller, son of the late Dr. Rector Miller, of Perth, and brother of Lady Davson. He saw service with the Egyptian Expedition in 1882, was present in the action at Kassassin, and was mentioned in despatches.

Dr. Edward Hull, whose death has just taken place, succeeded Professor J. B. Jukes as Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland and Professor of Geology in the Royal College of Science, Dublin, in 1869, and did not retire from the service until the completion of the Irish Survey in 1890. An expedition organised by the Palestine Exploration Society in 1883 was placed under Professor Hull's charge, and a long journey through the Sinaitic Peninsula and Southern Palestine resulted in throwing considerable light on the geological structure of that region. One of the members of the party was the late Lord Kitchener, then a captain in the Royal Engineers. Professor Hull was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1867, and in 1879 received the honorary degree of LL.D. from the University of Glasgow.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

LIDDELL.—On October 19, at Gezireh, Cairo, to Major (Temp. Lieut.-Colonel) John Stewart Liddell, C.M.G., D.S.O. (late R.E.), and Mrs. Liddell—a daughter.

SWAN.—On October 12, at Cairo, Egypt, the wife of Percy Swan, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

LONGLEY—MUIRHEAD.—On October 18, at St. Peter's, Eaton Square, by the Rev. L. S. Westall and the Rev. J. Longley, father of the bridegroom, the Rev. A. H. Longley, Delta Chaplain, Egypt, to Margaret Lauder Lilian Muirhead, Broomwood, St. Albans.

DEATH.

MEADE.—On October 21, 1917, at 19, Stafford Terrace, Kensington, Emily Salter Meade, widow of Colonel Sir Richard John Meade, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., in her 85th year.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
Proprietor: AUGUSTUS MILLINGEN.

WINDSOR HOTEL
(Facing the Sea, opposite Y.M.C.A.). ALEXANDRIA.
Full Pension, P.T.50; Room, P.T.20;
Lunch, P.T.15; Dinner, P.T.20.
For long stay, apply to the Manager.

SUMMER PALACE HOTEL,
GLYMENOPOULO, RAMLEH.
This Hotel is situated near the Beach. Open all the Year.
Bathing Cabins.
Terms from: Pension, P.T.60; Lunch, P.T.20; Dinner, P.T.25.

NAJEM HOURY'S CYPRUS HOTELS COMPANY.
OPEN ALL THE YEAR ROUND—
NIKOSIA—Cyprus Palace Hotel.
LIMASSOL—Olympus Hotel.
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FOR SUMMER SEASON—
PLATRES—Platres Hotel. 4,000 feet above sea level. Open from May till October.
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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1917.

NEW FACTORS IN INDIAN POLITICS.

It is difficult in these days for the ordinary citizen of the Empire to follow the developments of the political situation in India. The mails arrive at lengthy and uncertain intervals, the cable service is necessarily curtailed, and such items of news as reach this country are too often crowded out by matters deemed to be of more immediate interest to the public. The position is much to be regretted, for in India history is just now in the making, and when India sets out to make history she works on the grand scale, and produces results which the rest of the world must take into account. If we look below the surface of the present situation, we find that the most striking feature is the entry of new forces into the political arena. To the ordinary observer the field has hitherto been occupied by two parties only: the small but active class of politicians eager for a larger share of administrative power, and the established bureaucracy, not by any means unmindful of the aspirations of their adversaries, but still faithful to the ideal of administrative efficiency, and at the same time conscious of their responsibility on the one hand to the Empire and on the other to the silent masses of the Indian population. The opposed ideals are by no means irreconcilable, and to some acute observers the position has appeared to call for the introduction of a neutral moderating element, which should strike out a path of orderly progress for the Indian peoples as a whole. The new fact in the situation is that India appears to be providing this moderating element for herself. The active politicians do not make up the whole nation: above them and below them in the social scale are other classes, in the aggregate of much greater importance, which have hitherto been silent spectators, but which are now beginning to make their voices heard, and are taking up a middle position, that may well serve as a rallying point for all Indians of good will. Let us glance for a moment at these new forces in the field.

On the one side we have the aristocratic and propertied interests of the country. The last few decades have witnessed a remarkable change in the outlook of these classes, a change which must be attributed in part to the spread of education, and in part to the cumulative effect of distinctively British influences. The Indian aristocracy is no longer entirely absorbed in the pursuit of pleasure, as that word has hitherto been understood in Eastern countries: many of the younger men, and also some of their seniors, are devoting more and more attention to public affairs, while some of them have been thinking hard, and are now learning to translate their thoughts into speech and action. This new development is typified by the Maharaja of Bikanir, whose figure has become familiar to the Empire since his appearance at the last Imperial Conference, but the important thing is that he does not stand alone: there are other Princes, and there are many other men of established position, though their names are as yet unknown beyond the limits of India, who occupy the same platform, and who exercise a steadily increasing influence over the opinion of the country. These men are good nationalists, and good Imperialists also: they are cordially at one with the politicians in desiring that the immense possibilities of India shall be realised through the efforts of her sons; but, gifted as they are with a wider and a saner outlook, they are able to perceive more clearly the difficulties which have to be faced and overcome; they are less confident of the sufficiency of changes in political machinery; they realise more clearly the need for steady and gradual progress towards the common ideal; and they are exerting their great influence strongly and persistently in this direction. At the other end of the social scale there is naturally less definite change of thought or action to record. The masses of the people, some but newly freed from hereditary servitude, and all alike drilled into subservience by centuries of exploitation and oppression, have not yet found a way of expressing what they feel. They are not consciously nationalists, still less Imperialists; but they are no longer wholly inattentive to the processes by which their future is determined. Their immediate interests are economic; they are becoming less and less disposed to toil, as they have toiled in the past, for the sole benefit of landlords, money-lenders and lawyers; and the struggle to express what is in their minds is just beginning to produce some visible results. Already their views are represented in a section of the Indian Press, until recently devoted to purely political interests, and the policy put forward on their behalf is in essence indistinguishable from that adopted by the enlightened aristocracy. Both parties alike ask for steady and orderly progress in national development, not merely in the revision of political and administrative institutions, but in all fields of activity, and both parties are at one in demanding that this development shall be conducted by the same British rule which has already led the people out of the deserts in which they were wandering, and which alone can be trusted to safeguard the remainder of the tedious journey towards the promised land.

Thus the problem of India's development may be said in one sense to be increasing in complexity: only a few years ago it seemed that a single, clear-cut issue lay between the opposing forces, while now we have to reckon with more numerous parties, and with policies which merge and overlap. This apparent complexity is, however, the first condition of progress towards a satisfactory solution. The problem does not consist in finding the best way of handing over the destinies of India to a small number of active politicians: it consists rather in enabling India to control her own destinies. India is a complex entity, and for the satisfactory solution of this problem it is essential that no important interest shall be left out of account. The easy solutions which have been offered by some of her most ardent politicians fail precisely because they have ignored this essential condition, and the importance of the new movements at which we have glanced lies in the fact that they demonstrate the futility of such an attitude. Politicians of diverse views have united to demand a form of government which should first and foremost perpetuate the predominance already secured by their order, and they have made this demand in the name of India as a whole. India is now repudiating that demand, and is beginning to ask for a wider and more perfect synthesis. The new voices are in no sense reactionary, nor on the other hand are they extreme: they represent the great mass of moderate opinion, anxious to press forward, but refusing to press forward in the dark. Herein lies the vast opportunity presented to the statesmen of the Empire in these days. There can no longer be any question of the goal in view, but there are still wide differences regarding the road by which it shall be reached. These differences, however, admit of reconciliation, and the sound sense of India is indicating the true line of advance: it is for the statesmen to seize the occasion so presented, to consider the country's urgent needs rather than the details of its political machinery, and to put forward a policy which shall lead to the establishment of a strong and self-reliant nation.

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PERSIA AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

By MIRZA FIROOZ KHAN.

II.* TABRIZ, August.

A Change of Officials.

One of the first results of the revolution in Russia, as far as Persia was concerned, was the sweeping changes made in Russian officialdom. As will be imagined, there was adequate reason for the step, apart from any personal considerations. Russia had not been satisfactorily represented in Persia. There had been a number of bad scandals which could not be concealed from public notice. Perhaps one of the worst was the traffic in arms with the chieftains of Kurdish tribes. Needless to say, the Russian Government had no knowledge of these transactions, and was itself a sufferer, in so far as the payment received for Government rifles and ammunition was generally supposed to remain with one or more of the officials on the spot.

The circumstances attending the departure of one member of the old régime are not without interest. General Chernazoboff was at Urumiah when he received notice of his recall, and he at once took a boat for Sharafkaneh, with a view to joining the Tiflis railway. At Sharafkaneh he addressed a farewell speech to some Russian troops, announcing the deposition of the Tsar, and informing the soldiers that they were now free men. According to a report, the old general at the end of his speech made the unfortunate slip, from sheer force of habit, of saying, "Long live the Tsar!" There was, of course, an ominous silence, and, recollecting himself, he said, "Chort!" (the devil) "I forgot; the Tsar is gone. You should say 'Long live the new Government!'" At this one of the soldiers asked for permission to make a speech, and, having been granted it, promptly put some rather pointed questions to General Chernazoboff. The latter ordered the offender to be brought to him, but the soldier stated that there was no need for that to be done, as he would come of his own accord. Accordingly, coming nearer to the general, he repeated his questions. By this time the demeanour of the troops was unmistakable, and General Chernazoboff considered it wiser to beat a hasty retreat.

The Governor of Urumiah, Prince Ehtimad-ed-Dowleh, was involved in the fall of General Chernazoboff, whose nominee he had been, and on the strength of whose protection he had been able to adopt a somewhat independent attitude towards the Governor-General of Azerbaijan. A pretext apparently had to be found for dealing with Prince Ehtimad. He had had occasion to go to Khoi, one of the towns under his jurisdiction, in order to investigate the affairs of the district. His visit coincided with the eleventh anniversary of the Persian Constitution, and he omitted to take any part in the celebrations. The Prince had acted as secretary to the late Shuja-ed-Dowleh, and was regarded as an anti-constitutionalist. It was the first occasion on which any attempt had been made on a large scale to celebrate the anniversary of the Constitution, and probably the abstention of the Governor of Urumiah attracted some attention. Almost immediately afterwards orders were received for his arrest, and he was sent under escort to Tabriz, where, it is reported, he has remained since, not in actual confinement, but under supervision in the house which he occupies.

* Part I. appeared in THE NEAR EAST of October 5.

Prince Mois-ed-Dowleh was subsequently appointed Governor of Urumiah, but he does not seem to have been able to hit it off with the Russians, and after a short stay in the district returned to Tabriz.

Economic Conditions.

A further change brought about by the Russian revolution concerns the trade relations between the two countries. In order to counteract the fall in the exchange value of the rouble, the Imperial Government had prohibited the importation into Russia of Persian dried fruits—raisins, sabza, almonds, apricots, plums, etc. It was hoped in this way to stop the flow of Russian money into Persia. The Persian Government was not in a position to retaliate at the time, but one of its first acts when the Russian Provisional Government proclaimed the policy of non-interference in Persian affairs was to forbid the export of rice and wheat to Russia. It may be said in passing that the most likely explanation of the sudden fall in the value of the rouble in Persia—though in this respect there was merely a reflection of what was taking place in every part of the world—was the veto on the export of Russian goods into Persia. The Persians rely upon Russia for sugar, kerosene, clothing material of all kinds, leather, nails and a variety of other products, but the chief article of import is sugar. It is understood that the Russian Bank of Tabriz enjoys a monopoly of the importation of sugar from Russia into Persia, and of late the price to the Persian consumer has been exceedingly high, in spite of the fact that there was known to have been no corresponding increase in the price in Russia. A brief respite was caused by the importation of a quantity of brown sugar from India, which was sold at just half the price of the Russian product. The price of Russian loaf sugar came down for a time, but the Indian supply was not enough to bring about a permanent reduction. In spite of the almost prohibitive cost, the Persians showed that they could not dispense with sugar. Tea-drinking is an indispensable feature of the life of the country, and sugar seems to be for the Persians an indispensable adjunct to a cup of tea. Six months ago a boycott was started in Tabriz, under the leadership of the Mujtahid, against the tea-drinking habit. A number of tea-houses were closed in the enthusiasm of the moment, but the boycott lasted only three days. To meet the sugar difficulty an attempt was made to use raisins in its stead in tea. This, again, did not succeed. Persia remains confronted with a sugar problem, but is left with the uncomfortable impression that her troubles are not solely due to a genuine shortage of the product, but that she is being victimised in the interests of foreign profiteers.

THE TURKS IN ANCIENT TIMES.

Last Wednesday at the School of Oriental Studies, London, Miss M. A. Czaplicka delivered an address upon the Turks, dealing more especially with those outside the Turkish Empire. She said that there were about forty million Turks distributed in south-eastern Europe and across Asia as far as China. Those of Europe and Asia Minor were of mixed descent. The Turks of Turkestan, southern Siberia, and neighbouring parts of Asia were largely mixed with an Iranian element. Further east the Turanian, or nearly pure, Turk was to be found. It was quite an erroneous notion which identified the Turkish race with the Mohammedan religion; many of them were still Shamanists. The culture of the Turks had been chiefly derived from neighbouring peoples—Arab, Persian, or Chinese. Archæological investigation had shown that in the most ancient times the Turks were a peaceful people, inhabiting the dense forests of Siberia. Later, they had taken to live on the steppes, and had become warlike. Herodotus said of the Turks of his time that they believed themselves to be descended from a she-wolf, and this idea had been recently revived by the Pan-Turanians. All investigation into early Turkish origins and the like was to-day used by the Central Empires as a means of propagating the idea of a Turanian empire, in which all people of Turkish or allied race were to be united under the leadership of the Ottoman Turks of Europe.

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN

Rumour and surmise are busy over the movements of the ex-Khedive. From the decent obscurity of his retreat in Switzerland he was suddenly dragged into the light of publicity in connection with the Bolo scandals, and almost immediately afterwards he has returned to Constantinople. His own explanation of the change in his plans seems to have been that important happenings were pending in Turkey which called for his attendance by the side of his lawful suzerain. A writer in the *Correspondance d'Orient*, however, suggests very different motives for his departure; among them a recall pure and simple by the Committee of Union and Progress, the proposed marriage of two of his daughters with the two sons of the Sultan of Turkey, a touching belief in Von Falkenhayn's plans in regard to Egypt, or, finally, a sordid desire to participate in the transactions by which speculators or financiers are benefiting at the expense of the public and the State.

***

With these suggestions I am less concerned than with the assertion that Abbas Hilmi has been at pains to let it be known that his views towards Great Britain have undergone a complete change, and that he is anxious to be reinstated in the British Government's good books. He would in such circumstances advance no claim to the throne of Egypt for himself, but he would like to see his eldest son recognised as heir apparent. At the same time he would ask for favourable treatment in regard to his financial interests in Egypt. No doubt. Being essentially of a business turn of mind, Abbas Hilmi will be conversant with the principle of a *quid pro quo*, and it would be of interest to know what equivalent service he would consider that he was rendering to Great Britain. As a matter of fact, he has already done us the only good turn he has ever had it in his power, or is likely to have it in his power, to do us, and that was by throwing in his lot with Turkey and enabling Egypt to be rid of him. There, I trow, is to be found the end of Abbas, as far as the British Empire is concerned, for there cannot be the least justification for troubling the future of Egypt by reintroducing into the country either him or any of his sons.

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It would certainly have been a natural attitude on the part of the ex-Khedive to wish to be allowed to bask in the sunshine of the German Emperor's visit to Constantinople Indeed, his absence on such an occasion must have given rise to comment. In such an assembly he had no need to fear reproaches for mishandling the Bolo business. There would be too many openings for the retort courteous for even Abbas Hilmi to miss them all. William II. was on much safer ground in his speech at the banquet in eulogising Turco-German successes, and it is to be presumed that even in private conversations he will have refrained from raising the subject of failures, whether Abbas Hilmi's or his own.

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A few days ago I was reading a young soldier's account of our recent advance in Flanders, or, rather, of his own share in it, when, among numerous graphic touches that helped me to realize the character of the fighting, I came across a casual reference to the Near East. Describing how he and a few others followed a certain captain at one part of the advance, the writer mentioned that the man next to him was "a Roumanian Jew," who had been formerly employed in one of the large London banks. From the letter it is clear that the Roumanian did his share of the day's work like a man; and in a later passage the Londoner pays a high compliment to his abilities in the less strenuous parts of the soldier's calling. He regrets that the Roumanian was on the sick list, and was, therefore, not available for bargaining with the peasants and others from whom our men bought food when they were sent back for a rest. "X——," he writes, "is a marvel at getting whatever is to be got, and I am afraid I was a very poor substitute. . . . He can speak ten or twelve languages, and has a wonderfully persuasive manner with him." Evidently one platoon of a particular London regiment appreciates the alliance with Roumania.

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The Petrograd correspondent of *The Times* told not long ago of a Russian cabman who showed a weakness for keeping on the wrong side of the road, and who resented being ordered by a militiaman to take the right side. "The militia," he said to *The Times* correspondent, "are worse than the police. They are always sticking their noses where they are not wanted." With feelings that we can all understand—and sympathize with, I fancy!—the correspondent asked what, indeed, was the worth of the liberty that Russia is now enjoying if one could not drive where and how he liked. The freedom-loving cabby detected no irony in the query. Far from it! "You speak truth," he exclaimed. "What is the use of liberty if we cannot do what we like?"

***

I reproduce the story not because I find it edifying to contemplate the present state of Russia or because I think my readers are likely to do so, but because it might quite well have been told, almost without the alteration of a single word, by a newspaper correspondent in Constantinople at the time of the Young Turkish revolution. At that time we heard many such tales, and I rather fancy I have retold some of them in these columns. I remember, too, that Sir Mark Sykes wrote an article—either in the *Spectator* or the *Outlook*, I think it was—entitled "Hurriet" (Liberty), which showed how exactly similar was the average Turkish revolutionary's view on the subject to that of the Russian cabman. One hopes and believes, however, that the Russian revolution is fated to lead to better things than its Turkish predecessor, so to say. With all respect to the Petrograd "cabby," I would suggest that what *he* wants is a little less "liberty" and a better developed sense of duty. And he is not alone in Russia.

CORSAIR.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CAROB TREE IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The letter of G. L. H. (NEAR EAST, October 19) details his own experience in carrying out the law dealing with carob beans suffering from the disease now attacking the trees. The case as presented is quite typical of the present state of things in Cyprus. It is just what one would expect in the circumstances. The writer, a British subject, did what probably no native owner of carob trees did, *i.e.*, equipped himself, as far as he could, with appliances needed for careful compliance with the regulations; providing "a forester's ladder, a step-ladder, and a wheel-barrow," and employing small boys to climb along light branches, which even thus cannot all be reached. The work was carried out, as directed, during forty days.

The first impression derived from the letter is that, if the Government had acted as G. L. H. did, they would before this have come to precisely the same conclusion, viz., that the law as it stands is impracticable. G. L. H. does not suggest a remedy; but in a previous letter he has pointed out that the Government should have established an orchard of carob trees, in which all necessary experiments should have been systematically carried out, results and deductions being duly recorded. He contends that at present "the combat cannot be carried on with success if entrusted to the present proprietors alone." The Government could not, of course, pay an army of supervisors, many, perhaps, of doubtful capability or trustworthiness; but some other measures are obviously necessary. G. L. H., moreover, notes that "the faithful carrying out of the official instructions leads to a decreasing crop." Blossom knocked off in September does not come again. This calls to mind the destructive Cypriot method of beating the olive trees, which the Agricultural Department is endeavouring to combat. It is clear that in the case of this serious carob disease every possible effort should be made to utilise the experience of the few who are devoting careful attention to the problem. The fact is that little remedial work can be carried out in Cyprus except under compulsion. The more intelligent and well-to-do peasants themselves sometimes strongly advocate compulsion and the imposition of a small tax on agriculturists to meet the cost of the prescribed measures, where the Government does not itself undertake this work, as it does in the destruction of locusts, for which a tax was levied on all classes. What is said of the carob disease may be said also of some others, *e.g.*, of the *oïdium*, which so largely attacks the vines. This disease is not combated according to Government directions, which require that the peasants should sulphur the affected vines two, and often three, times. Many villagers do not sulphur them at all.

The Agricultural Department cannot be blamed, as it works hard and creditably on inadequate votes, and its modest demands, when involving expenditure, only too often meet with a cold and discouraging refusal.

It now remains to be seen what course will be followed in the admittedly difficult circumstances described by G. L. H. As a small contribution to the discussion, may I suggest the voluntary employment of children, as far as possible, in the carob growing areas during thirty or forty days in August and September? In this work village school teachers, many of whom, both Turk and Greek, now attend lectures in agriculture, could largely assist. The great importance of the carob tree to Cyprus is my excuse for writing.

R. M.

October 22, 1917.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Despatches from Salonika and Palestine. Oct. 18.

Questions were asked by Mr. DILLON as to why no despatch had been published giving details of the Battle of Gaza and of the operations which led up to and followed that battle, and why no details were published of military operations in Greece and Macedonia; and by Mr. G. LAMBERT as to when despatches would be published recording the operations of the British Forces at Salonika and in Palestine.

Mr. MACPHERSON, in reply, said :—A despatch from General Milne, dated October 1, dealing with the operations at Salonika, has just been received at the War Office and will be published as soon as possible. A despatch has also been received from General Sir Archibald Murray dealing with the operations on the Palestine frontier up to the date on which he relinquished the command; but this has been temporarily withheld from publication on the advice of the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, as its publication at the present time might supply the enemy with valuable information. I may remind my right hon. friend that we are the only nation engaged in the present war which publishes despatches from commanders in the field. The conditions of present-day warfare, which were not contemplated when the practice of issuing despatches was established, make it necessary occasionally to delay publication for purely military reasons. I may add that *communiqués* dealing with the operations in Greece and Macedonia in which British troops are engaged are issued regularly whenever there is anything to report. My hon. friend may rest assured that no operations have taken place which have not been dealt with in *communiqués*.

In further reply to Mr. G. LAMBERT, who asked whether any further information could be given by Press correspondents as to these affairs at Gaza and Salonika, Mr. MACPHERSON said that he did not think it would be useful or desirable to publish anything in addition to what was official.

Commander WEDGWOOD asked whether the delay in the publication of the Gaza despatch was not due to the fact that in public circles it was announced as a great victory.

Mr. MACPHERSON : I am quite convinced that the reason I have given is the true one.

The Man Power of Malta, Gibraltar and Cyprus.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would state how many men have been furnished by the Colonies of Malta, Gibraltar, and Cyprus, respectively, for combatant service and for labour battalions in the present war; and what proportion these men bear to the total population of each colony.

Mr. WALTER LONG : I do not consider that it would be in the public interest to give the detailed figures. The matter has, of course, engaged the attention of the War Office and myself, and we have no reason to be dissatisfied with the position as regards the colonies mentioned.

Our Prisoners in Turkey. Oct. 19.

Mr. JAMES HOPE, replying to Sir J. SPEAR, said :—His Majesty's Government have been endeavouring for a long time to come to an agreement with the Turkish Government for the exchange of a reasonable number of invalid prisoners of war as a preliminary to a wider measure of exchange, but that they have met with no response on the part of the Ottoman Government, who are well aware that the prisoners in British hands are well treated.

In reply to Mr. KING, Mr. MACPHERSON said that Surgeon-General Sir W. Babtie, who was censured in the Mesopotamia Commission's report had submitted his explanation, which the Army Council had found satisfactory. He had been recalled from leave and had resumed his official duties. The Council still await the explanations of the other officers concerned.

The British Ministers at Athens. Oct. 22.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Sir Francis Eliot has ceased to be British Minister at Athens; if so, on what date he was withdrawn; and what reasons are given for his withdrawal?

Mr. BALFOUR, answering Mr. KING, said Sir Francis Elliot had ceased to be British Minister at Athens. He left Athens on June 17 last. During the past three years Sir F. Elliot continuously occupied, to the complete satisfaction of his Majesty's Government, a post of the highest responsibility and of very great physical strain, and the departure of King Constantine and return of M. Venizelos to Athens afforded a suitable occasion for asking Sir F. Elliot to undertake important work at home, but of a less arduous and exhausting nature.

Moroccan Agreement. Oct. 23.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had any information about the condition of Morocco; whether any arrangements have been made or are contemplated to modify the Moroccan agreement of 1912; and whether the native population of Morocco would be allowed to decide the sovereignty under which they were to live.

Mr. BALFOUR said that the Government was not aware that any modification was contemplated in the Moroccan agreement of 1912.

Supplies for Mesopotamia.

Mr. MACPHERSON, in reply to Sir J. JARDINE, said :—The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief is responsible that sufficient provision is made for the medical and surgical treatment, including medicines and appliances, for the troops at all stations in any particular theatre of war, and I have reason to suppose that provision in Mesopotamia is not merely sufficient, but ample in every respect. All demands for medical stores are promptly met, and in addition to the medical stores depôts in Mesopotamia a special depôt has been established at Bombay to facilitate supply. The supply of fresh vegetables is good, and amounts to 67 per cent. of the total vegetable ration. Fruit and dates are also available locally and issued to the troops.

British Subjects in Syria. Oct. 24.

In reply to Mr. PONSONBY, Mr. BALFOUR said :—There are a considerable number of British subjects in Syria. We have little information as to their treatment and condition, but the United States consular officers have endeavoured to assist them in the past, and the Netherlands Consul-General at Beyrout was especially requested to report on the subject before he left this country on his way to his post.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Armenia.

Reference was made last week to an article by Ismail Kemal Bey in the *Fortnightly Review*. Before dealing with the future the writer describes the heterogeneous composition ethnologically of this part of Asia Minor. From the religious point of view, he says, it presents the aspects of a series of small Christian islets in a sea of Mohammedanism.

It will be seen that the total Armenian population subject to the three Powers in Asia and in European Russia amounts to approximately 1,800,000, but the 760,000 Armenians of Turkish Asia are spread over the fourteen vilayets and two sanjaks among a population of 10,000,000 Turkish and Kurd Mussulmans and about 1,500,000 Greek, Nestorian, and other Christians. The conditions under which this brave Armenian race are dispersed all over Asia has at all times been a serious obstacle to finding a practical solution of the Armenian question.

Ismail Kemal Bey refers to French efforts to settle the question, but suggests that they were handicapped by the scruples which French politicians at that time had against rousing the susceptibilities of Russia. But that is all changed now, and he offers the following solution :—

Now that Russia has given the world the magnificent spectacle of a revolution the greatness and extent of which almost surpass the imagination, in which it announces as its chief aim the emancipation of all people, beginning with those that were under the Russian yoke itself, this difficulty can no longer exist. The only problem, then, is to settle the position of the Armenians in relation to their neighbours in Asiatic Turkey; and in my view the most logical solution is the establishment of an Armenian State having as its centre Etchmiazin (which is the natural political and religious centre), and containing the region of Ararat, with the adjacent provinces now belonging to the three Powers. This State, whose central point would be the cradle of the Armenian race, spread across the most interesting mountains in the history of humanity and circumscribing the most fertile valleys and plains in the world, might be made a model of a modern State. Containing more than two million inhabitants, and striding across the peninsula from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, backed by the Christian region of the Caucasus, it would not only suffice to assure the prosperity of the Armenians, but would be an element of order and stability in the centre of the heterogeneous populations of Asia Minor. Just as St. Gregory, who converted the Armenians to Christianity, founded the City of Etchmiazin, at the wish of Jesus Christ, who, as he declared, appeared to him in a vision, so it would be a happy inspiration of some modern disciple of civilisation to go and refound the capital and State of the Armenians.

The Salonika Front: A Meek Appeal.

There is much truth in the remark of a writer in *The New Europe* that "no enterprise during the war—not even the attempted seizure of Gallipoli peninsula—has been the subject of more divergent criticism than the provision and maintenance of the Anglo-French armies based upon Salonika." He himself, however, is only prepared to couch a very hesitant lance for a more definite policy, and is content towards the end of the article merely to "assume that the Allied armies based upon Salonika will be maintained." They continue, he admits, to fulfil a rôle of high political importance, but for the rest he can only suggest activity in Macedonia at the expense of other theatres.

"Of what they (the Allied armies) may achieve in the purely military sphere I have already confessed myself incompetent to speak. But even a civilian may venture to ask how it can be easier to provide troops, transport, and stores for Mesopotamia and Palestine than for the Balkans, and this at a moment when

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the adhesion of Greece and the Italian occupation of southern Albania offer us the choice of a shorter sea route between Brindisi and the Gulf of Corinth or Santa Quaranta? And he may perhaps be allowed also to ask, what military objects are sought in striking at the Turk in outlying parts of his Empire, rather than upon the direct route between Berlin and Constantinople? I can understand a man who says that we need every man, every gun, every aeroplane in France; I cannot understand those who would starve Salonika and yet send expeditions to the uttermost ends of the earth."

—— the Push and Go School.

A more vigorous criticism appears in the *Welsh Outlook*, which devotes a large part of one issue to Serbia and the war in the Balkans, using as its text Mr. Lloyd George's tribute at the luncheon given by the Serbian Society on August 7.

A determined and energetic offensive on the South-Eastern front would yield valuable and almost immediate results. The first step would be the cutting of the railway between Sofia and Constantinople and the consequent breaking of communications between Turkey and Berlin. The next step would be the crushing of Bulgaria and the establishment of communication with the Roumanian and Russian forces. Thus the closing of the "back door" would bring about the economic isolation of the Central Powers. They would be encircled with a ring of steel; the blockade would be complete; the supplies of cotton, metals, and other essential products, which now flow into enemy countries from Asia Minor, would be entirely cut off. This could only mean the beginning of the end.

Contrast this policy for a moment with the obsession which still prevails in certain quarters—that the Western front is the "only" decisive theatre of the war, and that victory can only be achieved by the gradual process of killing off Germans. Costly offensives involving thousands of casualties which bring no decision and to which the enemy replies by a series of retirements, thereby shortening his line and increasing his available reserves, seem to be the order of the day. On the Balkan front the Allies appear to be content to allow one opportunity after another for dealing a decisive blow to slip by.

* * *

For a successful advance very careful preparations are needed, and, in the case of a composite force such as the Allies have at Salonika, it is absolutely essential that the supreme direction is in the hands of an Allied General Staff. This is the only really effective means of securing complete co-operation between the various contingents which make up the Army of the Balkans, and it is the only effective means of making certain that no expert opinion and advice is at any time disregarded. Another essential is that England should have a military mission with the Serbian Army. Serbia is the only country of the Allies to whom we have not sent a military mission. This state of affairs would be ridiculous except for the element of tragedy contained in it. Our troops are being thrown away on the Macedonian front in many cases simply for want of that expert knowledge of local conditions which the Serbian General Staff possesses in an exceptional degree, and which it is only too ready to place at our disposal were there any adequate liaison between the Serbs and our own military authorities.

TABLETS FOUND AT SUSA.

One of the last discoveries made by the French explorers at Susa, in Persia, before abandoning, on account of the war, their work there, which has for many years been carried on with such prolific results, was secured by clearing away an artificial mound in front of the ruins of the Palace of Darius. The elevation was found to conceal a series of tombs, dating from the seventh century B.C., when the Semitic Babylonians were ruling in Elam. Beyond some vases and bronze rings no antiquities of artistic value were unearthed; but among the graves there was found a terra-cotta case containing seven inscribed tablets. The texts they bear are of a novel nature, for they give a kind of introduction for the deceased into the next world. Or, rather, the pious expression of his hopes; or those of his surviving relatives for his future welfare. This branch of eschatology has been much to the front in recent religious controversy, and these newly found inscriptions throw considerable light upon views concerning these matters in Persia, or Elam, before the arrival of Zoroaster's followers in Western Asia. One of the defunct appears to have been very unfortunate while living, for his tablet text tells us that he departed without any regret from the morass of hardship and fatigue here below.

According to *Al-Mokattam*, Dr. Granville, President of the Quarantine Board of Alexandria, will probably succeed Sir David Simple on his retirement from the post of Director-General of the Public Health Department.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Some very significant statements have recently appeared in the German Press regarding that country's financial interests in Roumania, which point very clearly to the fact that the control of the petroleum fields there is now one of Germany's special objects in the war. That this should be the case is not at all surprising when the history of Germany's strenuous and unscrupulous attempts to obtain an interest in the oilfields is borne in mind. Devices of the most shady description were resorted to which resulted in Germany first obtaining a footing in the fields and subsequently the predominant interest. In the "big push" for the oil industry German capitalists and diplomats worked together, and were assisted by foreign confederates, and as this "peaceful penetration" secured Germany ample supplies of oil it was no doubt felt that the tactics adopted were amply justified.

***

The reason for the Press campaign to which I have referred is, of course, Germany's fear that the results of years of intrigue have not only been jeopardised, but have been absolutely destroyed through the situation arising out of the war. And so *Germania*, the organ of the Central Party, declares that "What we must wish for in any case on the conclusion of peace is a guarantee for the very important financial interests of Germany in Roumania, quite apart from the free economic movement of German capital and German labour, and further the absolutely free export of the raw material which has hitherto been supplied by Roumania and which we shall need henceforth and also cereals and petroleum." The *Täglische Berichte über die Petroleum Industrie*, of Austria, commenting on this passage, goes even further, and after stating that "there can be no difference of opinion as to the fact that the sovereignty of Roumania can no longer be allowed to exist," says that the special interests of German capital in Roumania should be directly guaranteed by the Central Powers, as it must be regarded as obvious that, especially for political reasons, the riches of Roumania in petroleum must henceforth be placed under the definite control of the Central Powers.

***

A later and even more interesting reference to the subject appeared in the *Deutsche Balkan Zeitung* on September 10. The journal calmly assumes that Roumanians will forget what they have suffered in the war, and says that "economic guarantees regarding Roumanian petroleum will be all the more easily obtained because before the war the influence of German technical skill and German capital was considerable in Roumania." It may be held in some quarters that it is unnecessary to ascribe too great importance to these Press statements. That is, however, not my opinion, for I think there is every reason to regard them as part of a carefully calculated campaign intended to obtain the support of the German public for what it seems is going to be one of Germany's peace aims.

***

Djavid Bey's speech on the Turkish Budget, interesting though it undoubtedly was, leaves us very much in the dark on a number of very important points with regard to the finances of the Sublime Porte. He said nothing, for instance, on the subject of the amount of paper currency now in circulation. We know that ever since the war Turkey has been industriously weakening her credit by the issue of paper money, but there is little or no guide as to the nature of the amount. One imagines that it must be somewhere about four or five hundred millions, but it is mere surmise, and even these considerable figures may have been largely surpassed. Then there is another interesting point. The Turkish Finance Minister said that the revenue for the year would be roughly £T20,000,000. Where is this sum to come from? Turkey's commerce is at an end, the male population has been decimated by the war, and the Armenians, who provided the vast bulk of Turkish revenues, have been practically crushed out of existence.

***

In the circumstances I should regard a revenue of only £T5,000,000 as a most remarkable achievement; but even if Djavid Bey's figures are accepted as accurate, which I am sure they are not, a revenue of £T20,000,000 would be quite an inadequate sum with which to meet even the ordinary expenses of the country. According to the Finance Minister himself, nine-tenths of the amount is required for the service of the Turkish public debt, so that an infinitesimal portion is left to cover all the other expenses of the State. And these figures, be it noted, come from a source interested in painting the best possible picture of the situation.

***

According to all accounts freights have risen at Aden to unprecedented heights owing to the war. Here is an illustration of this which has just come to my notice. Some merchants chartered a small steamer to take a cargo to Egypt, a distance of about 1,400 miles. They paid 40,000 rupees for the charter, and as the steamer only had a carrying capacity of 300 tons the freight rate worked out at about 179s. per ton, as against the normal rate of 12s. 6d. per ton, figures which, I think, speak for themselves.

***

Greece is the latest country to be affected by a fuel shortage, and Reuter's correspondent at Athens, in a message dated October 16, declares that the question is assuming alarming proportions there. From the particulars he gives it is evident that the outlook is very difficult, but there is no need to regard it as unduly serious, for Greece is much better situated than a country like Egypt, for example, since there are supplies of wood fuel to draw upon. Still, the shortage comes at a particularly awkward time, especially in view of the forecasts that the coming winter will be even more severe than usual.

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Particulars are given in the annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government of the work of the Imperial Institute in 1916 in reference to products of the Sudan likely to be suitable for export. The experiments conducted covered a wide field, ranging from beans to Maharet grass oil, and the report was on the whole quite favourable. Most of the products examined were considered suitable for the home market, and as a result of the investigations the Sudan trade should benefit considerably in future years.

***

Elsewhere will be found the report of the annual meeting of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company, Limited. The past year has shown fairly satisfactory results for this undertaking, the gross receipts amounting to Rs.67,38,485 4-6, and the working expenses to Rs.52,59,155 9-6. The ratio of working expenses to gross receipts was thus 78.04 per cent., as against 77.90 in the previous year, and the net earnings (retained by the Secretary of State in reduction of the charges for interest incurred by him) amounted to Rs.14,79,329 11-0. Chief interest at the meeting centred in the chairman's remarks regarding the efforts made by the board to have the outlying section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, lying to the east of the Brahmaputra, transferred to the company. Representations on the subject were first made in 1902, and in 1914 there was reason to think the transfer a matter of time only, but now fresh opposition has developed, and the question is to be raised again this winter when a member of the board will lay the case before the Government of India.

***

A very satisfactory account of the year's working of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways was given by Mr. C. A. Winter, the chairman, at the annual meeting on Tuesday. As regards the broad gauge, there was an increase in earnings and a decrease in working expenses, and the surplus earnings amounted to £54,648. There was a reduction in earnings and working expenses as regards the metre gauge, the reduction in earnings being due to a falling off in goods and to plague and unseasonable rains in the early part of the year. The profits of the metre gauge, however, amounted to £28,376.

COMMENTATOR.

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The Mesopotamia Oilfields.

Germany and the Baghdad Railway.

Not the least interesting feature of the recent operations on the Mesopotamian front is the fact that the regions where fighting has been in progress since the fall of Baghdad include the southern fringe of the Mesopotamian oilfields. The position of these fields, which are of no little importance, have no doubt played a very considerable part in strengthening the Turks' determination to maintain their hold on Baghdad, and it also supplies an additional reason why a counter-offensive—if a counter-offensive there is to be—should take place in Mesopotamia instead of elsewhere.

Importance of the Railway.

The oilfields, it may be noted, present a straggling appearance on a map. The main bed lies at Gayara, south of Mosul, with three smaller beds between it and that town, and the other petroleum deposits are in scattered groups, ranging in a kind of semi-circle from Altum Keupri to Hit, the majority of the beds being between the former place and Mendali. The second part of the semi-circle commences just the other side of Baghdad. It may be said that there is no particular interest in the exposition of the situation of the field, nor is there, so far as the natural position goes. The interest of it lies in the alignment of the Baghdad railway with regard to the fields. The line of the railway bisects a minor field at Hamman Ali, and goes right across the chief deposit at Gayara, while it would be an easy matter to link up the other fields with the railway by means of branch lines.

A Possible Concession?

In the light of this connection between the railway and the oilfields, Germany's solicitude for the control of the railroad is self-evident, and it will be surprising if she does not make the most desperate efforts to retain it in her keeping. Any other course would be at variance with the policy she pursued before the war in Roumania and elsewhere in regard to the acquisition of oil concessions. "Commentator" refers in his notes this week to signs in the enemy Press of a campaign having as its object the retention by Germany of the control of the oil areas in that country. No doubt the enemy regards these oilfields as indispensable to his welfare after the war because of their proximity, and nothing short of force is likely to dispel the illusion. There is another and a more cogent reason why Germany should wish to retain access to the Mesopotamian fields. As everyone is aware, Turkey's finances are in a hopeless condition, and but for Germany's help, given for the most part in the nominal form of credit in one shape or another, it would long ago have been impossible for her to continue the struggle. Now, a creditor usually expects security for his loans, and Germany being what she is, it is reasonable to assume that her help has only ben given in return for a consideration of some kind, and what better consideration could Turkey give or her Ally desire than a concession with regard to the oilfields? By stretching a great many points, it might be possible to read into Djavid Bey's Budget speech an implied freedom from obligations of this nature, and he certainly indicated that after the war German capital would merely have the preference over that from other countries. All things considered, it is better, however, to interpret his remarks in the opposite sense, and to conclude that he was merely indulging in a little bluff in order to persuade Germany to make further financial advances for fear her Ally should develop an unexpected vein of obstinacy.

History of the Fields.

The interest that Germany took in the oilfields before the war is perhaps the best proof of all of her present intentions with regard to them. The history of her connection with them shows also, as a matter of fact, that even the past master of the art of "peaceful penetration" can on occasion make a really serious blunder, for our enemy was at one time under the impression that the oilfields were not worth exploiting, and was inclined to make no effort to join in their development. Several articles have already appeared in THE NEAR EAST on the early history of the oilfields, but it may be worth while, all the same, to recapitulate the facts from 1871, when an expert visited the site and made an unencouraging report. A second expert declared, some years later, that the difficulties of transport were such that petroleum from the United States was able to compete in Mesopotamia with the local product. Then, in 1901, came a favourable report from a third expert. At that time the wells, all of which, with one exception, belonged to the Administration of the Imperial Civil List, produced about £T1,400 per annum. The report had the effect on the Germans that might have been expected, and in 1904 the Anatolian Railway Company, which had just come under German control, entered into negotiations for the oil sources, and obtained a year's option for a forty years' concession for the fields. This concession was not taken up. In the meantime the Deutsche Bank had sent out a committee of experts—German experts, be it noted—to report on the fields, and they brought back a most unfavourable account. They declared that oil was only to be encountered in local formations, and that it was of poor quality. That was quite sufficient for the Deutsche Bank, the most enterprising medium of German penetration, and nothing more was done until 1914, when British interests entered the field to negotiate a concession with Germans merely as participators instead of principals in the enterprise. That, in short, is the history of the undertaking so far as Germany has been concerned. But for the war, no doubt, we should have witnessed an energetic attempt to atone for her early failure by the introduction of the methods that have served so well in Roumania.

Value and Extent.

As to the nature of the fields, it may be pointed out that the oil districts extend over some four hundred kilometres, and that the oil is of excellent quality, and is found in abundance. Two difficulties will have to be overcome, however, if the wells are to be exploited successfully in the future. The first is the question of transport, which can be solved by railway development and in other ways. The second and more serious difficulty is the scarcity of labour, and it would be necessary for the adequate staffing of the wells to bring workmen to the country. With these qualifications, it is safe to say that, given proper development, the Mesopotamian oil wells should in time be a very valuable addition to the oil-producing properties of the world. Their potentialities may be gauged from the description of the various beds in the vilayets of Baghdad and Mosul, in the report of the expert mentioned above, a summary of which we reproduce:—

ABJAK.—Oil is found on the surface over an area 120 metres long. This field is not at present worked, and is not of a good quality.

BABA GURGUR.—North of Kirkuk. An oil area of some fifty acres in extent, worked in a very primitive fashion by natives. Natural gas in large quantities appears here, and in 1901 was burning.

GAYARA.—On the Tigris. This field is of immense extent, and can be classed with that at Mendali as being the best in Mesopotamia. There are "innumerable petroleum springs," which have formed "a layer of asphalt many metres in thickness," and also pools and lakes of petroleum, some of which are nearly 1,000 feet in length. The oil is of a very high quality, and from the greater part of the area the oil is completely free from either sulphur or salt water. At the southern end of this field naptha trickles out of the cliffs at El Fatt'ha, through which the Tigris here breaks its way and runs to waste in the river.

GUIL.—South of Chemchema. An extensive field producing oil of the best quality and unusual purity. Although refined only by crude native methods, it is stated to burn better than the best Russian oil scientifically refined.

NIMRUD.—The petroleum from this field, which was not worked at the time of the report, is of poor quality and nearly black. It rises throughout a zone some 800 metres long, and runs to waste in the river.

KIFRI.—The sources at Kifri appear to be best in an area which extends a long way beyond the points actually worked. A considerable deposit of black asphalt nearly six feet thick has been formed. This is of unusually good quality.

TUZ KHURMATLI.—This is one of the richest fields in the country. The oil trickles from the soil for a distance of well over a mile along the right bank of a stream, and has formed many layers of asphalt from 12 to 15 feet thick. The conditions are very favourable for boring. The output of refined oil was limited by the exigencies of the season, the extent of the local demand, and the capacity of the sheepskin vessels in which it was transported at the time of the survey.

ZAHROU.—On an island in the Chabur. The oilfield is very rich, and for eight miles along the river bank "the petroleum streams down from above in more than thirty little rills."

HIT AND RAMADIEH.—There are numerous and important springs of bituminous pitch in this area, and in one place they have formed a pitch lake nearly two miles in diameter.

MENDALI.—The oil springs are some distance north-west from the town, and are the most copious that the expert had seen. Over a dozen wells spouted into the air with great violence. The oil is of a very high quality, and the native refining was better here than anywhere else.

NAPHATA.—Near the Euphrates, below Hit. The petroleum springs here, although both copious and of fair quality, were not to be compared with the three first-class fields at Mendali, Gayara, and Tuz Khurmatli.

FUTURE TRADE CHANGES.

Livery Companies' Opportunity.

Speaking on "Trade after the War: an opportunity for the Guilds," at a City Livery Club luncheon last week, at the Holborn Restaurant, Major W. H. Champness referred to the great changes which would come about after the war, and said that, while it was undesirable that Parliament should do more than help the traders of the Empire, some organisation was absolutely necessary—some body that Parliament on the one hand and the commercial classes on the other hand could trust. It must be a representative body, with great knowledge and large powers. It must be sufficiently exalted to be above suspicion, sufficiently acquainted with all branches of industry so as to be able to advise and occasionally guide individual traders. At present no such body existed. He thought they had in embryo the framework of such an organisation in the Livery Companies. For centuries they had been associated with the trade and commerce of England. They had supported and controlled the trades, they had supported education, elementary, secondary and technical, and they had the necessary machinery. Behind them was the weight of centuries, in which they had played their part in building up the welfare of the Kingdom through the various crafts.

PETROLEUM PRODUCTION AND RESEARCH.

Sir Boverton Redwood, Bart., Director of Petroleum Research, who has been adviser on petroleum to the various departments of the Government for many years, has been appointed by Mr. Walter Long Director of Technical Investigations in the recently created Petroleum Executive, with a view to his dealing with technical questions of the highest importance, including the co-ordination of the work of petroleum production and that of petroleum research. In order to devote himself to his new duties Sir Boverton Redwood will cease to act as Director of Petroleum Research.

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EGYPTIAN COTTON CROP.

Outlook Satisfactory.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Egypt in its monthly bulletin comments as follows on the condition of the cotton crop in September :—

Unfavourable weather prevailed in the province of Beheira throughout the month; elsewhere the weather was on the whole favourable, although low temperature and humidity, especially at night, were reported from most provinces towards the middle and latter part of the month, checking the opening of the late bolls. Water supply was ample. The first picking has practically come to an end in Upper Egypt, and is reported as satisfactory. In Lower Egypt it is making rapid progress, and the results obtained so far are good, except in Beheira and Daqahliya, where they are somewhat disappointing. The prospects of the second picking are almost everywhere far from good, and the final result of the crop is not expected to turn out quite as favourably as was hoped last month. It is a satisfactory feature, however, to note that particularly good reports have been received of the quality of the fibre and seed and of the high ginning out-turn. The Pink Boll worm attack has naturally been on the ascendant during the month. The increase on last year is most remarkable in Upper and Middle Egypt.

Condition of Other Crops.

The following particulars are from the same source :—

Rice (*Séft*).—Weather generally favourable though cold; the stormy days between the 16th and 19th laid a certain amount of the early rice. Water supply plentiful. Mild attacks of stalk borer and a smut fungus have caused damage of small importance. The crop is ripening everywhere, and harvesting of the early rice has commenced in Beheira and Daqahliya.

Rice (*Nili*).—Water supply ample, though some complaints were received regarding scarcity of water from villages lying on the tails of canals. On the whole, the crop is growing well, but the late-sown rice is not as satisfactory as the early one, which is now flowering.

Maize (*Nili*).—Weather favourable during the first half of the month, but cold and unfavourable during the second half, especially for late maize. Water supply sufficient. Watering, hoeing, thinning, and manuring are in progress. Stalk borer and aphis are reported in a few provinces, but the damage caused is not of significant importance. The worst enemy, however, is the crow, which in some places is said to have eaten very large quantities of the ripe and half-ripe cobs. Late-sown crop cultivated on islands and near the Nile banks is either damaged by flooding or by the infiltration caused by the high Nile. The crop has, on the whole, progressed very favourably, and is very promising now. It should not be overlooked, however, that the shortage of fertilisers, and even of farmyard manure, coupled with the increase in area under the crop, is likely to influence the average yield, which otherwise must have been a record one.

Millet (*Séft*).—Weather favourable. Very slight attacks of stalk borer and smut in Beni Suef and Assiout. The crop is almost entirely harvested and threshed, and the yield is satisfactory.

Millet (*Nili*).—Owing to the high flood, the area under this crop is inconsiderable in Assiout and Girga, and in Qena and Assouan great injury was caused to the crop grown on the Nile banks. In the growth of Fayum the early-sown millet is satisfactory, and the crop as a whole is well advancing.

Sugar-Cane. — Weather favourable and water supply sufficient. The stalk borer is widely spread, but the crop is well advancing, and cutting of canes for local consumption has begun.

Earth-Nuts.—Weather suitable and water supply satisfactory. No enemies. The crop is very much better than last year.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Strong Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

We have again experienced a strong and hardening market. Fresh high records have been established in yarn and cloth prices. Here and there buying has been somewhat checked by the stiffer attitude of sellers, but in spite of increasing difficulties in arranging transactions a substantial business has been done. Sentiment with regard to American cotton prices has again been bullish, and some people are talking of half a crown being paid for middling descriptions before the end of the year. According to some reports there is a possibility of the Egyptian growth being rather more than 6,000,000 cantars. An extensive business has again been done in Egyptian yarns. Some special sales have been put through in certain counts and qualities suitable for aeroplane cloths. Free buying has also occurred in descriptions suitable for India. Encouraging advices have been received as to clearances of piece goods in Egypt. It is hoped that the representations to the Government with regard to shipping facilities will be successful. Sized materials and miscellaneous fabrics have again moved off well. For India a considerable inquiry has again been experienced in light cloths, but only isolated transactions have occurred in shirtings. China has given rather more support in both grey and white goods. The undercurrent of demand for the West Coast of Africa remains healthy. American yarns have advanced in price from day to day, and numerous spinners are now very independent. An encouraging business has again been done.

EXPORT OF CEREALS FROM THE SUDAN

A proclamation has been issued restricting the export of cereals and flour from the Sudan. It prohibits the export of barley, millet, spiked millet, maize and wheat, or flour made from these cereals, from the Sudan to any destination without the permission of the officer appointed for the purpose. Consignments of less than ten tons may, however, be sent to Egypt viâ Halfa without licence. The object of the decree is to enable the Government to control the export of cereals.

BAKU STRIKE ENDED.

The strike in the oil fields (says Reuter's Baku correspondent, in a message dated October 17), which has lasted nine days, is at an end. The men have returned to work, most of their demands having been conceded by the employers.

ADEN HARBOUR CHARGES.

Recent Changes.

The increased cost of operating harbour and pilot boats, tugs, lighters, etc., brought about by war conditions is chiefly responsible (says the United States Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report) for recent increases in the harbour dues, pilotage fees, and landing and shipping charges at Aden. Under the higher scale a steamer discharging part or full cargo or landing passengers at Aden will pay harbour dues of 3 cents per ton register. Steamers calling for coal or provisions only will pay 12 cents per 100 tons register. Ships paying full harbour dues do not pay mooring fees for the first 48 hours. After that they pay at the rate of $1.46 per day. Steamers not paying full harbour dues are charged mooring fees at the rate of 73 cents per day. For running mooring lines (not compulsory) a charge of $2.43 is made. Pilotage fees for the inner harbour are at the rate of 97 cents per 100 tons register during the day. At night the rates are 50 per cent. additional. For the outer harbour only half the ordinary rates are charged. The minimum pilotage fee chargeable is $5.13, and fees are chargeable in excess of this amount, calculated at the rates specified on the tonnage of the vessel. For detention of the pilot beyond the first hour a charge of $5.13 per hour is made. These harbour dues and pilotage fees are uniformly 50 per cent. greater than the former charges. Ships do not come alongside the wharves at Aden, and all goods are carried by lighters between ship and shore. A landing or shipping charge is made on each piece of freight handled.

Landing and Shipping Increases.

The local Chamber of Commerce and shipping firms at a recent meeting decided upon an increase in landing and shipping charges for certain items. The old charges have been in effect since 1895. Several changes were made, the increases in most cases amounting to 50 per cent. The shipping charges on skins and coffee, the principal exports from Aden to the United States, were raised. The rate on coffee has been increased from 4 to 6 cents per bag. The rate on skins was 8 cents per bale. The new rate is 12 cents per bale of not over 25 cubic feet in size and 16 cents per bale of more than 25 cubic feet. On gums the rate has been increased from 2 to 4 cents per hundredweight. The principal imports from the United States into Aden are cotton piece goods and kerosene, and the charges on these two items have been increased from 6 to 8 cents per bale for the former and from 4 to 8 cents per case for the latter.

The landing and shipping charges in general range from a minimum of 2 cents per piece to an average maximum of $1.62 per piece. A case of a dozen bottles of beer, a basket of potatoes or onions, a hundredweight of copper, brass, rope, etc., are handled at the minimum rate. A horse, a carriage, or similarly large or bulky article, is charged for at the maximum rate of $1.62. The one exception to this maximum rate is a charge of $2.43 for lightering a billiard-table.

Goods not listed are charged for at the rate of 97 cents per ton if in less than 10-ton lots, and at the rate of 65 cents per ton if in greater than 10-ton lots. This is an increase in each instance of 16 cents over the former charges.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Machinery for S. Russia.

The investigators who have just returned to this country from Russia, some of whom started out last May and have travelled six thousand miles through the country, declare themselves "more than convinced that there is a large market in Southern Russia in particular for British implements and machinery." As we have often had occasion to assert this fact in these columns, we are glad to see this confirmation. British manufacturers, however, are again told that they must be prepared to compete with the Germans in the very important matter of credit to buyers on equal grounds. Russian farmers, it is pointed out, demand a continuance of the benefits of the long credit system to which they have been accustomed, and the disinclination to allow this has been, it is stated, one of the greatest hindrances to the giving of orders for English implements. This hesitancy is now declared to be a "credit bogey," and the investigators report that "it will be a great pity if our share of orders for agricultural machinery is lost in this way, since there is a huge trade to be done."

We are very glad to see that what, in dealing with the question of long credit in these columns three years ago, we characterised as "the long credit scare," is now similarly characterised by expert travellers on the spot. We have always contradicted the statements that in Southern Russia as well as in the Near East the Germans contrived to secure the markets by giving long credits, and pointed out that their success was chiefly due to their energy and to their methods of dealing through and with their agents and their banking houses. Where credit was given, full security was required and obtained. They selected agents of good standing and capable of assuring themselves as to the trustworthiness of buyers. To such agents, as a rule, the credit was given and not directly to the average buyers. The German banks through their numerous agents in those regions were also of much assistance to manufacturers, and often arranged and carried through credit business for the latter. British manufacturers on the other hand were not so careful in the selection of agents, they had no proper information, no local banking support, they acted separately and individually, and often competed against each other, while the Germans were co-operating with and supporting each other. The "long credit" business was often a "scare" to dishearten or drive away British or other competitors, and it succeeded. But wherever British firms, especially engineering firms were well and substantially represented they had always an advantage over German competition. Such firms are still dominating the markets, there and are, as a rule, manufacturers of heavy machinery. Change of methods and, if possible, co-operation, is needed to capture those markets.

Artificial Rick Drying.

Many think that with the harvesting and piling up the wheat sheaves into a rick the farmer's anxieties and cares are almost ended; that the fruit of his labour is gathered and safe in the rick, and that threshing and storing the grain are only a question of time and convenience. Yet, while the completion of harvesting affords a certain amount of satisfaction to the farmer, the danger of corn heating in the rick is a constant nightmare to him until storing is effected. Corn heating in the rick often baffles the hopes of the farmer and landowner especially in the Near East, where, owing to climatic conditions and to the very slow progress of threshing, this trouble often occurs, damaging the quality as well as the quantity of the corn. To prevent this happening, especially when there are many ricks in a group, is a rather difficult matter; whilst the drying of ricks by natural means—sun or air—is, as a rule, a laborious, wasteful, and uncertain performance. Hence, probably, the average farmer's practice of leaving his ricks to their fate until threshing. A new and very practical system, therefore, of rick-drying by mechanical fan, which is practised by an English scientific farmer, will undoubtedly interest every agriculturist in the East.

The Process Described.

The drying plant comprises a 6-in. centrifugal blowing fan, driven by a 2-h.p. petrol engine fixed on a portable frame, and a wooden pipe made of planks 6 in. wide and 16 ft. long. One end of the pipe is joined to the fan, whilst the other reaches the centre of the rick, into which the air from the fan is discharged. Some ricks were treated by this contrivance, and, when threshed, the wheat was found to be hard and dry, and in better condition than that from ricks erected afterwards, which were carried in even better condition than the fanned ones. A rick was found to be at a temperature of 74 degrees, which, half an hour after the fan was started fell to 56 degrees, the same as the outside temperature. Each rick was blown into for about sixteen hours in two periods of eight hours each at an interval of a week. The engine and fan were easily moved from rick to rick. The size of the above 6-in. centrifugal blowing fan was found to be well suited for ricks 8 yards by 5 yards. The pipe according to expert advice should be first put in when the rick is about 4 ft. off the ground; it will then sink as the rick gets firm, till its end is at a convenient height to fix to the fan. A wooden box is fitted to the delivery of the fan, the box having an opening cut in it just the size of the pipe, which is inserted in the opening, and the crack packed with waste held down by a strip of wood. The pressure inside the pipe with the fan working was measured, and found to be equal to 1 inch of mercury; so that the drying effect must be greater than that of a full-sized gale. In cases of larger size ricks it may be necessary to provide one or two more outlets on the wooden pipe to deliver the air to different parts of the rick simultaneously, instead of blowing it all to the centre. It is evident that the apparatus is very simple and very efficient. The wooden pipes can be made by any ordinary carpenter, and the fan can be driven by any small engine that is used for other purposes on the farm, if a new one for the purpose is not wanted. A British-made centrifugal fan is strongly recommended, being far superior in efficiency and durability to any designs imported in the East from elsewhere. In the meantime British fan manufacturers, especially those who are renowned as specialists should try to come in touch with the Eastern markets, where, apart from the above possibilities, there is always a large demand for fans for all purposes, which hitherto were supplied by Germany and America.

Merefa-Kherson Railway.

It is reported that, in spite of the political troubles in Russia, an early completion of the new railway line between Merefa and Kherson is very probable. The difficulty of obtaining the necessary rails has been apparently, surmounted, and a certain portion is being laid down. This line will be very important for the export of grain and ore from Kherson. The Government, as already reported, has confirmed the project for constructing a railway from Saratov to Alexandrovsk. The carrying out of this project will enable goods from the Saratov district to reach the port of Kherson, via the Dneiper, and *vice versa*, thus considerably increasing the volume of exports and imports at Kherson. Progress is also being made with the construction of the railway between Kherson and Djankoi, which will join Kherson with the Crimea-Kertch line, to which allusion was made in previous notes. The Government has already sanctioned the building of a bridge over the Dneiper, which will be sufficiently high to permit the unimpeded passage of river traffic; the building of the bridge was supposed to begin this year, but so far nothing has yet been confirmed about it.

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TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

Consolidated List of Names.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department has issued a new consolidating list, containing the names of over two thousand persons and firms with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade under the Trading with the Enemy (Statutory List) Proclamation, 1916. Although the statutory list has now been in existence for more than a year, cases still come to the notice of the Foreign Trade Department in which firms are corresponding with persons on the list, and they not infrequently give as an excuse that they have never heard of the list. It is important that everyone engaged in foreign trade should realise that he is under an obligation to make himself familiar with the statutory list and to observe it in his dealings. Failure in this respect renders him liable to the heavy penalties provided by the Trading with the Enemy Acts, and these apply to holding any communication whatever with anybody on the statutory list, and not merely to entering into an agreement or continuing to carry on business with such persons. In exceptional cases, where it appears to be necessary and where it is not contrary to the public interest, a licence may be obtained from the Foreign Trade Department exempting from the prohibition.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BRITISH FIRMS.

The Acting British Consul at Fez (Mr. J. Dawkins) reports, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, that a firm of Moorish subjects established at that port wishes to get into touch with United Kingdom suppliers of the following goods, for which there is stated to be a demand:—Socks, shirts, and underclothing of wool, cotton, and silk; braces; cloth caps, straw hats, and sun helmets; handkerchiefs, gloves, all grades; bath towels; table cloths, napkins, and counterpanes; cotton, thread; footwear and gaiters, waterproofs, rubber; cheap handbags, stationery; and wire rat traps. The firm does business on its own account for cash against documents. Correspondence with the firm may be conducted in French. United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of the articles mentioned, desirous of doing business in Fez, may obtain the name and address of the firm referred to on application to the Department of Commercial Intelligence. In making application, the reference number (363) should be quoted.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended October 21, 3 p.m.:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,648
Sailings	2,689

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons gross or over	17
Under 1,600 tons gross	8
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	*7
British fishing vessels sunk	0

* Including one attacked during week ended October 14.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary general meeting was held on Tuesday at the office, 80, Bishopsgate, London, Mr. James M. Rendel, the chairman and managing director, presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. Thos. C. Brett) read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, at the outset of his remarks, regretted that their friend and colleague, Sir F. R. Upcott, had felt it necessary to resign the chairmanship, but the directors were glad to think that he would retain his seat on the board.

Continuing, he said:—Reference is made in the report to three branch lines now under construction, which, though owned by independent companies, are to be worked by the Assam-Bengal Railway as part of its system. I wish to take the opportunity of stating in regard to these three lines—and the observation will apply equally well to any other lines of which we may hereafter become the working agency—that we shall at all times do our best to consult the interests of their shareholders, to carry out, in a liberal spirit, the obligations we have undertaken towards them, and to leave them no cause hereafter to regret that their future has been entrusted to the Assam-Bengal Railway. But I must also point out, on the other side, that if we are to make the most of these branch lines, the development of the Assam-Bengal Railway into a large and powerful system, earning a surplus revenue, and, in respect to mileage and the volume of its traffic, able to hold its own in public estimation with other large railways in India, is of hardly less importance to them than it is to us. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the promoters and shareholders of these lines will lend all the support they can to the efforts which the board are continually making in this direction, and in particular that they will not fail to urge upon the Government the necessity, not only of turning to the fullest account the great natural advantages of the Port of Chittagong, on which the Assam-Bengal Railway system converges, but also of placing the port in direct and easy communcation with its hinterland by concentrating under the management of the Assam-Bengal Railway all lines of railway within that area, the natural and obvious boundary of which is the Brahmaputra River, or, as it is known in its lower reaches, the Jamuna or the Padma.

And this brings me to a special point which, as you know, has long been before the authorities in India and in England—I mean the claim of the board that the outlying section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway lying to the east of the Brahmaputra, including the independently owned extension to Jaggernathgunj, the whole of which is known shortly as the Dacca-Mymensingh line, should be transferred to the Assam-Bengal Railway system, to which it is now physically connected at two points—namely, to the north at Mymensingh, where it meets the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar line, and to the south at Tangi, near Dacca, where it meets the recently constructed Bhairab-Tangi extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The first representation of the board on this subject was addressed to the India Office, as far back as the year 1902. From that time onward the application has been constantly renewed at every suitable opportunity, and when the Bhairab-Tangi extension was opened in July, 1914, we had every reason to believe that the transfer of the Dacca-Mymensingh line was a question of time only, and a very short time, too. Unfortunately, we have heard, with surprise and disappointment, within the last twelve months, that new and unexpected opposition in an unexpected quarter has appeared, and that for the time being we are held up. I hope it may not be for long. Meanwhile, the position in which the matter now stands, as the result of recent correspondence with the India Office, is that the board have decided, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to depute one of their number to visit India during the coming winter season, in order to lay the case in all its bearings before the Government of India and its advisers in that country.

In these circumstances, it would, I think, serve no useful purpose, at the present stage, to review the past history of the controversy, or to forestall in any way the discussion which is in prospect by entering on a statement, which would of necessity be incomplete, of the grounds not only of public policy and administrative expediency, but also of equity and fairness, on which our claim is confidently based. I may, however, without indiscretion, say that the transfer is strongly supported by the Government of Bengal, as the Governor of the Province has himself made this public, on the occasion of a visit to Chittagong a few weeks ago, in a reply to the addresses of welcome presented to him on that occasion. I will only add that, if there is any feeling in Calcutta that, as a consequence of the transfer, the interests of the trade of that great city may be prejudiced, in the smallest degree, in favour of its small and struggling neighbour, we are still ready, as we have always been, to accept any conditions which the Railway Board may consider to be reasonably necessary to protect the Calcutta route. Our policy is not to impose disabilities, but to remove them; not to block the way to Calcutta, but to open wide the door to Chittagong. Let me add, in conclusion, that the limited staff of this small line has taken its full share of the burden and sacrifice of these times. He concluded by proposing the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. R. S. Strachey seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The retiring director and auditors were re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the staff in India and England terminated the proceedings.

THE NIZAM'S GUARANTEED STATE RAILWAYS.

The sixty-fourth general meeting of his Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company, Ltd., was held on Tuesday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. C. A. Winter (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. M. T. Walker) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: This is the first meeting that we have held under our new arrangement of having one meeting a year instead of two, and the accounts now in your hands relate to a whole year. The capital account of the broad gauge shows that there was no change during the year in the capital created, raised and received. The expenditure on capital account was £33,016, of which £14,085 was spent on rolling stock, and the balance on additional works and general improvements. The expenditure on rolling stock includes the purchase and erection of ten passenger engines. The comparative statement of the working of the line shows an increase in earnings and a decrease in working expenses. This decrease in working expenses is accounted for as follows: Previous working expenses were debited with the contribution to the renewal fund, which is now closed. The renewal programme has been suspended owing to the impossibility of obtaining rails and material, and the renewal loan account has been closed. The surplus

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earnings for the year, hitherto credited to the renewal loan account, amounting to £54,648, have been divided between H.H. Government and the company. The company's moiety, less income-tax, has been credited to surplus earnings. The important work of remodelling the Secunderabad station is progressing, but the difficulty in obtaining materials also applies to this. Owing to the inability to obtain stores, the maintenance and repairs to locomotives is a serious problem, and everything possible is being done to conserve them. After the war there will be a large accumulation of deferred maintenance work to be carried out, both on the locomotives and carriages and on the permanent way. In the early part of the year plague was very prevalent and seriously interfered with work and traffics in some districts, and, among other things, necessitated the closing of the Hyderabad City booking office from December 17, 1916, to April 30, 1917.

I will now deal with the metre gauge. There was no addition to the capital account during the year. The capital expenditure was on additional works and general improvements of the line. There was a sum of Rs.20,917 spent on rolling stock, but against this there was a credit of Rs.52,348, being the amount received from the Government of India for the purchase of an engine and ten wagons, thus leaving a credit of Rs.31,431 under the head of rolling stock. There still remain four miles of renewals of the steel sleepers, but this work must continue in abeyance, as no sleepers can now be obtained. The comparative table before you shows a reduction both in earnings and in working expenses. The decrease in earnings is attributed to a falling off in goods, and to plague and unseasonable rains in the first half of the year. The decrease in working expenses was due to less repair work being carried out in the locomotive department owing to the impossibility of obtaining stores and to less work being done on the line for the same reason. There will be a large accumulation of work to be carried out after the war on this line when stores and materials are again procurable. The net result of the year's earnings shows surplus profits amounting to £28,376, which has been divided between H.H. Government and the company. The share of the company has been credited to surplus earnings. With regard to the Secunderabad-Gadag extension, the first portion of this line, Secunderabad to Mahbubnagar, was opened for passenger and goods traffic on October 1 last year, a distance of 70.22 miles. A very severe epidemic of plague occurred in the districts served by this line and greatly interfered with all traffic, both coaching and goods. Transport difficulties also checked the goods traffic. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials of all kinds, it is impossible to say when the completion of the first section to Guduwal will be effected. You will understand that the difficulties in managing a railway under present circumstances are very great, and I hope you will agree with me in thinking that it is a matter of congratulation to us all that the results of the year's working are so satisfactory.

Mr. Leonard Mortimer seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously, and the retiring directors and auditors having been re-elected the proceedings terminated.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
October 19, 20.....	490,000	210.000
,, 21, 22.....	640,000	650,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue,
Thursday.

The revival of activity which commenced last week has continued, and there has been a great deal of fresh buying this week, in which Egypt has participated also, and in most instances prices are again closing at a higher level. All advices from the other side continue favourable, and, unless anything unforeseen occurs, the improvement in values should make further headway. In Government bonds a large business was done in Unifieds at 84¼, a rise of ¼. The 3½ per cent. prefs. were also in demand, but no business resulted, as there were no sellers.

In Bank shares the feature was the rise in National Banks at one time to 17¼; but they are closing somewhat quieter at 17, a rise of ⅜. Agriculturals, which were done up to 6 13-32, are closing unchanged at 6 5-16. Anglo-Egyptians have continued to be wanted in the neighbourhood of 13½, and Land Banks have further improved ¼ to 7¼, on a persistent demand, which resulted in a very fair amount of business

There has been no change to record in Delta Lights, which have remained neglected. In Land shares a large business has been doing in New Egyptians, and the price has improved 10½d. to 14s. 6d. Beheras have been bought for Egypt, changing hands last at 12, a rise of ¼. Behéra Prefs. are also wanted, but sellers at current prices do not exist. Delta Lands have also been dealt in pretty largely, and have improved 6d. to 14s. In Union Foncières a few hundred shares have changed hands at the unchanged level of 1 15-16.

In miscellaneous shares, Markets are 6d. up at 27s., and Salts have been quite a feature, rising 2s. to 27s. 6d. on some small buying in a market bare of sellers. Khedivial Mails have been exceptionally dull, and are 1s. down at 33s.

In Greek securities, apart from some demand for Monopolies and Rentes, prices are all unchanged. Monopolies are a point up at 53, and Rentes are ½ better at 43½.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations on Wednesday were:—Egyptian Unified, 99; Serbian, 1895, 59.75; Turkish Unified, 60.10; Ottoman Bank, 475; Suez Canal shares, 4,740.

Oil Shares.

Wednesday's prices showed some fluctuations:—Anglo-Egyptians (B) fell 6d. to 27s. 6d.—28s. 6d., and Ural Caspians declined 1-16 to 1 5-16—1 7-16. Roumanian Consols were unchanged at 11s. 6d—12s. 6d.

COMPANY NOTES.

Oil Outputs.

Bibi Eibat.—Production for week ended October 7, 48,067 poods, or 775 tons.

British Maikop Oil.—Production half-week ended September 30, 822 poods (about 13 tons); week ended October 7, 2,342 poods (about 38 tons); week ended October 14, 2,146 poods (about 35 tons).

North Caucasian.—Total production week ended September 26-October 9, 651,569 poods (or 10,509 tons).

Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 11,280 poods from ambars, for week ending October 14, 202,110 poods, or about 3,260 tons; total production for year from January 14 to October 14, 6,958,720 poods, or about 112,237 tons; total production for corresponding period last year, 6,603,795 poods, or about 106,513 tons.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Burmah Oil Company announce an interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share (15 per cent), free of tax, on the Ordinary shares and 6 per cent., less tax, on the Preference shares. The rate is the same as last year.

The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due the 1st prox. on Egyptian Unified Bonds; the necessary lists can be procured on application at the Dividend Pay Offices, 3, Prince's Street, E.C.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

London Stock Exchange.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 19	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84⅜	84½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	71⅛xd	71⅛xd
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	61½	61½
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	52	53
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	55½	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	62⅜	62½
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92	92
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	85	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	80½xd	80
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70½xc	70
Do. 4% Unified.....	79	56⅛	56⅛
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7xd	7xd
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	13½	13½
Bank of Athens.....	£2	3⅛	3⅛
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3½	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7	7¼
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	16⅜	17
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6½	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord..	17⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72½xd	72½xd
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	19/9	19/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Béhéra Co.....	8½	11⅜	12
Do. Pref.	4⅜	4½	4½
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/6	14/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	13/7½	14/6
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	15/-	15/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	1⅛	1⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/10½	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅜	26/6	27/-
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅛	25/6	27/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	34/-	33/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON OCTOBER 6.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	15⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
,, priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	81
,, Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	81
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	85⅜
Privilégiée		75
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6½
,, Fondateur	£	—
Pressage et dépots	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5⅜
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
,, Ord.	£	31/-
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		10½
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	106
,, Jouissance	Frs.	164
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
,, Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	4⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda		23/9
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	720
,, Fondateur	Frs.	800
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	357
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	277
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	279
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		⅜

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Oct. 19.	1917. Week Oct. 18.
Cattle markets	655 ..	360
General markets	408 ..	430
Receipts (£)	1,063 ..	790
Total for year	42,065 ..	45,872

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended September 20.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Sept. 11-Sept. 20	5,281 ..	6,940
April 1-Sept. 20.....	88,400 ..	99,43

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THE NEAR EAST

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF ORIENTAL POLITICS, LITERATURE, FINANCE, AND COMMERCE.

[REGISTERED AS G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

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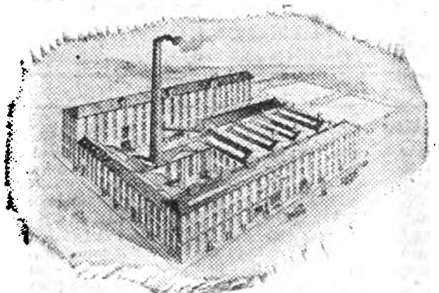
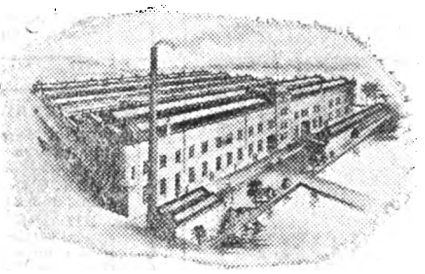

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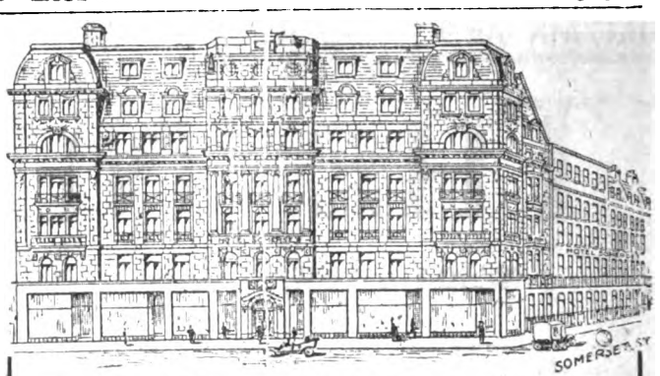

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 339.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The one outstanding event of the week, the German assault on Italy, is bound to influence both the military and the political situation in the Near East, as well as elsewhere. In Italy the disaster—for it is nothing less—has had the effect of reuniting the country; from France and England it has called forth not merely sympathy, but active help. Roumania, united by such close ties of friendship with Rome, cannot send assistance directly, but she can at least "keep her end up" with vigour, and occupy a certain number of German troops. There can be no doubt that the inactivity of the Russian Army is the source of this stroke, to achieve which Mackensen has been transferred from the Roumanian front.

The blow strikes primarily, of course, at Italy, for whom every Englishman feels a traditional admiration, but indirectly it affects the Jugoslav problem. A dominant Austria in Venetia and the Adriatic would mean the death-blow to all hopes of Jugoslav emancipation, and the disquiet in Vienna at the progress of the Jugoslav ideal, and not least with its unexpected *rapprochement* with Italy, was evidently one of the causes which led to the Austrian demand for an offensive being acceded to by Berlin. The young Emperor appears definitely to have abandoned his earlier and rather hesitating belief in Trialism as a possible policy, and Count Czernin's profession of faith in peace by disarmament, which was obviously made with his tongue in his cheek—since the preparations for the offensive were afoot when he spoke—has also vanished.

Whatever the military result of this move—and we are confident that Italy will be able to arrest it—it marks still further the declension of Austria into the position of a German serf. She has been unable to resist the Italians in what has become for her the chief seat of the war, and Prussian soldiers and generals have had to be called in. Moreover, the speech of her Finance Minister, made since the opening of the new offensive, admits that Austria is unable to pay the interest on her war loans, and has had to resort to "credit operations." The nature of these transactions is not specified, but the reticence will not deceive the world for a moment. The necessary "credit operations" have consisted in a loan from Berlin, and, like all other operations, they are a painful but necessary process, to which the patient only submits when there is nothing else to be done. In the present case, no doubt they will bring temporary relief to the sufferer, at the price of aggravating a still more serious disease—that of being under German control. This last disease is incurable, and it is quite certain that the Prussian physicians have insisted on a long price from the sufferer.

The consequence of this double dose, both military and political, would be that the Southern Slavs would fall under the joint servitude of Vienna and Berlin. Viennese rule has only been tolerable in the past, so far as it has been tolerable, by the weakness and occasional impotence of the Austrian Government; but there would be no inefficiency in the Berlin control. Bismarck once spoke of Austria as a house built of bad Slav bricks and good German mortar. Under the control of Prussia, the Slav bricks would be held very tightly in their place. During the past twenty years the tendency has been entirely the other way, and the German mortar has been crushed out in several places by the Slav bricks—a fact which has caused much alarm at Berlin, particularly since the Southern Slav movement assumed formidable proportions not long before the war. For that reason Prussia is becoming more and more set on the maintenance of Austria as a Germanic Power under Prussian domination.

It is more and more clear, in this depressing moment, that the Near East will have to be saved in the West. All hope of an Italian offensive is definitely at an end. The Salonika army remains—the Salonika army. Greece is hampered by shortage of food, and the intrigues of King Constantine's followers. The Roumanian army could advance, if the Russian army had not resolved itself into a debating society. Although some of the more courageous Russian politicians now recognise that dreams are not realities, the only sign of improvement is their frank admission that there is no improvement. But the separatist movement continues unchecked: the Ukraine national flag has been raised in the Black Sea fleet, and no protest has been recorded from Petrograd. Anarchy spreads, pogroms continue, and the prospect of famine grows steadily worse. Meantime, the Soviet is revising its peace terms for presentation at Paris, oblivious of the fact that the steadfast determination of France is not likely to be shaken by paper programmes.

A single blow, however serious it may be, will not have the least effect in persuading the Allies to change

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their programme for the liberation and reconstruction of Europe, as the Germans hoped; but it is well to recognise that while this is the case, it commits the Allies to a long war. If the diagnosis given above is correct—that the political programme of the Entente in the Near East can only be achieved by military action in the West—it inevitably implies a longer war than was in prospect at the time when the assistance of Russia was expected to be decisive. Meantime, it would be well if some of the publicists were to cease their exposition of the "exhausted Germany" theory. Undoubtedly Germany recognises that she is not so strong relatively as she was, since she tacitly admits that she can no longer attack on the Western front with any prospect of success. But it is equally certain that she is not exhausted, or she would not be able to spare a large army to help an ally in what to her must remain a secondary theatre of the war.

It may be noticed that the few British politicians who remain incurably faithful to Bulgaria have seized the present time as a favourable one to advocate once more a separate peace with that country, and with Austria and Turkey. As to Austria, after accepting the help of Germany to win her own particular battles, it may be said that she could not have a separate peace even if she would; of Bulgaria, that at this moment she would not if she could. King Ferdinand would, no doubt, like to get away with the booty: but he has contracted obligations to Berlin, which has performed more than the Allies can promise, although less, as internal evidence shows, than his inordinate appetite desires; and a separate peace would at once expose him to the assault of his present Allies. The hour when the Germans are advancing into Italy is hardly a propitious one in which to explain to him that the Central Powers have perished from exhaustion.

The latest revelations as to the ex-King and Queen of the Hellenes have finally bereft them of the dignity that sometimes hedges an exiled monarch. The King stands convicted of sending confidential information as to the Entente, with whom he had relations as a neutral (altogether apart from their peculiar responsibility as protecting Powers), direct to Berlin. A paid spy, like the half-breed dancer on the Paris stage, could have done no more, and would have done no less. He took orders from the Kaiser, and executed them. The Queen, for her part, referred to opponents as "pigs." But then she is a Hohenzollern.

The Turks seem to have started out to write their latest communiqué with the intention of claiming a victory, and to have half-abandoned the idea before they completed the paragraph. The facts are that they attacked a line of British cavalry outposts, and that, although our men were heavily outnumbered, they held on, while repeated subsequent charges by Turkish cavalry only gave them "a slight gain of ground," with losses which far outnumbered our own. If we cannot claim this as a success, most certainly the Turks cannot.

The Government has published Sir Charles Munro's despatch covering operations in Aden, South and South-East Persia, and the North-West Frontier. In Persia our operations have been mainly concerned with defeating the agents of German propaganda. As regards Aden, which has been almost forgotten at home as a theatre of war, he remarks that in the period under review—March 10, 1916, to March 31, 1917—the Turks made only one attempt to assume the offensive, when they were easily beaten off. Some months later the British attacked the Turkish ports at Jabir and Mahat with complete success. The enemy casualties were 200, and the action had a demoralising effect on the Turkish Arab auxiliaries, whilst achieving its object of preventing the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Lahej towards the Yemen. A tribute is paid to the co-operation of the Navy.

In Eastern Persia, where only a small force was maintained, in co-operation with Russia, to frustrate the activity of German agents, raids were made on our lines of communication by certain tribes in Persian Baluchistan. Punitive operations were undertaken, and several actions were fought under difficult conditions, but the tribe which had given most trouble submitted. As a whole the work, both here and on the North-West Frontier (where activity has been almost incessant), has been very quietly, but none the less efficiently, done. It is inevitable that it should be to a certain extent overshadowed by the greater events in the West, but it is equally essential to the security of the Empire.

Last week's Indian debate in the House of Lords may fairly be described as useful, in that it brought out clearly the facts of an exceedingly difficult position. The difficulty must be attributed in the main to the somewhat erratic activities of Mrs. Besant, an elderly lady who is rarely outside the circle of the limelight; she is probably best known for her advocacy of various forms of religion and its opposite, but of late she seems to have been aiming at the political leadership of India, and has devoted her abundant energies to a propaganda in favour of what she calls Home Rule. Her aspirations may be legitimate, but her methods have been undoubtedly dangerous. Lord Sydenham, who knows parts of India well, said in the debate that language of the kind used by her was "exactly calculated to rouse an excitable people to rebellion"; and Lord Curzon, speaking for the Government, joined in denunciation of the "abominable and wicked things" said in the course of her campaign.

The Indian Governments are extraordinarily tolerant, but they found Mrs. Besant too much. First one province and then another excluded her from its limits, and at last the Liberal statesman who is Governor of Madras subjected her to the mild restrictive measure known in India as internment, which may best be described as a humane and comfortable form of muzzling. The necessity of that action was not questioned in the debate. It produced, however, some curious results. Indian politics were at the moment all "nerves"; it was known that proposals for constitutional reform had gone home; the delay in dealing with them—in itself easily explained by the preoccupations of the Cabinet—gave rise to the strongest apprehensions; and the internment was accepted very widely as a sign that the "forces of reaction" had triumphed. Mrs. Besant is by no means universally popular among Indian politicians, but in these circumstances she became a symbol rather than a person, and Press and platform were submerged in a wave of sentiment of the sort which in countries like India very soon becomes the dominating feature of a situation.

The result was to place the Supreme Government in a very difficult position. The most active minds in India were rapidly developing hostility, none the less real because it was based on sentiment, against the British administration as a whole. It was agreed that constitutional changes must come, and it was obvious that the new environment threatened to render their effective introduction impossible. Persistence in the attitude adopted towards Mrs. Besant would have involved not merely an extended campaign of repression, but the risk of a definite breach between the Administration and the small but powerful section of the Indian population, on whose co-operation it has of late so much relied. Lord Chelmsford and his colleagues had to decide whether this risk should be run; they declined to take it, and so Mrs. Besant was released on the strength of some rather vague "assurances" that she would behave herself for a time.

This policy can be judged only by results, and the time for judgment has not yet come. The official speakers in the House of Lords claimed that an improvement in the situation is already apparent, but, of course, that counts for very little, and, on the other hand, there is abundant evidence of anxiety among some of the strongest supporters of British rule. Of one thing, however, we may

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be certain: the decision taken by Lord Chelmsford and his colleagues, whether right or wrong, is the outcome of a definite policy, and is not due to the weakness or the tendency to drift from which the interests of India have occasionally suffered during recent years. The Indian Constitution is to be reformed, and ordinary administrative doctrines are to be subordinated, if necessary, to the exigencies of the reformers' policy. It is a strong decision, and it may be wise, but on this point we are not inclined to prophesy. In any case, the decision adds greatly to the responsibility undertaken by Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State, who is to investigate the constitutional question for himself and on the spot. His position is not free from embarrassment, for he has made speeches to the youth of England, and the youth of India have adopted his epigrams as so many clauses in the Great Charter of their country. They will hold him to his phrases, and there will be bitter disappointment, if he fails to deliver the promised goods. Fortunately for himself, he is going out "on the distinct understanding" that he will make no speeches. He will be able, therefore, to give more time to the study of his subject, and there is no reason why he should not succeed in grasping the main factors of what is undoubtedly a very complex problem, and, later on, help to produce a satisfactory practical solution.

The formation of "The Indo-British Association in London" is evidence that the march of events in India is very properly attracting more and more attention in this country. Any organisation that undertakes to promote fuller knowledge of Indian affairs in Great Britain and of British affairs in India has a wide scope and a career of supreme usefulness before it. It is, undoubtedly, necessary in these days, when extremist views find frequent expression in India, to emphasise the fact that the true interests of the people of India are entirely bound up with the continuance of British rule. But, as Lord Sydenham, the President, indicated in his opening address to the new association, acceptance of this principle is not incompatible with the desire to see reforms introduced in India. The object of the Indo-British Association will be to promote and protect the true interests of the people of India; at the same time it will enable not only British residents, but the domiciled community and all loyal Indians as well, to feel that they have in the heart of the Empire a body of earnest people who will give them full support whenever they need it.

Despite, or possibly in consequence of, the controversy between Zionists and anti-Zionists during the summer, a further manifesto has been issued by various British Jewish societies, advocating the reconstitution of Palestine as the national home of the Jewish people, and "trusting that his Majesty's Government will use its best endeavours for the achievement of this object." It is not stated in the resolution whether the advocates of this policy would prefer autonomy under the protection of Britain or some other great Power, or whether their aim is full sovereign independence.

It would be well to have this obscurity cleared up, and indeed it would become essential to do so before any definite steps were taken to realise this aspiration; but it is quite possible that it is on this very point that there is a divergence of opinion in Jewry. The resolution as it stands will be received with a good deal of sympathy, and that not only in Jewish circles. It is probably hoped in due course to obtain some indication of the Government's attitude towards the question of the repatriation of the Jews. Although numerous manifestoes have been issued, both in Russia by the revolutionary committees (on which Jewish influence is obviously very strong) and in other countries, claiming the complete freedom of the Jews, it does not appear that the British Government has yet made, or been actually called upon to make, any definite pronouncement of its attitude. That it will be sympathetic need hardly be doubted.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 4.

The Bairam feast has passed by peacefully, and on Monday all the Government staff who had spent the summer at Ramleh resumed their duties in the capital. The Residency has also returned to Cairo.

The Mecca Pilgrimage.

Telegraphic advices have been received by the Palace from the Emir el Hagg to the effect that the ceremonies at Mecca in connection with the pilgrimage were performed without incident, and that the caravan with the pilgrims has embarked on its return journey via Jedda. The International Quarantine Board has decided, in view of the excellent health reports received from the Hejaz, to declare this year's pilgrimage as free from infection.

The Nile Flood.

The levels on the Blue Nile and the Atbara have dropped since my last letter, and are now below the point at which they stood this time last year. As it takes about a month for a drop at Roseires to make itself felt in Middle and Lower Egypt, the levels in the latter two zones still remain abnormally high. At Kafr el Zayat, Benha, and Cairo the river is not much below the level of the bridges, but so far there has been no serious inundation, though, of course, infiltration is extending, and will continue to extend for some time. There is every hope, now that Roseires has fallen, that the worst is over in so far as the flood is concerned, but it must not be forgotten that the time of greatest strain on the banks is not during the actual flood, but after the water has begun to subside, and that consequently the irrigation service still has an anxious period before it. As I said last week, however, every precaution has been taken, and we count on the irrigation officials meeting this year with the same success as has attended their efforts in this direction in previous years.

The Question of Supplies.

The event of the week has been the creation of a Department of Supplies, for which the Sultan signed a decree on the 26th ult. This new department, which will be attached to the Ministry of the Interior, will deal with all questions concerning the supplies of foodstuffs and articles of first necessity required by the country. According to the terms of the decree, it will study local prices, follow the fluctuations on the various markets, take the necessary steps to regulate these prices, inquire into and provide for any local shortage which may manifest itself, prevent hoarding and cornering, and generally safeguard the interests of the country in the matter of supplies.

Since the outbreak of war this work has been done by the Egyptian Government Supplies Commission, which has been a purely consultative body, depending directly from the Prime Minister, to whom it made its recommendations and who ordered their execution. This Commission has done excellent work during the three years it has been in existence, but the time has come when some central authority, having full executive powers, is necessary to cope with the situation which has now arisen. It is considered that the desired end will be attained by the creation of a Department of Supplies, having at its head a Controller, who will deal not only with foodstuffs, but also with all matters directly or indirectly affecting the general question of supplies. He will be more than a Food Controller, and his title will be Controller of Supplies.

The head of the new department is Mr. J. I. Craig, for whose appointment the Sultan has signed a decree. Mr. Craig is the Controller of State Statistics. He has done most valuable work for the Government, especially since the war, and he organised the census of the population which was taken last spring. Opinion is unanimous that no better choice could have been made; in fact, that he is the one man for the post. It is recognised that the task before him is no easy one, but there is a general feeling of confidence that his ability and experience will enable him successfully to tackle the

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various economic and other problems which the near future holds in store for Egypt. If anything is needed to reconcile Mr. Craig to the great burden which he has assumed, it should surely be the fact that he is assured of the sympathy and goodwill of every element of the population of this country.

An Excise Duty on Sugar.

Somewhat of a sensation was caused this week by the publication of a decree establishing an Excise duty on all sugar manufactured and consumed in Egypt. The only exception to this duty is the sugar consumed by the British forces. The duty is fixed at 17.5 milliemes per oke, or £E.14 per ton. The annual local consumption is approximately 70,000 tons, but the imposition of this tax will probably reduce it by some 20 per cent., as, on the one hand, it will drive the lower classes to consume sugar made by other means than those employed at the refineries, and, on the other, the poorer European elements will consume less of the refined article. It is calculated that the net revenue accruing to the Egyptian Government will be about £E800,000 per annum.

This new tax has been imposed, of course, because the Government finds itself compelled to tap new sources of income. Its revenues may be expanding, but that expansion is purely temporary, and is due to the abnormal circumstances created by the war. It is, indeed, according to the accounts, in a very prosperous position. That prosperity, however, is really only apparent owing to the fact that necessary expenditure on maintenance and repairs has had to be postponed on account of the difficulty in obtaining materials. When the war ceases revenue from the existing sources will perforce fall off, but, on the other hand, there will be heavy calls for expenditure on works which have been unduly delayed. It is, therefore, imperative that the Government should create for itself fresh sources of income, and this Excise tax on sugar is one of the expedients to which it is being forced to have recourse to raise money.

The Egyptian sugar industry has flourished considerably since the outbreak of war, and, thanks to this circumstance, the Société des Sucreries et de la Raffinerie D'Egypte, which has the monopoly of refining in the country, has been able entirely to consolidate its position, which was far from brilliant in 1913, and pay its shareholders a series of bumper dividends. In view of the fact that the export trade in sugar has expanded so much, surprise has been expressed that the Excise duty or rather an equivalent tax, has not also been imposed on sugar exported from Egypt. The explanation is that international treaties prevent the raising of the export duty. This is, indeed, regrettable, seeing that the refineries have been and are still making such enormous profits, and contribute not one farthing thereof towards the cost of administration of the country. It is sincerely to be hoped that the Egyptian Government will find some means of tapping what in the case of not only the sugar refineries, but also of various other local industrial and commercial enterprises, constitutes a very legitimate source of revenue to the State.

BRITISH PRISONERS IN TURKEY.

Mr. Hume-Williams, on October 25, presided over a meeting of the committee of members formed some time ago for the alleviation of the deplorable condition of British prisoners of war in the hands of the Turks. A resolution was passed in the following terms:—"This meeting learns with deep regret that the Government has been unable since the House adjourned to do anything to mitigate the suffering of British and Indian prisoners in Turkey, and earnestly hopes that immediate and energetic steps will be taken to effect an improvement in their condition." The committee is by no means insensible of the earnest efforts already made by the Government to alleviate the deplorable condition of these unfortunate prisoners. Efforts have been made to secure an agreement for exchange, on the lines of that concluded with Germany at a meeting of the delegates of the two nations at The Hague; but the difficulty is that the Turks refuse to reply to any representations made through the neutral Powers. Moreover, parcels of food and remittances of money rarely reach their destination. Of 4,900 parcels sent since August 1, only 82 have been acknowledged, and most of the money goes astray, and the condition of these prisoners is deplorable in the extreme. The methods of the Young Turkish Party seem to be more Hunnish than those of the Huns.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Papal Note.

The proposals contained in the Papal Note were hardly of a nature to satisfy the Roumanian people, ignoring as they did both the past and the present situation in Austria-Hungary. "The Pope's proposals," writes the Government paper *Mishcarea*, "impress one as having come indirectly from Germany: they are the proposals of Berlin sent out through the offices of the Papal palace." The direct offer of peace made previously by Germany met with but a cold reception. "So to-day Germany changes its tactics, but the Pope's signature will hardly contribute to the realisation of that peace at which German Imperialism is aiming." Another paper, *Romania*, writes:—"In his Note the Pope overlooks the national claims of Serbia and Roumania, for which these countries sacrificed heroically all that was best among their populations. Why were we excommunicated? Is it because Serbia and Roumania are not Catholic, but Orthodox? Perhaps. But the Pope has broken the tradition of acute diplomacy which used to distinguish the Vatican by ostentatiously differentiating between the God he represents and between our God, who, after all, is also Christian. In our earlier history Stephen the Great did not make such differentiations, and his men generously shed their blood in order to defend Rome against the onslaught of the Pagans; and the then Pope did not think it below himself to thank the little Roumanian prince and to proclaim him the defender of Christianity in the East. Or has 'Deus' been replaced by 'Gott' at the Vatican?"

Anglo-Roumanian Relations.

The foundation of the Anglo-Roumanian Society in London was hailed with deep satisfaction by the Roumanian Press of all shades and opinions. All expressions of sympathy and of appreciation for the deeds of our soldiers are, naturally, welcome to us (writes *Romania*). But our satisfaction for what has happened in London is the greater for our having been somewhat neglected until now by the English people. The foundation of the Anglo-Roumanian Society is not only a great encouragement in the tragic and heroic times in which we are living, but is also satisfactory evidence of the fact that we have gained the friendship of the English people, of that wonderful nation whose indomitable will has always secured victory." The chief Governmental paper, *L'Indépendance Roumaine*, deals with the event in two successive issues. The writer of the first leader does not think it correct to assert that Roumania was as indifferent towards England as England appeared to be towards Roumania. Kept a prisoner by the Treaty of Alliance in the German sphere of influence, Roumania "has never ceased to feel the greatest admiration for English civilisation; she has always known how to appreciate the impressive spectacle of that immense and harmonious work, of the development of English thought and power all the world over—as real civilising work as there ever was. . . . Roumania could, therefore, not see without regret that these sentiments produced no response, and that France and England, almost completely ignoring her, made no attempts to deliver, at least morally and economically, if not politically, the prisoner who secretly, and often openly, was calling to them from the depth of his heart." But that is now passed, and present events entitle us to look forward to a new era, in which common sentiments will preside over the common work, in which Roumania will share with her Allies.

Roumanian-American Relations.

The attention which the United States are showing the much-tried Roumanian nation has greatly impressed both people and Government. Some time ago a military mission under General Hugh Scott visited Moldavia as the carriers of a message of sympathy from our American Ally. But the Americans are a practical people, and they know that in the circumstances in which we have to carry on the war material assistance must come foremost. The United States Government are, therefore, seconding a committee, composed of thirty-eight prominent men belonging to the commercial, medical and financial worlds, for the purpose of inquiring into our needs, and thus to enable our Government to provide adequate support. The need seems to be great indeed, to judge from the fact that the authorities had to appeal to private people to provide hospitality for the American guests.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 7, 1917.

The Bread Ration Census.

Athens this morning resembles a city of the dead. Not a single vehicle of any description is moving, the local train services are suspended, the churches are closed, and not a human being is seen in the streets, save the military patrols. There is a weird silence, and one is reminded of the scenes of revolutions and massacres in Constantinople and of the eventful days of December 1 and 2 last in Athens, when deserted streets forewarned one of danger. But there is no revolution to-day; it is a peaceful measure—a census-taking—principally for the purpose of arriving at a correct number of bread tickets to be issued to the inhabitants of Athens and the Piræus. This course became necessary owing to the excessive number of bread tickets which had been issued through the abuse of an imperfect system of distribution. The present bread tickets, it is said, are nearly double the number of the inhabitants, with the result that there is a larger consumption of bread than should be. A military order was issued during the week, calling upon all the inhabitants to remain in their homes until noon, and the Ministry of Food issued an explanatory notice of the procedure to be adopted for taking the census. The daily ration of bread will be fixed when the exact number of the inhabitants has been ascertained.

The Food Question.

The food question is quite the absorbing topic of the day. Efforts are apparently being made by the authorities to increase the daily arrivals of fish and country produce; but supplies from overseas come in slowly, and grain and rice, the two most important articles, are still scarce. One of the greatest difficulties the authorities have to contend with is that of profiteering.

It is to be expected that on occasions like these holders of articles which are in demand will seek to make as much profit as possible, and evidently there are hidden stocks of some things. The Ministry of Food made a long statement to the Press explaining the steps that were being taken to replenish the country's stocks of foodstuffs, and very correctly attributed the present state of affairs to the effects of the ex-King's misgovernment. The Royalists naturally make capital out of the present situation, and say that there was not this scarcity in Constantine's time, when Greece was neutral; but, as a matter of fact, this is the outcome of their own policy.

A National Celebration.

The city this morning is in striking contrast to its gay appearance last Sunday, when three great events in the history of modern Greece were celebrated. A dinner was given last week to M. Venizelos to celebrate his departure from Athens last year, and a great demonstration was organised for last Sunday to commemorate the revolution of 1909, the declaration of the Balkan War in 1912, and the departure of M. Venizelos in 1916, all three events having occurred in the month of September. Athens was quite *en fête* and the streets decorated. There were celebrations in the churches, patriotic representations in the theatres, and a gala performance in the Municipal Theatre attended by M. Venizelos, the Ministers, some of the representatives of the foreign missions, and many officials. The military procession in the evening of about 5,000 soldiers carrying Chinese lanterns was quite picturesque, as the three columns, headed by their bands, passed through the illuminated streets amidst the cheers from the dense crowds.

Disorganised Finances.

The Chamber resumed its sittings last Monday, and has been occupied in ordinary legislative work. Yesterday the Minister of Finance had the unenviable task of presenting the budget for the current year. It can be imagined that the finances of the State have got into a chaotic condition during the past two years, and one is not, therefore, surprised to hear the Minister say, in a discourse full of lamentations, that he was unable to present a true state of the finances of the country owing to the confusion in the book-keeping of the Ministry. He said that they knew that the service had not been conducted with the order and method desirable; but he could never imagine that such disorder and absence of method could exist to such an extent as to make it doubtful, if not impossible, for the Government to control the financial situation of the State. The revenue for the financial year of 1917 is estimated at 263,554,997 drachmæ and the expenditure at 595,912,993 drachmæ, showing a deficit of 332,357,996 drachmæ. This deficit will be met, to a certain extent, it is proposed, by the income tax, an interior loan and a tax on excess profits.

News in General.

The two commissions of inquiry in respect to the actions of the Skouloudis and Lambros Cabinets have been interrogating the Ministers indicted. M. Lambros did not appear before the Court when summoned, so had to be conducted by the police. He and M. Ralli declined to make any statement, and reserved their defence for the High Court.

The military authorities have issued a notice to the effect that all subjects of enemy countries in the district of Athens will henceforth be under police control and must report themselves three times a week to the police authority. This appears to be quite a necessary measure considering that there are still many enemy subjects in Athens who form a nucleus to which the ne'er-do-weels identified with the former *régime* will be attracted with the object of fomenting trouble.

One naturally sympathises with the Government in their efforts to re-establish order and to take measures for the welfare of the country; but there is one measure that they have taken which is open to some criticism and is not likely to be of much benefit—that of the censorship at the Post Office. This seems to be carried to unnecessary extremes, for there can be no advantage in censoring and considerably delaying correspondence to England, private letters having taken as long as five or six weeks to reach their destination. As mentioned in last week's letter, it is to be hoped that the postal censorship will be conducted with celerity and discretion so as to cause as little delay as possible and to avoid the inconvenience and annoyance which are now complained of.

It is estimated that the number of people rendered homeless by the fire at Salonika amounts to 75,439 out of a population of 271,000. Of these 25,000 are lodged in tents, 4,400 in the mosques, and the remainder dispersed amongst relatives, friends, etc. The Jews were the greatest sufferers, numbering 52,000, the remainder of the victims being half Christians and half Mussulmans.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

High Days and Holidays.

The *Kourban Bairam*, celebrated about seventy days after the *Ramazan Bairam*, is being quietly observed by the Moslem community. It was decided last year that the horse and agricultural show usually held at Nicosia on this anniversary should be fixed in future for the spring—a good arrangement, as Bairam, for years to come, will revolve through the hottest months, following the lunar calendar. This year it coincides with the Greek Festival of the Cross, in honour of which a large fair is held at the village of Omodhos, near Troödos. The place is one of the centres of the wine industry, in which the once celebrated *muscàto* variety was made, and acquired a reputation that has vanished.

Should you wish to inspect one of the larger monasteries at your ease, and to see something of the abbot and other inmates, it is well to avoid the time of the Festival, with its crowds and attendant drawbacks. On the other hand, no one should miss an opportunity of attending one of these great popular gatherings, which present many interesting features. The Fair of Omodhos is a typical one. It is celebrated on September 27 (N.S.), and is regarded as marking the break-up of summer, or beginning of the rainy season, at any rate in the hills. It brings together a crowd of some thousands. As the Festival approaches great strings of mules and donkeys wind their way through the mountains, carrying holiday-makers of both sexes and all ages, in bright colours and picturesque groups. Many of them convey goods for sale, the products of their particular district and industry. On arrival at the monastery which surrounds the Church of the Cross you find every corner occupied, the more distinguished visitors being entertained in special guest chambers. The courtyard is filled, and in the stables and outhouses the animals of pilgrims and visitors are tethered. Tents are not used as in Egypt and other neighbouring countries. Religious duty comes first in order. On the day of the Festival the church bells summon the devout at an early hour. The edifice always contains an old painting of the Virgin or of the patron saint, and probably some highly venerated relic. The *ikon* is kissed, a silent prayer is made, an offering is given, and a taper is lit and placed near the *ikon* by the priest. After this duty the day is given up to business and pleasure. All round the church or precincts of the monastery all available spaces are fully occupied by booths and stalls, sheltered by awnings from the scorching sun. Silversmiths from the capital and other towns, who wander from fair to fair,

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secure a prominent place near the principal entrance. Their merchandise includes silver spoons, forks for native sweets, bangles, earrings, crosses, vessels for sprinkling rose-water, and charms of various kinds. Often they sell silver "antiques," such as buckles, clasps, charm-boxes, coins, and tempting odds and ends. Passing on, you wend your way through double lines of booths in which native silks, cotton goods—European and native—copperware, crockery, glass, trinkets, toys, camel and goat-bells, ironware and many other useful articles are sold. Then come numerous stalls for sweets, confectionery, and fruits fresh and dried. There are cookshops where meat, *kibabs*, rissoles, eggs, native cheese, dough-nuts fried in honey and many delicacies pleasing to the native taste are offered. One article which always appears is the almost mummified meat of goat and sheep, called *apokté*. This consists of the whole carcase of the animal, which has been split in halves and flattened out, salted and dried in the sun. Though it does not commend itself to the European palate, it is much appreciated by the natives.

There are considerable sales of livestock, ponies, mules, asses, sheep, goats and pigs. Since the British occupation a horse fair has generally been held under Government auspices, prizes being given for different classes of ponies and donkeys. The game of *jerid*, so popular in the East, is often played by horsemen, chiefly Turks. Good humour prevails everywhere. Turks often mingle sociably with Greeks. People are out for the fun of the fair and jollification quite as much as for business. There are many coffee-shops, where cooling drinks can be obtained, and they are well filled with holiday-makers, chatting, smoking, and listening to fiddlers. A stroll in the village, especially towards evening, may bring you to a café, where the mandoline and zither, and nowadays a wheezy gramophone, attract visitors. Here may be seen dancing by men and youths, which evokes much applause and clapping of hands. The performers, many of them skilful and graceful, in spite of their high boots, remind you vividly of our own Highlanders.

THE CASE OF BOHEMIA.

Although the question of Bohemia can scarcely be called a question of the Near East, yet it bears such close relation to all other problems of Central Europe and that of the Balkans alike that it falls well within the scope of this review. The question of Austria is really the question of Bohemia, and the importance of a right solution of the Austrian problem cannot remain without effect upon the Near East. Austria's mission was to serve as a bulwark against the Turks. Now she is the bulwark of German imperialism, and forms Prussia's "bridge to the East," threatening thus directly the existence of all Central European and Balkan peoples. She cannot be prevented from playing this sinister part unless she is dismembered. Albert Sorel wrote in 1902:—"The day when the Oriental question is solved, Europe will inevitably be confronted with the Austrian question." And that day has now arrived. The Austrian Slavs, Roumanians and Italians have been too long the dupes of Vienna and Budapest; to-day they are determined to achieve independence and work out their own salvation. Among the Austrian Slavs the Czechs may with every justification be placed foremost, both as regards their numbers and the high level of their economic strength and civilisation.

Legally speaking, Bohemia is an independent State to-day, for she concluded a mere defensive Alliance through the person of a common monarch with Austria and Hungary in 1526. However, her rights and liberties have ever since been constantly violated by the autocratic and treacherous Habsburg dynasty, and the result of this fateful dependence of Bohemia on Vienna has been the fact that during this war the ten million Czechs became, together with other Austrian Slavs and Latins, the dupes of German Imperialism, without their consent and against their will, Czech soldiers surrendered wholesale to Russia and Serbia, and thousands of them are to-day fighting in the Allies' ranks.

On entering the Reichsrat on May 30 last, after three years of terrorism and absolutism in Austria, the Czechs solemnly made the following declaration:—"While taking a stand at this historic moment on the natural right of all peoples to decide their own destinies and free development—a right which in our case is still further strengthened by inalienable, fully recognised historic rights—we shall, at the head of our people, work for the union of all branches of the Czecho-Slovak people in a single democratic Bohemian State." During the subsequent debates they declared the question of Bohemia to be an international question which only the Peace Conference could decide. This declaration was only natural, if we consider that even the Prussians recognised the international character of the question of Bohemia, when in 1866 they issued a proclamation asking for the Czechs' support against Austria in return for independence for Bohemia. "The master of Bohemia will be the master of Europe," said Bismarck, and the Allies declared in their Note to President Wilson in January last "the liberation of Czecho-Slovaks from foreign domination" to be one of their war aims.

The lands belonging to the Bohemian Crown—*i.e.*, Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia, as well as the north-western part of Hungary, inhabited by the Czechs' near kinsmen, the Slovaks—form the richest part of Austria-Hungary. They would be economically self-supporting, and would have an outlet to the Baltic Sea by concluding a close alliance with Poland. Such an alliance between the two brotherly Slav nations of Poland and Bohemia would mean a block of forty million, which would be a barrier strong enough to arrest Germany's "*Drang nach Osten*," especially if, on the other hand, a strong Italy, Jugo-slavia and Greater Roumania should bar Germany's push towards the Adriatic, the Near East and the Persian Gulf. The reorganisation of Europe on the principle of nationality would mean the reduction of Austria-Hungary to her proper racial boundaries, consisting of exclusively German and Magyar territory. It would mean the emancipation of thirty million Slavs and Latins from the Habsburg yoke. This solution would be not only in the interests of justice and humanity, in so far as it would deliver the nations concerned from the German-Magyar racial tyranny, but it is directly postulated by the interests of the Allies themselves and the world at large, in so far as it is in the interests of the principles of democracy and a just and lasting peace in Europe, for which the Allies are fighting.

V. Nosek.

RECENT DISCOVERIES IN MESOPOTAMIA.

In recent years the recovery and publication of lengthy and important historical annals in the cuneiform script of ancient Mesopotamian monarchs have been very frequent. The British Museum began this new series of documents with their lately acquired cylinder of Sennacherib and a stele of Tukulti-Ninip I. Then the French followed by publishing a record of the campaigns of Esarhaddon and a long inscription describing a war of Tukulti-Ninip II. The geographical information alone derivable from the numerous records of expeditions in Mesopotamia and the neighbouring countries provides material for formulating a map of Asia Minor from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean, and from Elam almost to the Euxine, including the mountainous districts around Lake Van, at the time of the Hebrew kingdom. The records indicate the extent of the campaigns of warrior monarchs of various dynasties and districts upon the Tigris and Euphrates. Their conquests sometimes included distant lands acquired by themselves or their generals and administrators, such as Syria, Palestine and even Cyprus. That the Babylonian and Assyrian dominions were at times so widespread was known from several inscriptions previously found, as well as these more lately discovered; also by the fact that the writing characters for all Syria and Judæa and South-Eastern Asia Minor before the exodus were cuneiform. But the complete *recits de guerre*, excepting those of a few kings, such as Assurbannipal, Shalmaneser and Esarhaddon, were wanting.

In these records mention is sometimes made of similar far-reaching conquests by royal predecessors many centuries previously, and these have been supposed to be somewhat mythical. This view must now to a great extent be abandoned because the University of Pennsylvania, in Vols. IV. and V. of their series of Babylonian inscriptions, have now published part of the annals of a king named Sargon, of Agade, and of another monarch, Laugal-zaggisi of Uruk, or Erech, which gives authentic particulars of similar distant wars earlier by many centuries than those hitherto known

Lougal-zaggisi reigned at Uruk for twenty-five years, and he or his predecessors must have secured the overlordship of all the various peoples between the Persian Gulf and the Mediterranean, and, moreover, have retained their sway, not an easy task because of the differences of race, language, and religion. However powerful the king of Uruk may have been, Sargon, lord of Agade, and also of the city of Nippur, one of the most important towns of ancient Mesopotamia, made short work of him and captured his capital. Lougal-zaggisi made a last defence in a great battle to the north-west of Uruk, assisted by fifty governors of his sub-

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ject cities or districts, and the men of all his vassal states. Sargon vanquished the whole array and took the king captive to Nippur. There he held a great service, or fête, in honour of his victory in the temple of Nippur's senior divinity Enlil, to whose help Sargon assigned his triumph. In return the priests appear to have created Sargon the great *Ishakku*, or viceroy, under Enlil's protection, of all his own and the recently acquired territory, and of any more he might by feat of arms obtain.

Fortified by divine authority, Sargon set out to conquer the country to the south-east of Agade, beginning with the city of Ur and its domains. Turning eastward, he took other towns, such as Lagash and Eninna, also Umma, the birthplace of Lougal-zaggisi. The kings of Ur had by invasion or friendship acquired close relations with princes and peoples to the west and north-west. Such ownership, or alliance, with the mountain regions to the north and west was ever absolutely essential to the Mesopotamians as they increased in population and civilisation, because their great alluvial plain practically did not contain either stone, precious metals, or large tree growth for timber.

The records of Babylonian forays, always joyfully acclaim reaching the cedar forests of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, and the tree-clad slopes of the Taurus, with the stores of metalliferous ores beneath their sterile soil. This time Sargon conquered all these regions and divided them into three governments of Mari, Jarimuta, and Ibla. We have not space to identify here the geographical boundaries of the three provinces; but Jarimuta, at the much later date of the Tel-el-Amarua despatches, is identified with the district known to us as the Plain of Antioch, extended so as to reach the bend of the Upper Euphrates.

We have termed Sargon King of Agade, but it was not until after these successful wars that he became so. On returning from his last expedition, described in his annals now in Philadelphia, he says so vast was his power that (like a Scandinavian viking) 5,400 men took their daily meal with him, besides many princes, proud to be his vassals.

He restored the decayed famous old city of Kish, in Akkad, in honour of being monarch of both Akkad and Sumer. The patron goddess of the first land was Inanna, and as he had become Ishakku, or fief holder, of the deity Enlil of Nippur, he now became feudatory of the divine Innana. Similarly for Sumer he styles himself Pashish of its gods, a word perhaps ancestor of the Pasha of to-day, and states that he also holds Sumer as in fief for Enlil, by whose help he had acquired it. It was as memorial of this that he founded Agade, to be for ever connected with his name.

JOSEPH OFFORD.

THE INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

At a largely attended meeting, held in the Cannon Street Hotel, on October 30, with Lord Sydenham in the chair, an association was formed, under the title of "The Indo-British Association in London," for the purpose of protecting the interests in India of British and Indians alike. The speakers, in addition to the chairman, were Mr. C. J. Shorrock, Sir John Hewett, Sir Francis Younghusband and Lord Harris. The following committee was appointed, with power to add to their number, for the purpose of taking steps to establish the association:—Lord Sydenham (President), Mr. C. J. Shorrock, Sir David Yule, Sir John Hewett, Sir Francis Younghusband, Mr. Jackson and Sir Charles McLeod.

Whatever effect the war may have on the celebration of Christmas, there will remain a very considerable section of the population of the country who will look for the time-honoured reminders of the season. It was, therefore, to be expected that Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons, the premier house in the Christmas card trade, would adapt themselves to the times. Their cards and numerous publications are essentially topical; but they are more than that, for by laying stress on the artistic side in regard to their productions they promote directly the cause of art and education in these islands.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Russia and Roumania—No Separate Peace. Oct. 25.

LORD R. CECIL, replying to a question by Mr. Pennefather as to the impression prevailing in many circles in Russia and Roumania that the Western Powers were contemplating a separate peace at the expense of Russia, said:—I am glad to have this opportunity of giving a categorical denial on behalf of his Majesty's Government to this imputation, which has been fostered by enemy agents in Russia in the hope of producing a discouraging effect upon our Eastern Allies. His Majesty's Government are determined to abide by their Russian Allies and to assist them in consolidating their new-found liberty. His Majesty's Government realise also the great debt which they owe to the Roumanian Government and army, and they fully appreciate the valiant resistance which our Roumanian Ally is offering in a period of exceptional difficulty and trial; the Roumanian people may rest assured that this country will not desert them in the present crisis.

The Allies and Bulgaria. Oct. 30.

Mr. NOEL BUXTON raised the question of advantage being taken of the present feeling in Austria and Bulgaria in order that an attempt might be made to detach these countries from their alliance with Germany.

Mr. BALFOUR, in the course of his reply, said:—

My hon. friend said it would be a great desideratum that Bulgaria at the end of the war should be left without a grievance. I should like every nation to be left at the end of the war without a grievance. But, after all, Bulgaria is in the field against us. Bulgaria is our enemy. Whether, if the affairs of this country had been better managed, she would have been our friend is another point. My hon. friend appears to hold that it was the blundering of the Allied Governments, perhaps even the blundering of my predecessor in office, which brought Bulgaria into the war. I cannot agree with that statement. I am not going to undertake the defence of Sir Edward Grey's foreign policy. I am not sure that I have the knowledge for it, and I think it had better be left to himself to do it when he thinks fit. He has always refrained from making any general survey of the important months and years in which he held the post of Foreign Secretary, and I believe he has refrained on the highest public grounds. He did not believe that any public service would be done—much the contrary—by raking up these ashes of controversy, and he probably felt that the case could not be made until the war was over, and until documents, authorities, and statements could be made with safety to his country and to the Allies, which could not be made in the course of the war. No doubt historians will occupy themselves with it, and I believe they will come to a different conclusion from that which commends itself to my hon. friend.

However that may be, whether diplomatic dexterity could or could not have kept Bulgaria out of the war, the fact is Bulgaria is in the war. She has deliberately determined to become the enemy of nations who certainly conceived she was bound to them by strong ties of gratitude and consideration. She has done it deliberately, and it is perfectly useless to criticise, to comment, still more to condemn, actions which I think have been most disastrous to the world, but which, in the opinion of Bulgarian statesmen at all events, however bad for other people, is good for Bulgaria. Nevertheless, I should also like to see Bulgaria and other nations come out of the war without grievance, because grievance is the source of new wars, and when we come out of this war I do not wish it to leave any cause, if it can be avoided, of new wars.

There are other people whom I wish to see come out of the war without a grievance—Serbia, Greece, Roumania are our Allies. They are fighting gallantly, they are undergoing great sacrifices for the common cause, in which my hon. friend believes as much as I do. They are fighting on the right side, even in my hon. friend's opinion. They are fighting on the side of light against darkness. Let them come out of the war without grievance. I am intensely desirous that some means may be found by which, when this war is over, the Balkan States should be able to live in amity with each other, and form together a force united against aggression from outside. All of them had their life crushed out of them under the oppressive heel of the Turk. Each one of them has fought the same battles for freedom, and, with European assistance always remember, have fought that battle successfully, have obtained independence, autonomy, and self-government, and have shown in almost every respect that they were not unworthy of it by the progress they have made in every civilised art. In one thing only—I do not at this moment apportion the blame anywhere—they have failed. United as one would think they might be by the common memory of the oppression from which they have escaped, they have never contrived to live in friendship with one another.

The whole of Balkan history is an unhappy history, because the Balkan States could not live in peace with one another. I have no desire dearer to my heart in connection with these regions than that this miserable state of things should somehow or other be brought to an end, and that nations that ought to be friends should be friends indeed. But we have not got to the point when that has become a matter of practical and immediate policy. We are in the midst of a war. In that war we have Allies to whom we are bound by every tie of loyalty; and therefore, much as I desire that Bulgaria may come out of the war without a grievance, that absence of grievance must not be bought by betraying those who have thrown everything they have into the Allied cause and are prepared to fight it out with us to the end.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. November	1917. October.		1336. Muharram.	5678. Heshvan.
2	20	Friday	17	17
3	21	Saturday.....	18	18
4	22	Sunday	19	19
5	23	Monday	20	20
6	24	Tuesday	21	21
7	25	Wednesday	22	22
8	26	Thursday.....	23	23

General Valleanu, of the Roumanian Army, has left London for Paris.

Sir Harcourt Butler has arrived in London, and is staying at the Carlton Hotel.

Colonel Caretas, of the Roumanian Army, left London on October 30 for France.

Professor A. Belitch, of the University at Belgrade, has arrived in London from Petrograd.

H.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has given Lady Chelmsford a lakh of rupees for "Our Day" Fund.

Nine Germans and Austrians engaged in propaganda work in Greece have been arrested.

Brevet Colonel E. H. Boome, C.M.G., Indian Army, has been appointed temporary Brigadier-General whilst commanding a garrison.

Commander Oliver Locker-Lampson, M.P., R.N.V.R., had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on October 27.

The Mohammedan celebration of the Mohurrum has passed off quietly, says Reuter's Bombay correspondent in a message dated October 28.

Rai Bahadur Sarupchand Hukamchand of Indore has given four lakhs of rupees to the Lady Hardinge Medical College for Women at Delhi.

King Alexander of Greece has conferred upon M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister in London, the Grand Commandership of the Order of the Saviour.

The Earl and Countess of Bessborough arrived at their residence in Cavendish Square on October 30 from Bessborough, Piltown, County Kilkenny.

Three classes of Greek Reservists belonging to motor and railway battalions and five classes of officers of Reserve for auxiliary service have been called to the colours.

M. Constantine Rentis, of the Greek Diplomatic Service, arrived in London from the Continent last week, and left last Tuesday for Stockholm, where he will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

M. Victor Antonescu, the Roumanian Minister in Paris, and Dr. Istrati, formerly a member of the Roumanian Cabinet, arrived in London on October 30 from the French capital.

M. Voislav Antonievitch, First Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires to the Serbian Legation in Rome, and will leave town in a few days.

The Countess of Yarborough, who is deeply interested in helping the Montenegrins interned in Austria-Hungary, has kindly consented to join the committee of the Montenegrin Red Cross and Relief Fund.

After refusing motions for a new trial of the case in which Gustav Jacobsen and three alleged co-conspirators were charged with fomenting rebellion in India from the United States (says Reuter's Chicago correspondent, in a message dated October 29), the Court to-day sentenced Jacobsen, Wehde, and Boehm, all Germans, to two years' imprisonment and a fine of $10,000 (£2,000) each, and Heramba Laloupta, a Hindu, to eighteen months' imprisonment and a fine of $200 (£40)

Before the African Society at King's College, Strand, to-day, at 4, Mr. J. M. MacLeod, British Consul at Fez, will lecture on "The Work of France in Morocco." The chair will be taken by Sir Harry Johnston.

M. Boerescu, First Secretary to the Roumanian Legation in London, who has been recuperating in the country for several weeks, left town on October 26 for Chenies, on a visit to the Marchioness of Blandford.

President Wilson has appealed to Americans again to contribute to the relief of Armenians and Syrians, whose situation, due to Turkish atrocities, is, he says, "so distressing as to make a special appeal to the sympathies of all."

The marriage arranged between Mr. Beaumont Albany Percival, C.M.S., eldest son of the late Mr. Theodore Percival, I.C.S., and Stella, youngest daughter of the Rev. W. C. Riland Bedford, of Cotswold, Leamington, will take place shortly at Gibraltar.

M. Victor Antonescu, the newly appointed Roumanian Minister in Paris, in presenting his credentials to the French President, expressed his firm conviction that Roumania, in spite of the trials she was undergoing at the moment, was ready to endure any sufferings and make any sacrifices.

Nurse Florence Piper, daughter of Mr. Robert Piper, J.P., of Oakwood, Worthing, has been decorated with the Serbian Cross of Mercy. Miss Piper was in Serbia with a nursing unit during the whole of 1915, and carried out her duties despite indescribable discomforts and dangers.

A large number of Serbian prisoners of war have succeeded in escaping from Germany. Many of them were taken during the campaign of 1915, and they give terrible reports of Austro-Hungarian barbarity in Serbia at that time. They assert that prisoners were killed *en masse*.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that the following appointment has been made in India:—Commands.—To be a temporary Divisional Commander.—Maj.-Gen. Sir G. V. Kemball, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., British Service, vice Lt.-Gen. Sir F. J. Aylmer, V.C., K.C.B., British Service (June 1).

A telegram from Berlin (says the Copenhagen correspondent of the *Morning Post*) states that the German Emperor has invited the Sultan of Turkey to go to Berlin. At the Turkish Legation in Berlin it is thought that the invitation will be accepted, and all Germany is looking forward with interest to his visit.

Mr. Hughes-Buller, who has recently retired from the Indian Civil Service, in which he held the appointment of Inspector of Police, Bengal, has been appointed by the Secretary of the Ministry of National Service Civilian Director of Recruiting for the counties of Gloucester, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall.

Reuter's Simla correspondent states that, as the outcome of the recommendations of the Mesopotamia Commission and of subsequent discussions on conditions in the military hospitals in India, a small committee, of which Sir George Makins will be president, will inspect the hospitals for British troops in India and issue a report regarding them.

The Queen of Roumania has sent to the Mayor of Bath the following reply to the telegram sent to her on the occasion of the visit of M. Nicolas Misu:—"Profoundly touched by your manifestation of sympathy for me and my country. I beg you to receive my heartfelt thanks, and to express to your fellow-citizens my gratified appreciation of your kind message."

The Rev. H. Colin Walker, vicar of Christ Church, Warley, who has returned to his parish after twelve months as Chaplain to the Forces in Mesopotamia, states that great care has been taken with the soldiers' cemeteries in Mesopotamia. Crosses have been obtained from India, and though flowers are not obtainable, neatness, cleanliness, and order mark the last resting-places of our brave soldiers.

According to *The Times* correspondent at Athens, the *Hestia* announces that among the documents in the ciphered correspondence between King Constantine and his wife and Berlin, the key to which has lately been discovered, is a long telegram from Queen Sophie to the Kaiser recounting in detail the "victory" of King Constantine over the Anglo-French forces at Athens on December 1 and 2, and extolling the Germanophile sentiments of the Greek Government and nation. The tenor of the message is said to give the impression that it is a simple execution of orders received from Berlin. The *dossier* is also said to contain

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a series of telegrams from Berlin dealing in great detail with the organisation of irregular bands and their co-operation with Constantine's regular troops in a treacherous attack upon the Allies. It is expected that all the documents in this interesting correspondence will be laid before the Chamber either to-night or on Friday.

A telegram from Allahabad says that the Anglo-Indian Conference has passed a resolution expressing apprehension at the present policy of the Government of India in dealing with political agitators. Any movement for the expansion of self-government in India should, it is declared, recognise the interests of all the peoples of India, including Anglo-Indians.

The Union of Jugoslavs in Russia declares that the solution of the Jugoslav problem proposed in the Soviet's instructions to M. Skobeleff, who is to represent the Soviet at the Inter-Ally Conference in Paris, is inconsistent with the principles of democracy, and, in particular, with the principle of the right of peoples to control their own destiny.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Miralai H. G. A. Garcia Bey, D.S.O., Financial Secretary, Egyptian Army, has been granted the temporary rank of Lewa.

El Bimbashi S. McK. Saunders, Medical Corps, and El Bimbashi Hon. T. P. P. Butler, Artillery, have been promoted Kaimakams.

Lieut. J. D. Lawrence, Manchester Regiment, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Special Service Officer, with the rank of Bimbashi, and posted to the Bahr El Ghazal district.

The following decorations were conferred on the occasion of the Bairam:—The Order of the Nile.—2nd Class.—El Lewa A. Cameron Pasha, Governor, Sennar Province; El Lewa R. C. R. Owen Pasha, C.M.G., Governor, Mongalla Province; El Lewa F. Burges Pasha, Police Magistrate, Khartoum. 3rd Class.—Mr. C. P. Browne, Governor, Berber Province; Mr. K. C. P. Struve, Governor, White Nile Province; Captain C. McKey, Director, Customs Department. 4th Class.—El Kaimakam P. G. W. Maynard Bey, Sudan Government; Mr. W. R. G. Bond, Sudan Government; Mr. R. Fawkes, Sudan Government; Mr. T. E. Fyers, Sudan Government; Mr. G. Warder, Sudan Government; Mr. H. F. King, Sudan Government.

OBITUARY.

News has been received of the death of Captain Maximovitch, of the Serbian Army, who was well known in London. He was drowned at Salonika.

Captain Arthur Gerald Brian, Duke of Cornwall's L.I., who died from wounds on October 16, was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brian, of Cairo, and of Holmbury, Berkhamsted, and was 22 years old.

Deputy-Surgeon-General John Davidge, late of the Army Medical Staff, whose death has occurred at Hove at the age of eighty-six years, served with the Bhutan Expedition of 1865-6 and with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882.

M. Georges Argyropoulo, Director of the Press Agency at Salonika, died at Geneva on October 16, aged thirty-three years. The deceased, who was a descendant of a very old Constantinople family, was a journalist by profession and an able writer.

Mr. Gustavus Barton-Groves, whose death has taken place at Paignton, entered the Postal Department of India in 1869, and after twenty-five years' service was appointed Deputy Postmaster-General for Rajputana. Appointed officiating Postmaster-General for Bombay, he subsequently went to Madras in the same capacity, and after twelve months' service was confirmed in that appointment.

Sub-Assistant Surgeon Benjamin Reuben, Mahrattas, is reported to have died at Aleppo, where he was a prisoner of war, after a severe and protracted illness. He was mentioned in General Townshend's despatch, published in the *London Gazette* of July 23, 1916, for conspicuous services in Mesopotamia.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

CAMPBELL.—On October 26, at the British Legation, Adis Abeba, Abyssinia, to Gerald and Margaret Campbell—a daughter.

CHENEVIX TRENCH.—On September 28, 1917, at Quetta, India, the wife of Major R. Chenevix Trench, Indian Political Dept., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

BURRARD—MUMM.—On October 26, at St. John's Church, Southwick Crescent, by the Rev. W. H. Spurrier, Vicar of Bibury, Glos., Captain Gerald Burrard, D.S.O., Royal Field Artillery, only son of Colonel Sir Sidney Burrard, K.C.S.I., F.R.S., and Lady Burrard, to Hilda Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Mumm, 82, Oxford Terrace, Hyde Park.

DEATHS.

BARTON-GROVES.—On October 24, at Melita, Paignton, Gustavus Barton-Groves, Postmaster-General, Madras (retired).

WARLOW.—On October 7, at Alexandria, Emily Rose, wife of the Venerable Archdeacon Warlow, after a very brief illness.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

BRIAN.—On October 16, of wounds, Arthur Gerald Brian, Capt., D. of Corn. L.I., dearly loved youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Brian, of Cairo, Egypt, and of Holmbury, Berkhamsted, aged 22.

COOKE.—On September 8, 1917, accidentally killed in Alexandria, Egypt, while on active service with Queen Alexandra Imperial Nursing Service Reserve, Ella Kate, youngest daughter of the late Henry Cooke, of Grafton Road, Auckland, New Zealand.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1917.

BRITAIN AND MESOPOTAMIA.

The clearer appreciation of Germany's aims, particularly in the East, that the war has brought in its train has served to throw into strong relief the anomaly that, on the very eve of the outbreak, the British and German Governments should have concluded an agreement purporting to embody a solution of outstanding questions in Western Asia. As no official statement of the terms of that agreement has been published, it has been inferred—perhaps not unnaturally—that the compromise was more favourable to Germany than the British Government cared to admit. The fact that Great Britain abandoned the attitude of opposition to the Baghdad Railway which she had previously adopted seemed in itself, in the light of subsequent events, an unwarrantable concession, and in the absence of accurate knowledge of the *quid pro quo* that she received, there has been a tendency to impute to the Government of the day a culpable sacrifice of British interests. What purpose it was hoped to serve by refusing to reveal the full details of the negotiations is not apparent; but the reasons that held good for so long, we may now infer, are supposed to have lost some, if not all, their cogency; and, according to the fashion of the hour, semi-official light is vouchsafed, albeit tardily, on a question of paramount interest. There can hardly be any other explanation of an illuminating article, entitled "The Baghdad Railway," in the current issue of the *Quarterly Review*. The writer claims as his main object "a scrupulously fair and impartial statement, so far as available information permits, of the Baghdad Railway negotiations which took place in London in the years preceding the war." In fulfilling his task it is evident that he has been particularly fortunate in the information that he has found available. It has enabled him not only to present a narrative, complete for all practical purposes, but also, as we shall endeavour to show, to inspire the British public with some grounds for confidence in the future handling by the Government of the Mesopotamian problem.

Dividing the history of railway development in Turkey into three stages, the writer shows how, in the first period before 1888, railway construction in Asia Minor, which was entirely in British hands, rested on a commercial basis, being confined to lines that had a reasonable prospect of proving remunerative undertakings. This cautious policy did not cover the whole of what were regarded as the requirements of the country, and when British financiers refused to abandon it Germany stepped into the arena. The first concession she obtained was for the line to Angora; in 1893 the extension to Konia was secured. As the prospects of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway were likely to be affected by the latter line, the British Government proposed that the several interests involved should be examined and, if possible, reconciled. This suggestion was at once parried by Germany with a threat to thwart British plans in Egypt, and although representations in Berlin caused the Germans to modify their Egyptian attitude, the extension to Konia was granted. At this time the view was largely held in Great Britain that the refusal to allow an increase in the Turkish Customs duties would effectively prevent the extension of the Anatolian Railway to Baghdad. Even when, in 1899, as a result of the German Emperor's visit to Constantinople in the previous year, an agreement between Turkey and Germany determined the actual route of the Baghdad line, this disbelief in the railway materialising was maintained, although Great Britain took steps to affirm her long-standing interests in the Persian Gulf and her determination to resist encroachment in that direction. Four years later the Baghdad Railway Convention was signed, and it became evident that Germany was prepared to carry through the project whether the British Government acquiesced in it or not. In the opinion of the writer of the article, the chance of Germany accepting any terms for British co-operation that would have been acceptable to Great Britain was by this time remote. As the event proved, the failure to come to an agreement was fortunate. It prevented the line from being finished when war broke out in 1914. Financial difficulties had supervened, and the rate of construction was slow; but Germany's hold on the railway and, consequently, the danger to British interests at the head of the Persian Gulf, had taken more definite shape. Further, the position of the British and French Governments was weakened by Russia's action in having "somewhat precipitately squared accounts with Germany" regarding the railway in the Potsdam Agreement of 1911. It was, then, in these circumstances, according to the same authority, that the British Government sought to make the best of a bad job. "The immediate problem was to render the Baghdad Railway, not, indeed, free of menace to British interests—for this immunity could not have been secured at that late stage by negotiators, however capable—but as innocuous as possible before the enterprise had been brought single-handed to a practical completion, when the German attitude would undoubtedly have hardened, and less favourable terms could have been obtained."

The effect of the agreement, according to the writer in the *Quarterly Review*, whose summary of the terms are reproduced on another page, was to secure recognition of Great Britain's paramount position in the Persian Gulf, and to confirm her in her privileges of navigation on the Tigris and Euphrates. The Baghdad Railway was to run to Busreh, there were to be two British directors on the Board, and the construction and exploitation of ports at Busreh and Baghdad were to be entrusted to a separate company, in which British interests were to have a 40 per cent. participation. It is not necessary here to inquire whether Germany, with the consciousness of the imminence of war, affected more generosity than she intended to display in practice. What is of interest is that Great Britain, after having failed for so long to give adequate consideration to British interests in Mesopotamia, should at the eleventh hour have shown sufficient knowledge and appreciation of the position to insist upon the terms ultimately granted to her. The war has thrown the Baghdad Railway scheme into the melting pot; for the main objective has passed out of the hands of the parties to the Convention of 1903, and the line, if it is to be completed, must rely upon a fresh agreement. But the abortive negotiations with Germany and Turkey gave Great Britain navigation concessions on the Euphrates as far as the Aleppo meridian and on the Tigris up to Mosul. The mention of these places indicates the extent of what ought to be the British sphere of interest in Mesopotamia. With Germany in the strong position that she occupied in 1914, it was not possible to obtain more than navigation concessions on the waterways of this area. Now Great Britain has the opportunity of reaping more fully where she has sown. "It is the simple truth," we are told, "that the commercial prosperity of Baghdad and Busreh during the past three centuries, and their whole maritime trade, were built up and maintained through British enterprise and sacrifice." Whatever is claimed now is in trust for the Arabs; but we should see to it that the future of the country is in no way handicapped by failure to secure control of sufficient territory to provide for its development on a large scale.

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JUSTICE IN INDIA AND EGYPT.

By COLES PASHA.

It is so many years since I left India that I am unable to say whether the complete separation of judicial and administrative functions is still a plank in the Indian Reformer's platform. I know that at one time it was a hardy annual, and no Congress assembled without the proposal being put forward in one form or another. Possibly seeing self-government within reach the Indian Nationalist has for the moment ceased to trouble himself about such a minor detail as the reform of the Judiciary. However, with so many schemes in the air, I am sure that it will not be long before we shall again hear how impossible it is to expect impartial justice from an official who is also charged with other administrative duties, and the complete separation of the two services will be once more urged.

During the whole of my forty years' service in the East I have been closely connected with the administration of justice, first in India where the magistrates are also Revenue officials, and subsequently in Egypt, where the Judiciary is an entirely separate body. I have thus had a unique experience of the working of the two systems. The conclusions I have arrived at may be, therefore, not without interest, especially at the present time, when, apart from any change contemplated in India, the Protectorate having been declared in Egypt, a revision of the Codes is also under consideration.

To those unacquainted with the Indian system it may be as well to explain, before proceeding further, that it is the administration of justice on the criminal and not on the civil side I propose to discuss. Judges and subordinate judges on the civil side have nothing to do with the general administration in India, at least not in the Bombay Presidency, where I was serving. Similarly a Sessions Judge, to whom an appeal lies in all but petty criminal cases, has no administrative duties outside his own Court. He is responsible to the High Court (Court of Appeal), by whom alone his decisions can be reversed or revised. It is only in disposing of the lesser misdemeanours that we find the administrative Official sitting in judgment as a magistrate. To an ordinary Englishman the idea of the same official supervising the collection of revenue and also having the power to inflict punishment for offences committed is undoubtedly repugnant. Hence the Indian Nationalist, agitating to stop this so-called abuse, met with considerable support from our Home Legislators, even when I left India years ago, and it says a good deal for the proved efficacy of the system that it has continued so long. Needless to say, too, that the Indian authorities were not without reason when they deliberately adopted the system, and drafted the Code of Criminal Procedure some fifty years ago.

Let us see who are the executive officers who exercise these judicial duties. They are called Collectors and Assistant Collectors, but in reality they are Governors and Deputy Governors of provinces with populations running into hundreds of thousands. They, in fact, took the place of native administrators, who prior to English rule collected revenue and dispensed justice as best they could. The India Government of the day came to the conclusion that it was better to graft than uproot, and the administration of justice in India for the past half-century has demonstrated how sound was the decision arrived at.

From a public security point of view, the most important chapters of the Indian Code are those relating to police investigation and preliminary inquiry by magistrates. Although the police as a body are under the orders of an English Superintendent, he in turn is subordinate to the Collector, who is also the chief magistrate of the Province. Every offence has to be reported by the police to a magistrate, who either disposes of the case himself or commits for trial to a superior court. Once reported, the police take their instructions from the magistrate having jurisdiction, local or divisional, as the case may be. It is to these magistrates, Governors and Deputy-Governors, that the native population looks for justice, and their prestige is enhanced accordingly, no small asset in the general administration of an Eastern country.

In 1882 we found exactly the same problem confronting us in Egypt. How was justice to be introduced where the Mudir (native Governor) and his "kourbash" had reigned supreme for so many generations? Following the Indian precedent, one would imagine that the Indian Codes, backed by a few Indian officials, were all that was required. Unfortunately, the solution of the problem was complicated by the fact that a few years previously the "Mixed Tribunals" and the French Codes had been established to deal with civil questions arising between Egyptians and Europeans, also between Europeans of different nationalities. Nubar Pasha had been largely responsible for the introduction of these Tribunals, and being once more Prime Minister he persuaded Lord Cromer (Sir E. Baring he then was) that all that was required was to translate these French Codes into Arabic and promulgate them as the law to be administered by the newly-created Native Tribunals. Sir B. Maxwell was sent from England as Judicial Adviser, and Mr. Clifford Lloyd came to the Interior as Inspector-General of Reforms.

I do not think that Sir B. Maxwell had any experience of the working of the French Codes, but he was too good a barrister not to speak to his brief. Mr. Clifford Lloyd, who came straight from Ireland, where he had done excellent service as a resident magistrate, at once started to reorganise the police on Irish lines, and endeavoured to rehabilitate the Mudirs with some magisterial powers. The situation very soon became impossible; both Sir B. Maxwell and Mr. Clifford Lloyd left Egypt, and returning to England fought out their official quarrel in the columns of *The Times*.

That Mr. Clifford Lloyd was in the right may be gleaned from the fact that special Courts had to be established to suppress brigandage, and for thirty-five years H.B.M.'s Consul-General in Egypt has been writing reports explaining the reforms introduced by the Judicial Advisers, who have followed Sir B. Maxwell. There has also been an annual apology for the unsatisfactory state of public security.[1] All the changes introduced by the several Judicial Advisers need not here be recapitulated. It will suffice to say that should Nubar Pasha revisit Egypt in the flesh he would not recognise the existing Law as the Codes he fathered in 1882!

In the matter of granting magisterial powers to administrative officers the Egyptian Ministry of Justice has, however, remained obdurate, and steadily refused to countenance any proposal of the kind; neither has there been any change in the Parquet system except that the Parquet has now also the powers of a Committing Magistrate, a prerogative never contemplated in the original French Code. But I propose to discuss this Parquet system later.

As stated, to give in detail all the reforms introduced by the various Judicial Advisers during the past thirty-five years can serve no useful purpose, but I think it is of interest to compare the Tribunals existing in Egypt at the present time with corresponding Courts

(1) 1913, murders, 813; attempted murders, 601; robberies, 428; other crimes, 2,254. In addition, misdemeanours and petty contraventions.

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in India. To make the comparison complete I have added a column showing how the Tribunals in Egypt were originally constituted in 1882.

India.	*Egypt* (1917).	*Egypt* (1883).
I. High Court. (In each Presidency). Powers of appeal and revision.	I. No appeal. (Cassation only.)	I. Court of Appeal. (Sitting in Cairo.)
II. Sessions Court. (Single Judge with assessors). Any punishment.	II. Assize Court, (Three Appeal Judges, on circuit from Cairo.) Any punishment.	II. Crime Tribunal. (Three Judges.) Any punishment.
III. Magistrate. (2) 1st class (Single magistrate.) Two years or fine or both. (1) Power to commit to Sessions Court.	III. Summary Judge. (Single Judge.) Two years or fine or both.	III. Delit Tribunal. (Three Judges.) Three years or fine or both.
IV. Magistrate. (2) 2nd class. (Single magistrate.) Six months or fine, or both.	IV. Merkaz Court. (Single Judge.) On circuit in cities only. Seven days or £1 fine, or both.	IV. Contravention Tribunal. (Single Judge.) Seven days or £1 fine, or both.
V. Magistrate. (2) 3rd class. (Single magistrate.) Three months or £5 fine, or both.	V. Cantonal Court. (Bench of Village Head Men.) Twenty-four hours or 5s., or both.	V. None.

(1) Power to commit for trial in Egypt formerly exercised by Juge d'Instruction now granted to the Parquet.
(2) These magistrates also exercise administrative duties.

(*To be continued.*)

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE GROWTH AND DECAY OF THE TURKISH EMPIRE.*

A popular history of the Turks is a timely publication to-day, and Lord Eversley's new work on "The Turkish Empire," written as it is with his usual ability and charm, should have a wide circulation. Lord Eversley writes with the mature knowledge of a lifelong interest in Turkey, and is able to describe many events in the past sixty years with the authority of one who knows the land and the people, and is personally acquainted with many of the leading political personages. He has availed himself of much new historical material which has come to light since the publication of Creasy's classical work, and his conclusions will have wide acceptance among those who know Turkey and its inhabitants. His narrative gives an unbiassed account of the greatness of those early rulers who built up the Empire, while by no means glossing over their cruelty, treachery, and sensuality. Our pro-Turk attitude of the days of Beaconsfield seems hardly believable to-day after we have experienced the faithlessness and savagery of Abdul Hamid, and yet this history clearly demonstrates that, with regard to cold-blooded massacre and brutality, the "great assassin" was but the survival unto our day of an average member of a family of rulers impregnated with ideals of brute force and reckless disregard of individual freedom and human life. Even the greatest of the Turkish Sovereigns, "Solyman the Magnificent," murdered his own sons in cold blood, executed from mere caprice his Viziers, who had served him with devotion; massacred in tens of thousands the hapless inhabitants of conquered provinces, and by the introduction of venality and corruption—and the influence of the harem—into his public appointments sowed the seeds of the later decay of the Empire. "The harem was the centre from which corruption spread throughout the Turkish Empire."

There are no contemporary Turkish histories of the early Ottoman Sultans, and the traditions are unreliable, but it is clear, as the author points out, that even from the first the Ottoman Turks, ethnologically, had but a minor share in the making and upkeep of the Empire. The original Nomad Turks were a very small tribe, who, flying before the Mongols, settled among their kinsmen, the Seljukian Turks, in Western Asia Minor, where they first adopted Islam and imposed their language upon the people. As their domination rapidly extended they absorbed many thousands of Greeks and Slavs, who adopted Islam "because they were abandoned by their natural protectors, the Greeks of Constantinople." This mixed race, of which the Ottoman Turks are but a nucleus, called themselves "Osmanlis," and used the term "Turk" as one of contempt for their inferior neighbours. In the Royal house there can be now little indeed of Turkish blood when for centuries the mothers of future Sultans have been beautiful captives or slaves—Greeks, Armenians, Slavs, Italians, or Russians. It has indeed been suggested that possibly the Turkish descent was entirely broken with Selem II. The greater number of the Ottoman Generals who distinguished themselves in the early days of conquest were not of Turkish race, but were Greeks, Albanians, Slavs, and Italians who had embraced Islam, while almost all the commanders and the crews of the Ottoman Navy were Greeks. The most effective corps in the Ottoman Army in the days of the Empire's greatness was formed exclusively of the sons of Christian parents in the Balkans, conscripted at an early age, and forcibly converted to Islam. Even after the destruction of these Janissaries the best fighting stock was non-Turkish—from the Balkans and Albania in particular. The Empire to-day is in the hands of leaders of whom hardly one can claim to be a pure-blood Turk. Thus Enver is a renegade Pole, Djavid belongs to the strange sect of Dummeh Jews, Talaat is of Bulgarian gipsy blood, Ahmed Riza is half Magyar and half Circassian, Carasso is a Spanish Jew, and the military leaders are largely German and Austrian. It is impossible to look upon the "Turks" as a nation as we consider nationality to-day.

The author also calls attention to the often-overlooked fact that "there is nothing to show that the Ottoman soldiers were animated by any religious zeal in their campaigns in Europe." Their conquests are in this respect quite different from those of the early Arab followers of Mohammed. For the Turks it was the hope of the plunder of conquered cities, of men for slaves and women for the harem, and the "confiscation of land and its distribution among the soldiers as a reward of bravery" which inspired their conquests. Indeed, all through the centuries the Turk appears to have been but a poor exponent of Islam, and it is a vain mistake to confuse the religious veneer of this corrupt people with the religion of the Prophet of Arabia. Drunkenness and gross debauchery, quite inconsistent with the teaching of the Koran, have again and again disgraced the Ottoman rulers, and Islam has never been more badly represented than by those who have held rule in Constantinople. To-day there seems to be little attempt at any but a most perfunctory acquiescence.

Even more remarkable than the rise of the Empire has been the slowness of its decay. Chances of improvement have been given again and again, but in vain. Propped up by the European nations, through their mutual jealousies, when every sign of rapid disintegration were present, it has held together in spite of its atrocious misgovernment. England to-day can hardly look back with pride on the part she has taken in the past out of self-interest and the fear of Russia in hindering the natural consequences of national decay. Those who read the pages of this history will fully endorse the calm and philosophic conclusion of the author.

"Whatever the future may have in store. . . . there is one certain moral to be drawn from the story which has been told in these pages, namely, that an empire originally founded on the predatory instincts of an alien military caste, and whose rulers during the last four hundred years have never recognised that they have any responsibility for the good government and well-being of the races subject to them, could not, if there be any law of human progress in the world, be permanent, and was destined ultimately to perish by the sword."

It only remains to add that the value of the book is increased by an interesting medallion portrait of Mohammed the Conqueror, a genealogy of the Ottoman Sultans, and three coloured maps. These last show in a graphic manner the varying boundaries of the Turkish Empire and neighbouring States, but would be more valuable to the general reader if they were more fully supplied with the names of places mentioned in the history, particularly in the accounts of the various campaigns.

* "The Turkish Empire: Its Growth and Decay." By Lord Eversley (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Hawk of the Desert. By G. E. Mitton. (London: John Murray. 5s. net.)

Germany's Annexationist Aims. By S. Grumbach. Translated, abbreviated and introduced by J. Ellis Barker. (London: John Murray. 3s. 6d. net.)

Prussian Poland: A Stronghold of German Militarism. By Jan. J. Kowalczyk. (Copenhagen: E. H. Peterson.)

Deux Ans de Guerre à Constantinople. By Dr. Harry Stuermer. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr.3.50.)

Stolen Brains. By Kate Evered. (London: John Richmond. 6s. net.)

The Life of Sir Colin C. Scott-Moncrieff, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., R.E., LL.D., Etc. Edited by his Niece, Mary A. Hollings. (London: John Murray. 12s. net.)

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Baghdad Railway.

The current issue of the *Quarterly Review*, which contains several articles of special interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST, includes an important statement on the Baghdad Railway. Relying evidently on inside information, the writer gives the course of the negotiations in London before the outbreak of the war, and his version of the agreements between Great Britain and Turkey and between Germany and Great Britain, which were concluded, but not ratified, leaves a very different impression from that which the previous silence of the British Government on the subject had created. The course of the negotiations is thus set forth:—

In the late summer of 1912 they (the British Government) appear to have withdrawn their request for British participation in the Gulf sections of the Baghdad Railway, and intimated their readiness to assent to the Customs increase on condition that British interests should be safeguarded by a satisfactory agreement on the following points:—(1) A complete adjustment was to be reached defining the respective interests of Great Britain and Turkey in the neighbourhood of the Persian Gulf. (2) Turkey was to recognise the right of Great Britain to undertake, in the future as in the past, the duty of lighting, buoying and policing the Persian Gulf. (3) The terminus of the Baghdad Railway was to be at Busreh, and no railway was to be continued beyond Busreh in the direction of the Persian Gulf without the consent of the British Government. (4) There was to be a settlement of the long-standing difficulties concerning the navigation of the Shatt-el-Arab and the future control of the port of Busreh. (5) A final settlement was to be concluded in regard to the Turco-Persian frontier. (6) The time-honoured British rights of navigation on the rivers of Mesopotamia were to be confirmed and extended. (7) Differential treatment on all railways in Asiatic Turkey was to be precluded by express treaty stipulation. (8) Two British representatives, agreeable to the British Government, were to be admitted to the Board of the Baghdad Railway Company.

Hakki Pasha arrived in London to negotiate on this basis early in 1913. Rapid progress was made in the ensuing months, and, when the negotiations had reached an advanced stage, Turkey intimated that she wished to obtain our assent to the creation of further sources of revenue, in the shape of consumption taxes and municipal *octroi* dues. The British Government agreed to extend the basis of negotiation as desired, provided that various outstanding questions, in which our interests were closely involved, were simultaneously settled. These included the ratification of the Aden boundary agreement of 1905; the regularisation of the legal position of British institutions (religious, educational and medical) in Turkey; the acceptance of the general principle that all irrigation works in Mesopotamia, other than the very considerable sections for which British firms alone had already tendered, should be put up to open tender; the reduction of the Turkish light dues levied upon shipping; a settlement in regard to the oil concessions of the provinces of Mosul and Baghdad, in certain fields in the caza of Ajloun (south of Lake Tiberias), and in the Farsan Archipelago, the settlement, by arbitration, of a large number of British pecuniary claims; the removal of the Turkish veto on the borrowing powers of Egypt; and, finally, the prolongation from 1950 to 1999 of the concession of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway, together with the grant of extensions of the line (amounting in all to 200 miles), and of rights of navigation on Lakes Eghirdir and Beyshehir.

Details of the Agreement.

The following is the version given of the agreement between Great Britain and Turkey:—

The British definition of the *status quo* in the Persian Gulf was accepted in all essential details; and Turkey agreed in substance to all the other points laid down by the British Government in 1912, as enumerated above. She abandoned her pretensions to suzerainty over the Peninsula of El Katr and adjacent regions. Great Britain recognised the nominal suzerainty of the Porte over Koweit, which, with the adjacent territory and islands claimed by the Sheikh, was to be an autonomous kaza of the Ottoman Empire; and Turkey undertook not to interfere with the internal affairs of the Sheikh and his subjects, and to recognise the validity of the conventions concluded by the Sheikh with the British Government, giving us, *inter alia*, control of his foreign relations, and preventing him from alienating any portion of his territory without our consent.

* * * *

It appears that we agreed to a Turkish agent residing at Koweit. Although the agent was expressly debarred from any intervention other than the protection of the interests of Ottoman subjects from other parts of the Empire, the arrangement was, we apprehend, but too likely to give rise to local friction. On the other hand, provision was made to secure both the Sheikh of Koweit and his friend, the Sheikh of Mohammerah, in the undisturbed enjoyment of their valuable date properties on the Turkish bank of the Shatt-el-Arab. Generally speaking, the Koweit settlement appears to have been satisfactory.

* * * *

With regard to the Shatt-el-Arab, Turkey agreed to the institution of a Riverain Commission with the Turkish façade and British control. The Commission was to be empowered to levy dues on all vessels entering the river; but this, in view of the Capitulations, could only be done by agreement with the Powers concerned, and it was one of the points necessarily dealt with in direct negotiation between England and Germany.

* * * *

By the settlement the whole control of navigation, including the requisite measures of river conservancy, which were specially desirable in view of the wasteful irrigation methods of the Arabs, was to be placed in British hands. The existing British navigation company was to be confirmed in the privileges which it had enjoyed, including the right to fly the British flag. A new Turkish company was to be formed, under the Chairmanship of Lord Inchcape, to take over the existing Turkish navigation company, with power to add indefinitely to its fleet of vessels. Fifty per cent. of the share capital in the new Turkish company, with a casting vote, was to be British. The remainder of the capital was to be subscribed by the Turkish Government, without power of alienation, except as regards 20 per cent., which was to be transferred to the Germans in consideration of the immediate surrender by the latter of their irrigation rights under the Baghdad Railway Convention of 1903, and of their agreement to British participation in the construction of the ports of Baghdad and Busreh.

* * * *

The Negotiations with Germany.

So much for the arrangements with Turkey. They were, of necessity, followed by negotiations between London and Berlin. These negotiations, which began in May, 1913, reached a conclusion in June, 1914. The substance of the arrangements arrived at was as follows: Great Britain undertook not to oppose the Baghdad Railway system, which was carefully defined. Germany undertook not to oppose British control of the navigation of Mesopotamian rivers. Germany and Great Britain both undertook to use their best endeavours to secure the due execution of an arrangement between the Baghdad Railway Company and the Porte providing that the terminus of the line should be at Busreh, that there should be two British Directors on the Baghdad Railway, and that the construction and exploitation of ports at Baghdad and Busreh should be carried out by a separate company. British interests were to have a 40 per cent. participation in this company. Both Governments undertook to prevent any discrimination in treatment on the railway or waterways of Asiatic Turkey. The German Government bound themselves in no circumstances, except by agreement with Great Britain, to support the establishment of any port or railway terminus on the Persian Gulf. They also recognised, by agreeing to the levy, by the proposed Riverain Commission, of dues on German ships, the special position of Great Britain on the Shatt-el-Arab. The British Government bound themselves not to support the establishment of any railway in direct competition with the Baghdad Railway. A line from Egypt to the Gulf, and lines as feeders for the river navigation, were expressly stated not to be in direct competition.

A Story of Brigandage.

Mr. F. G. Templer tells a wonderful story in *Blackwood's Magazine* of an outbreak of brigandage in Cyprus some thirty years ago. The chief culprits were three brothers, and not the least remarkable feature of the story is that the elder had ended his career and had served some years of his sentence of

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penal servitude for life before his brothers took to the hills. The trouble that the police had to contend with was the unwillingness of the peasantry to give information against the outlaws. That is generally the experience of all countries where brigandage has been rife. It was the case in Bulgaria, when the steps finally taken in Cyprus were also adopted; but with this difference, that when the last band was tracked to the village that befriended it and to the inn that was its chief rendezvous, the house was surrounded and all the inmates, brigands, innkeeper, family, and guests were summarily lined up against the wall and shot. After that brigandage became unpopular in Bulgaria. In Cyprus the lines on which the authorities proceeded were to give instructions to the police to report any man who was merely suspected of having aided or harboured the fugitives, and upon such report alone the man and his family were liable to be deported to the fortress of Famagusta. Here is the story of the first brigand's last encounter, which ultimately led to his surrender:—

When they went down and saw the body, it was clear what had happened. The two shots that had been heard just as it was getting dark, had been fired by Hassan and Abdullah. Hassan had perhaps got his shot in a fraction of a moment before the other fired, with the result that he had killed his man, but not without receiving the shot of Abdullah, which wounded him grievously in the left hand, raised as it was in the act of shooting, and thus protecting his face. It was found from the traces of blood that when they both fired they were about fourteen or fifteen yards apart. Abdullah must have died at once, while Hassan had evidently received a serious wound, as there was a quantity of blood all round the spot where he stood when he fired. He got clear away, and a long time elapsed before the extent of his injuries became known, but it is not too much to say that those wounds were the cause of his ultimate capture. . . . Abdullah died in the attempt, but was successful in this, that Hassan was crippled. Although he stuffed up his wounds with moss, etc., it was not long before gangrene supervened, and the tortures he endured induced him to lie up all he could. After some months of suffering, being all the time closely hunted by the police, he surrendered to them, and some of his fingers had to be amputated. He was put upon his trial for the murder of Abdullah, was convicted, and sentenced to death; but it was felt that, after all, Abdullah was out to kill him, and under the circumstances the death sentence was respited to one of *travaux forcés* or imprisonment for life.

THE LATE LADY MEADE.

[From a Correspondent.]

The death of Lady Meade, which was recorded in the Near East last week, removes one of a generation fast passing away. Born in India in 1833, she returned there in 1851, and was married, a couple of years later, to Captain, afterwards General, Sir Richard Meade, a distinguished soldier, political officer, and administrator. Lady Meade was a Miss Malcolm, a daughter of Colonel Duncan Malcolm, who died at a comparatively early age, as Resident at Baroda, a post held in after years by Lady Meade's husband and eldest son. The Malcolms, at the time she was born at the Residency, Hyderabad, were well known throughout India, where her great-uncle, General Sir John Malcolm, had greatly distinguished himself as a soldier, diplomatist and writer. He had been Governor of Bombay shortly before Lady Meade was born, and her father would probably have gone high, if his life had been spared. Lady Meade was with her husband during the outbreak of the Mutiny, when they escaped, with their young children, with much difficulty, and were in great danger. They were accompanied by Captain (afterwards Sir John) Murray and the late Lady Murray, who was Lady Meade's sister. Both ladies received the thanks of the Government of India, after the suppression of the Mutiny, for their behaviour and calm courage, which was considered to have delayed the outbreak for some days.

Sir Richard Meade afterwards held various important posts at the Courts of Gwalior, Indore, Mysore, Baroda, and Hyderabad, to all of which he was accompanied by his wife, except Baroda, where she was prevented from going. As the wife of the Resident of these places she won the affection of a great many friends, who remained constant to her long after they had all left India for good. Lady Meade was essentially one of those who are now described as "Mid-Victorian," and she was throughout a model wife and mother; but she always took the lead wherever she was and her charm as a hostess and head of a large establishment aided her husband in the success of his life. Besides being gifted with great courage in times of danger, Lady Meade was an ardent and loyal friend to those whom she loved and liked. She never forgot a friend, and it may be said of her that she was "Sans peur and sans réproche." Throughout her life she was a sincere Christian, and was devoted to the Established Church of England. Till very recently she never missed a service at her favourite church, St. Luke's, Redcliff Square, and it was befitting that a part of the funeral service was performed there by the Vicar, who knew her so well, and for whom she had such a regard.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in bringing in the new Vote of Credit for £400,000,000 in the House of Commons on Tuesday, stated that it would last until January, and that another vote would be necessary before the end of the session. Since the beginning of the year the daily outlay has amounted on the average to £6,648,000, or £1,237,000 above the estimate—a figure including recoverable amounts equivalent to £1,000,000 a day. This is to be largely attributed to an excess in the expenditure on the Army and Navy of £590,000 daily. During the remainder of the financial year the increased pay to the Army and Navy will have to be taken into account, so that the final returns will probably be even less favourable. The Chancellor has decided not to introduce an interim Budget, a decision which will be welcomed in trade circles since too frequent changes in taxation tend to have an unduly unsettling effect. It is also very evident that it is too late in the year for additional taxation to have any great influence.

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As to the future, it seems only too probable that the next Budget will see increases in both direct and indirect taxation. While it might be too much to say that this will be popular, it is certain that there is no better method of dealing with the financial situation than meeting the maximum amount of expenditure out of current income. The national bill, it will be noted, has now reached £5,000,000,000, and the Chancellor explained that, deducting from this sum advances to the Allies and the Dominions, the gift of the Indian Government, and the amount of the National Debt before the war, our total war indebtedness is £3,000,000,000. In this connection he gave an interesting comparison with Germany's war finances. So far Votes of Credit have been passed in the Reichstag for £4,700,000,000. This sum, however, does not include advances to allies or such things as separation allowances, and he pointed out that, leaving these items out of account, the £4,700,000,000 represents additional war debt, since Germany has never raised by taxation any part of the war expenditure. So that Germany's position is just as unfavourable as ours is satisfactory in the circumstances. It is to be hoped that Turkey and the other allies of Germany, whose credit stands on little more than her word, will give these figures their careful consideration.

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Elsewhere will be found particulars of a provisional agreement entered into by the Hain Steamship Company for the sale of its shares to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at £80 per £10 share. The Hain Steamship Company has an issued capital of £499,570, and its fleet consists of twenty-seven cargo steamers of a gross tonnage of 108,787. During its short existence the company has enjoyed exceptional prosperity owing very largely, of course, to the conditions arising out of the war; and its last two yearly dividends have been at the rate of 35 per cent. The amount involved in the proposed purchase is naturally, therefore, very high, working out at an average of about £37 per ton.

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Reference was made in the recent report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government to the fact that the exports of livestock to Egypt were less than usual during the past year, chiefly because that country was using up its own resources. Present conditions are no doubt a sufficient excuse for this, but it is all the same greatly to be regretted, for the cattle-breeding industry in Egypt has declined ever since 1912, and this action cannot but result in the end in making the country more dependent on outside sources, and that, too, at a time when world supplies will be at a low ebb. Fortunately there will be the Sudan to fall back upon, but while there is every reason to think that the supplies from that source will be equal to the demand, it is to be hoped for many reasons that no efforts will be spared after the war to make Egypt as self-supporting as possible as regards this commodity.

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The optimistic forecast of future Russo-Indian trade relations given by M. de Nabokoff and Baron Heyking at a meeting of the East Indian Association this week finds ample confirmation in the report of the two trade commissioners who were deputed in July, 1916, by the Government of India, at the instance of the Madras Chamber of Commerce to Russia, to promote direct commercial relations between Southern India and that country. Before the war tea was India's chief export to Russia, but it is their view that as our Eastern Ally develops there will be a growing demand for raw materials such as jute, oil seeds, tanning materials and rubber, which India can supply. Rice was in constantly greater demand in Russia before the war, and, as a matter of fact, the imports increased in the last fifteen years by 150 per cent. In the supply of this commodity Persia has been a strong competitor, but most of Russia's rice came from Rangoon, *of course, viâ Germany.*

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At the time that war broke out Russia was importing about 1,000,000 hundredweight of jute annually, and the commissioners are of the opinion that the market for this product will continue to expand. It is believed, however, that Indian cotton will be in small demand, as the mills in the centre of the Russian textile industry use American cotton or cotton from Russian Central Asia, while short-stapled cotton, if required, is principally obtained from Persia and the Caucasus. There is likely to be an occasional demand for the better Indian cottons for mixing with the American product when the price of that commodity is high. Copra and beeswax offer more hopeful prospects for Indian trade. Russian imports of copra doubled in the last fifteen years, and of these imports a third came from India. Before the war beeswax was imported to the value of £600,000 annually. Most of it came from Germany, that country, as usual, collecting the material from India and elsewhere. In fact, Germany habitually acted as middleman between Russia and India, and the growth of direct trade relations between the two countries would be a very serious blow for her.

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Suggestions have been made in various quarters that the Allies should utilise the economic weapon they possess in the control of the greater part of the world's sources of raw material to force Germany to accept their terms by the threat of excluding her from their markets for a period which would be automatically increased in proportion to the time her resistance was continued after the formal notification. That there is much to be said for this policy seems clear from the fact that its mere discussion has not been without its effect on the enemy. The business classes in Germany appear greatly alarmed at the prospect; so much so, indeed, that they have inaugurated a "no annexation" movement with the intention of impressing on their Government the fatal results that would accrue to the country were a commercial war to follow the ending of the struggle.

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No very great effort of imagination is required to realise how pitiable would be Germany's plight were she to be cut off from external sources of raw materials. During the war the curtailment of her supplies has been comparatively slow in its effect because the struggle was prepared for and immense reserves secured. Were the war to end to-morrow, however, Germany would be lacking in many of the most essential raw materials—cotton, for instance, for which she depends on Egypt, India, and the United States, and the shortage of which is now a source of even greater trouble to her than the question of food. It is only necessary to mention oil, coffee, rubber, and wool as among the many substances which Germany must obtain from outside for the value of the economic weapon to be evident beyond dispute. But Germany is not dependent on foreign countries only for raw materials. Her allies, Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria, between them only took about one-eighth of her total exports before the war, so that the markets of the Allies are necessary for her very existence.

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THE SUDAN AND ITS ECONOMIC ADVANCE.

15.—The White Nile Province.*

By Percy F. Martin, F.R.G.S.

The White Nile—which gives its name to an entire province—has been described as forming, with its tributaries, "the life blood of the Sudan." For nearly 2,036 miles this magnificent waterway traverses the country from south to north, receiving, on its course, the rivers Bahr-el-Ghazal, Sobat, Blue Nile and Atbara. The province bearing its name is one of the three of the smaller political departments—Khartoum and the Blue Nile are the other two—the superficial area not exceeding 13,090 miles, while the population is estimated at under 130,000. Official figures put this at 155,000, but there is reason to believe this total is excessive; the adult population, at any rate, does not exceed 52,000.

The province is better known than most to visitors to the Sudan, on account of the river steamboat trips organised by the Government, which, if followed to the terminus, Rejf, afford an excellent idea of the interior of the Sudan, and a more or less superficial acquaintance with its lesser-known tribes.

Those who venture to penetrate into the interior are usually impressed with the large amount of land under cultivation, and with the number of villages, usually well built and clean-looking, and inhabited by a people apparently intelligent and by no means unfriendly. The land in parts is of a very generous nature; and it is in this province, be it remembered, that is found a considerable portion of the territory known as the Gezireh, the irrigation and eventual cultivation of which for cotton is the great hope of the Administration. Up till now cultivation has been entirely due to the rains or the Nile flood, and in times past—such as 1898 and 1906—this flood, in places, has been from six to ten miles inland from the true bank of the river. But such a rise is quite exceptional. At such times the crops are excellent, and the people avail themselves of the opportunity to hoard their harvests, as much as three years' supply of the people's requirements having been won at a single harvest. With the introduction of modern agricultural machinery much more might be done with the land. Cattle-raising is a standing industry among the people, but as the land is subject to long and severe droughts, no reliance can be placed upon this pursuit as a revenue producer. The inhabitants of the Geteina, Kawa and Dueim districts are breeders of flocks and herds, and in good times—that is to say, when the rains have been both early and prolonged—have amassed a good deal of money, which has meant the prompt payment to Government of the herd-tax. Horse-breeding is likewise encouraged among the Arabs, an annual horse show having been organised.

The principal town in the province is El Dueim, which has, however, lost much of its importance as a produce-market since the railway came to El Obeid in the adjoining province of Kordofan. Many of the more prominent among the El Dueim merchants have now left the town after transferring their businesses and their residences to El Obeid. Houses in El Dueim to-day realize something less than 30 per cent. of their former value, while more than three-fourths of the business premises seem to lack tenants. The markets of the town, like those of Geteina, Kawa, and Kosti, are now owned and conducted by the Government instead of being rented to native contractors.

El Geteina, or, as it is sometimes called, Zeinoba, is a large village divided into two parts and forming the headquarters of the district. The village is situated about thirty-five miles from Omdurman, and is 180 miles by road from Khartoum. The surrounding country is flat, but by no means unpleasing to the eye. Goz Abu Gama, the headquarters of the district of the same name, stands on the right bank of the White Nile, opposite the island of Wurelat. This island, like others of a similar formation, makes its appearance in the river during the months of January and February; it is then covered with large, coarse grass, very brilliant in colouring. The eastern channel opposite to Goz Abu Gama dries up completely during the rainless season.

Kawa, a large village on the right bank of the Nile, is the official residence of a British Inspector. At this port the White Nile river steamers take on wood for fuel; it appears to be a thriving and busy little place, a large and well-attended market being held there at frequent intervals, while considerable activity exists in native boat-building. All around there is cultivation on an extensive scale, the crops including wheat, barley, dura, onions, lubia, dukhn, bamia and other produce. The once dense forests in the vicinity provide the wood for the steamers; but as no fresh planting is being undertaken it can only be a question of time before the district becomes almost denuded of wood supplies.

Although the town of Kosti—like that of El Dueim—has lost something of its original importance since the continuation of the railway as far as El Obeid, it remains a busy place and the focus of considerable commerce. Situated on the east bank of the Nile, Kosti lies some 180 miles from Khartoum, with which it is connected by railway. The murkas consist of about fifty different villages, and, ordinarily, the population averages between 7,000 and 8,000. During the rainy season, however, the inhabitants dwindle to about as many hundreds, for all who can do so leave the town in order to cultivate their small plots of land, whole families and villages working together vigorously. At this time of the year Kosti becomes a dead place; even the permanent Egyptian officials find little to do, while the Europeans deem it convenient to take their annual leave at home or in Egypt. The myriads of mosquitoes and sand-flies then have the place to themselves.

There are few buildings of any note in the town, but the one-time grass and straw-built mosque has given place to a more substantial, square-shaped erection of cut-stone, with battlemented walls, the foundations resting upon inverted arches. The most remarkable feature about Kosti, however, is the magnificent span-bridge which crosses the Nile a few hundred yards below the town. The construction is considered to rank as one of the finest of its kind; it is of the swing-type, thus enabling the river steamers, which stand high out of the water and have tall chimney-stacks, to pass up and down stream without difficulty.

The river-station of Taufikia, which is some 550 miles from Khartoum, forms the distributing centre for the important trade carried on the Sobat, the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and the Bahr-el-Zaraf rivers. There are native barracks of brick, and several other Government buildings. It was at this spot that Sir Samuel Baker, the great explorer, made his headquarters in 1865, and he named his settlement after his patron Tewfik the Khedive.

* This series, which commenced on December 29, is concluded with this article.

INDIAN PRODUCTS AND ADULTERATION.

The prevalence of the practice of adulterating Indian produce before export has once more been engaging the attention of the Indian Government, says the British Empire Producers' Organisation in its monthly *Empire Trade Notes*. The question is an old one, and though the purity of a few Indian products—and most notably wheat—receives nowadays adequate attention, the Indian Government do not think such an assertion can be made generally. It is common knowledge that cotton and jute are still watered, while ground nuts, hides, indigo, hemp, beeswax, and oils are found adulterated. The Indian native is perhaps not quite such an artist in adulteration as the Chinese, but he knows far more about it than is healthy for the reputation of Indian products. The Government of India do not favour meeting the evil by legislation, which they think would be difficult to carry out and also ineffective. They point out that the buyers of Indian produce ought to be able to effect an improvement by combining to decline adulterated goods. A more practical suggestion, in the opinion of the organisation, is that trade associations in India should institute some system of certifying to the purity of Indian products before export. An educational and publicity campaign directed to pointing out the short-sightedness of the adulteration habit might also be worth considering. In the life and death competition of after-the-war trading, it is claimed by the organisation that we must not allow the historic reputation for quality of our products to be prejudiced. For this, in fact, is not merely an Indian question: it is an Imperial question.

Colonel H. E. Rawson, R.E., C.B., will give an illustrated paper on "The Sun as Empire Builder" at a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute at the Royal Society's Lecture Theatre, Burlington House, on November 20.

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ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

Excess Profits Duty.

The *London Gazette*, of October 30, contained the following order of the Board of Referees for increasing the statutory percentage of profits for the purpose of excess profits duty:—

Oil Production in Persia.

Application of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The Board of Referees decided that the percentage shall be increased in the case of a company to 11 per cent.; in the case of a private firm:—

(a) For accounting periods ending prior to January 1, 1917, to 11 per cent., plus 1 per cent.;

(b) for accounting periods ending after December 31, 1916, to 11 per cent., plus 2 per cent., except that for the purposes of subsection (2) of section 41 of the principal Act the statutory percentage shall be 11 per cent., plus 1 per cent., with the addition for accounting periods ended after December 31, 1916, of 3 per cent. for the purposes of subsection (1) of section 41, and paragraph 4 of Part II. of the fourth schedule to the principal Act.

ROUMANIAN OIL COMPANIES.

Claims for Destroyed Property.

So far three Anglo-Roumanian oil companies have announced the extent of their claims against the British Government in respect of property destroyed by the British military mission under Colonel Sir J. Norton Griffiths. The claims are as follows:—Roumanian Consolidated, £1,270,724; Traian Roumanian, £277,625; and Anglo-Roumanian, £208,825. There are, of course, further claims with respect to interest, the cost of reconstruction prior to resuming work, and other things. The list also by no means exhausts likely claims, and in this connection it may be pointed out that reference was made in the report of the Roumanian Consolidated Company to fifteen British oil companies which were operating in Roumania. It is probable, however, that the three claims already made will be among the largest.

TRADE MARKS.

Cotton Goods in Egypt.

The following letter has been addressed to H.M. High Commissioner for Egypt by the secretary of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, with reference to correspondence which had been published in the *Monthly Record* of the Chamber:—

"The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has informed this Chamber that a sub-committee of the Egyptian Capitulations Committee has been appointed to deal with the question of trade-marks, and that you have suggested to the sub-committee that they should examine the question of frauds, of which the folding and marking of cotton goods is an instance. I am therefore instructed to hand you a copy of the correspondence which has passed between this Chamber and the Foreign Office on this question, and to say that the committee of the Manchester Chamber which has had this subject under consideration has heard of the action which you have taken with very much interest, and entertains the earnest hope that you will continue to do what you can to remedy the evil practice disclosed in this correspondence. A copy of the correspondence was sent by Mr. Balfour's permission to the British Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria, on August 29. I enclose a copy of the covering letter to that Chamber, which contains the question which the sub-committee of the Capitulations Committee will probably regard as very pertinent to the inquiry which your Excellency has suggested they should undertake. I am to mention that the British Chamber of Commerce, Alexandria, is being kept *au courant* with what is now taking place."

THE P. AND O.

Purchase of Hain Steamship Company.

It is understood that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company is to purchase the Hain Steamship Company. The price provisionally agreed upon is reported to be £80 per £10 share, which represents a payment of £3,996,000 as the paid up capital of the company is £499,000. The shares stand in the market at about 34½. The transaction will mark yet another stage in the expansion of the P. and O. In June last the company secured control of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, while only eleven months previously it bought the controlling interest in the New Zealand Shipping Company, and through it of the Federal Steam Navigation Company. Just about three years ago, too, there was the great shipping combine between the P. and O. and the British India Steam Navigation Company.

The Hain Steamship Company is a comparatively new concern, dating back to 1901, and the present negotiations must be largely attributed, no doubt, to the death a year ago of the founder of the company, Sir Edward Hain, which followed on the death in action in 1915 of his only son, Captain Edward Hain. The company's authorised capital is £500,000, and £200,000 4½ per cent. debentures have also been issued, but these were redeemed in 1915. There was no announcement of a dividend during the first two years of the company's operations, but subsequently dividends amounting to almost 180 per cent. have been paid. The company had an excellent year in 1913 when the gross profits amounted to £350,800, and the net profit to £178,300, a dividend of 25 per cent. being paid. The following year the returns were not so good, the net profits being £50,100, and the dividend 10 per cent. During the war years, however, as the appended table shows, the operations of the company have been remarkably successful:—

Year ended June 30.	Net Profit. £	Dividend per cent.	Depreciation. £	Carry forward. £
1915	99,400	20	150,000	7,700
1916	172,800	35	250,000	5,600
1917	216,900	35	not disclosed	47,700

A letter has been received by shareholders of the Hain Steamship Company, dated October 27, with reference to the offer of the P. and O. Company. The executors of the late Sir Edward Hain and Son, and some of the largest shareholders, it is stated, approve of it. The offer is conditional upon the holders of 76 per cent., or such lesser number as the purchasers may fix, of the issued shares, accepting it by November 15. As regards shareholders in the United Kingdom, the offer will lapse unless accepted by that date.

The world's wheat crop this year for the principal countries which have reported, including the United States, is 1,665,489,000 bushels, an increase of 3.3 per cent. over 1916. The world's barley crop shows an increase of 2.4 per cent., rye 10.7 per cent., oats 19.9 per cent. and corn 25.3 per cent.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Coal Gas for Motors.

The use of coal-gas, or what is more generally known as town-gas, as a substitute for petrol for motor traction, is at present exercising the minds of all motor-car owners in this country as well as abroad. Its adoption for private and commercial purposes, on small and large vehicles, is proceeding at an astonishing rate in this country, where there are already more than sixty factories which have taken up the work of conversion. People abroad, especially in the East, where, owing to the great scarcity of petrol, thousands of petrol-driven vehicles are idle, are keenly concerned in the matter, and but for the lack of necessary information, there would already have been numerous conversions of petrol-cars to gas-driven cars. It was previously pointed out that the gas which supplies the motive power for the new method of locomotion is stored in a large bag made of hard cloth fabric, lined on each side with rubber, and is placed on the roof of the car. A simple tubular contrivance is affixed to the balloon-like gas-bag and to the engine cylinders, and one feature of the arrangement is that this additional mechanism does not prevent a driver from running his car by petrol if he so desires. The appearance of a car with such an overhead gas container is not attractive, but it offers many conveniences. The alternative is the compression system, and this method, by which the gas is carried in cylinders at high pressure, seems to meet with considerable favour.

The Compressed System.

In spite, however, of the apparent popularity of this process, there are many who think that the liability of cylinders to fracture when subjected to high stresses and continual vibration is a serious point against the use of compressed gas. It largely depends, of course, on the material from which the cylinders are made, and, although some of the compressed gas equipments now in the market have cylinders made of steel, copper, other composite metals, and even composite rubber, none has yet given ground for complaint. All have their special merits, and are made by well-known British firms. One recent equipment contains features which may make it specially suitable for private as well as commercial vehicles in the East. The cylinders, made in various dimensions and consequent cubic capacity, are prepared to meet a pressure of 250 atmospheres (3,750 lb. per square inch), and may safely be charged up to a pressure of 125 atmospheres (or 1,875 lb. per square inch), and even to 150 atmospheres. The largest cylinders, measuring 48 inches in length by 8 inches in diameter (internally) have a capacity of 1⅓ cubic feet, and at the pressure of 125 atmospheres would carry about 170 cubic feet of gas. Thus, if six such cylinders were coupled up the aggregate capacity at 125 atmospheres would be 1,000 cubic feet, which, on the assumption of 10 miles to the gallon of petrol, would represent sufficient fuel for 40 miles, rating 250 cubic feet of coal-gas as being equivalent to one gallon of motor spirit. By increasing the pressure to 150 atmospheres, the fuel capacity of the six cylinders would be raised to 1,200 cubic feet, or 50 miles radius of action upon a single charge of the reservoirs. This outfit would be suitable for large commercial vehicles, while for smaller vehicles proportional outfits are supplied.

Motors in Morocco.

At the annual fair at Rabat in September, the exhibits were fairly numerous, in spite of the present transport difficulties. They were mostly of French origin, with a good sprinkling of American firms. Amongst the most prominent French firms having stands were Berliet, Peugeot, Rochet-Schneider, Renault, Panhard, De Dion, and Chenard; while America was represented by the Ford, Dodge, Pullman, Saxon, National, Hudson, and Overland companies. The tyre section included Michelin, Dunlop, Bergougnan, and Goodrich. Several motor tractors were on show, these being nearly all of French manufacture, America having the Bull as their only representative.

Machinery for the Government.

Landowners and importers of agricultural machinery in the East, who are complaining that British manufacturers are not anxious to take new orders for quick delivery at present, may be appeased if they know that apart from other important war-work which manufacturers are carrying on, during the next twelve months the Agricultural Machinery Department of the Ministry of Munitions will require, as a minimum, the following agricultural implements and machinery:—8,000 horse-drawn ploughs, 2,000 cultivators, 2,000 seed drills, 2,750 rollers, 5,500 harrows of ridged and jointed type, 400 land presses, 7,000 self-binders, 1,400 disc harrows, both tractor and horse drawn, 1,350, horse drawn farm tip carts, 650 horse drawn flat top lorries, 50 thrashing machines, 3ft. 6 in. and 4ft. 6 in., and some thousands of 2-furrow ploughs for tractors of a special design. Any firms (manufacturers or importers) who, in addition to their normal output, can supply the whole or part of these requirements are invited to communicate with the Controller of the Department named, stating what implements they can offer and the date and rate of deliveries. Some of the above implements and machinery are urgently needed, and orders so undertaken receive, of course, attention before private orders.

Oil Engines from Baku.

There is a large demand for internal combustion engines of from 2½ h.p. to 100 h.p. for the oilfields in the Baku district of Russia. Engines built to run on natural gas from the wells are in considerable use on some of the oilfields, but owing to the uncertainty of the supply of gas an attachment by which the engine can also be run on crude oil is usually asked for. The value of the district of Baku as a market for oil-engines, motor cars, pumping machinery, etc., has often been pointed out in these columns. German, French, and American firms were the principal suppliers before the war, the obstacle to British firms entering the market having been the "credit bogey." It is noteworthy, however, that most German firms at the time were doing large business on the safe terms of sending goods on consignment to their bankers to be paid for when delivered, the result of systematic methods in dealing with local importers.

German Methods.

It is reported on good authority that classes have been established in Germany for discharged soldiers to train them as commercial travellers after the war. They are being taught the Russian language and Russian methods. In addition, some 40,000 women are being taught the same language, so that they may be able to conduct correspondence and replace the depleted ranks of the men. At the same time the novel idea is being worked out in Germany of providing the Russian agricultural prisoners with sample machines to take back to their villages with a promise of a commission on any they may sell. A rather expensive method of advertising at a time when their enemy thinks that it is of no use advertising now, and prefers to take the "too late" risks! However, the above report is another proof of the German preparations for the forthcoming trade war.

New Route between East and West

French railway circles, it is said, are giving attention to a plan of constructing through railway routes between Western and Eastern Europe which shall be independent of the German and Austrian railway systems. Before the war a traveller from London or Paris to Southern Russia proceeded viâ Vienna, whence he had the choice of three routes: viâ Budapest—Belgrade — Nish — Sofia—Adrianople—Constantinople (the Orient Express); Agram—Bucharest—Constanza (in Roumania); and Cracow—Lemberg—Odessa. All these are, however, dependent on the railway systems of enemy countries, and the route from Paris to Constantinople viâ France, Milan, Cervignano and Agram, which was suggested over ten years ago, but which, for obvious reasons, was objected to by the Austrian State railways, is now being considered. The French and Italian railways are strongly in favour of the project. It has the advantage of being shorter than the route viâ Vienna.

The percentage of the total area of cultivated land in Egypt in which wheat was grown was 16.9 in 1912-13 and 1913-14; in 1914-15 it was 19.4; in 1915-16, 18.1, and 1916-17 only 14.0.

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SUDAN PRODUCTS.

Search for New Markets.

Reference was made in these columns last week to the economic investigations of the Imperial Institute on behalf of the Sudan Government. The following particulars of the inquiries are given in the recently published report of the Central Economic Board :—

During the year 1916, reports were forwarded by the Imperial Institute to the Government of the Sudan on the following subjects, on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Research Department, followed when necessary by the submission of the products to commercial experts and manufacturers for valuation or technical trial :—Voandzeia Subterranea beans, dates, barley, tamarind fruit, colocynth pulp, Mahareb grass oil (Cymbopogon Sennaarensis). The results of the more important investigations are summarised below :—

Voandzeia Subterranea Beans. — These beans were found to be practically identical in composition with a sample examined at the Imperial Institute in 1915. A firm of importers stated that this class of bean is hardly suitable for the London market, but would probably be saleable in some of the Colonial and also some of the Southern Continental markets. They considered that in the latter markets the value of the beans, if shipped in good condition, might be as high as £E20 per ton under pre-war conditions. An Aberdeen firm stated that if the beans were offered in good condition and suitably prepared it was possible that a market could be found for them in the United Kingdom similar to that which exists for split peas.

Dates.—Small trial consignments of Gondeila, Garban and Bertamuda dates were found to be of good quality and to resemble the Sayer variety of dates shipped from the Persian Gulf. The dates were sold in London at 24s. per cwt., and firms consulted by the Imperial Institute in connection with the inquiry recommended that larger shipments should be forwarded.

Barley.—A small consignment of barley from Berber Province, of satisfactory appearance and composition. After examination at the Imperial Institute the grain was submitted to malting experts and millers, who were of opinion that it would be suitable for malting and valued it at from 54s. to 60s. per quarter of 448 lb. c.i.f. in the United Kingdom. The consignment was subsequently sold in London at a rather higher price—viz., 60s. per 400 lb.

Tamarind Fruit.—A sample of dry tamarind fruits from Mongalla Province. A firm of brokers stated that in order to estimate the value of this product it would be necessary to have a sample barrel of the fruits, free from rind and preserved in molasses. They pointed out that the fruits were smaller and less fleshy than those imported from Barbados and Antigua, adding that the normal value of West Indian tamarinds varies between 10s. and 20s. per cwt., though current prices under war conditions were somewhat higher. A firm of wholesale druggists also stated that there would be no demand for dry tamarinds in the condition of the sample, though they closely resembled the West Indian fruit in flavour, and would be saleable if freed from the pods and properly preserved in syrup.

Colocynth Pulp.—A sample of colocynth pulp free from seeds, which was of satisfactory quality except for a slight brown colour in parts and the presence of some yellowish dust. The pulp was valued at 1s. 3d. per lb. c.i.f. London, but it would probably realise a slightly higher price if free from dust and discoloured material. Merchants stated that there is a good demand for this product in London.

"Mahareb" Grass Oil (Cymbopogon Sennaarensis).—A sample of oil which was distilled from the grass at the Imperial Institute and submitted to firms interested in such products. The reports of manufacturers of pharmaceutical and perfumers' products, essential oil distillers, and soapmakers, generally confirmed the opinions previously expressed that it is unlikely that any industrial opening can be found for this oil.

RUSSO-INDIAN TRADE RELATIONS.

Value of the Persian Route.

Presiding at a meeting of the East India Association on Monday, at which a lecture was given by Baron Heyking on "The Potentialities of Russo-Indian Trade Relations," M. de Nabokoff, Russian Charge d'Affaires in London, said the war had removed a great many of the impossibilities of trade between Russia and India and allowed them to see a vision. To him that vision was a railway which would give them the possibility of loading cargo on the rails of North Russia and sending it to Madras; and if the means of construction were applied in the future as the means of destruction were applied now, the introduction of the aeroplane in their commercial life. The future development of Russia and India had one point in common. It was that the spirit of individual initiative in Russia would not be hampered by Governmen or official interference.

Baron Heyking said that among the adverse circumstances which had hampered the expansion of Indo-Russian trade relations in the past, the political factor played a great part. One condition which was against the development of Russo-Indian trade relations was the lack of means of communication between the two countries, but beneficial results might be expected by connecting the Russian railway system with that of India through Persia via Quetta. This railway project was bound to be a potent factor for the development of Russo-Indian intercourse.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Advance in Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Prices in the market have continued to advance and fresh high records have been established in raw cotton, yarn and cloth. Numerous traders express surprise at the amount of business which continues to be done at such extraordinary prices. Many people believe, however, that the top in values has not yet been reached. Favourable reports on the whole have come through relating to the Egyptian cotton crop, and it is expected that the official estimate of the yield will at least be 6,000,000 cantars. Spinners have called freely during the week. Egyptian yarns have been in active demand, and most spinners have strengthened their position. A rather increasing trade has been reported in piece goods for Egypt. Houses on this side have received instructions from abroad to purchase certain cloths at the best prices possible, but supplies must be obtained. Opportunities of shipping are still very unsatisfactory. In cloth for India operations have been rather irregular. Rather improved bids have been met with in shirtings for Calcutta, but only small lots have been put through. Bleaching cloths have moved off fairly well with rather less activity in printing descriptions. The outlook for China remains poor, and some advices this week have been rather discouraging A steady business has been done for the South American outlets. The demand in American yarns has been well maintained, and a large business has been done at advancing rates. It has been difficult to secure delivery of ring beams. The finer numbers in wefts are at a premium. India has given fair support in the higher counts of yarn, but has done very little in 40's mule. A healthy inquiry has again been reported in yarns suitable for France.

Anxiety with regard to the food situation in Athens, says *The Times* correspondent there, has been relieved by the arrival of two large cargoes of wheat at the Piræus. The existing scarcity, however, is not so great as to justify the continuous inflation of prices that we are now witnessing. People are beginning to realise that they are victims of certain local profiteers, and show signs of revolt.

PERSIAN TRADE.

Kazvin : A Distributing Centre.

The chief trade of Kazvin and district is the export of raisins and cotton, but a considerable amount of business is also done in general exports and imports, says the British Vice-Consul at Kazvin, Mr. E. J. Goodwin, in the course of some notes on the trade of the district for the year ended March 20. Goods from Russia—sugar, tea, textiles, hardware, and sundry goods of every description—are dealt with by commission agents and distributed from Kazvin to other parts of Persia; while raisins, almonds, pistachios, and dried fruit, produced locally, cotton from Kashan, Isfahan, and other districts, and opium, henna, etc., from Yezd are purchased for export to Europe. The bulk of imports are Russian, but when the Baghdad-Kermanshah-Hamadan road is open a large quantity of Manchester cotton goods and Indian spices come into the town. In normal times about 300,000 pouds of sugar pass through the hands of Kazvin traders annually and of this amount one-third is retained for local use. During the past two years the importation of sugar has been very small.

The Import Trade.

Cotton piece-goods come mostly from Russia, but during the last two years supplies from that country have greatly decreased. Whenever possible the bazaars are well stocked with Manchester goods, but this, as stated above, depends upon the condition of the Baghdad-Hamadan road, which is closed at present. Russian cotton piece-goods imported into Kazvin usually amount to 500,000 tomans annually. Russian petroleum only is imported into Kazvin, and, as a rule, to the extent of 750,000 pouds annually. One-third of this quantity is disposed of in local districts. Since the beginning of the war imports of petroleum have decreased by about one-half. Nearly all the imports of hardware and cutlery are Russian, or were formerly Austrian, while most of the lamps imported were German.

A great deal of gunny is used in Kazvin. The supply comes from India via Russia. Boots, shoes, sandals, etc., for the natives are made locally and in Teheran from native leather. A great quantity of boots and shoes of European styles are worn by the Persians, the parts being imported from Russia and put together in Persia. Spices are all imported into Kazvin from India via Southern Persia, and also, when possible, via Batoum.

British Goods in Demand.

There appears to be an increasing desire among Kazvin shopkeepers who trade in sundries to deal in British goods. Formerly their stocks were partly Austrian and German, but since goods of Austrian and German manufacture have been difficult to obtain they have had the opportunity of giving British goods a fair trial. Mr. Goodwin is of the opinion that the fact that they have given entire satisfaction will be proved in the future.

TELEGRAPH MONEY ORDERS FOR INDIA.

The Telegraph Money Order Service with British Oversea Dominions were extended on November 1 to India (including Burma), Indian Post Office Agencies in French India, and Aden. A special feature of the service is the transmission of the telegrams of advice at the deferred rates, which reduces the charges by one half. The full rate service is available for cases of special urgency.

EXHIBITION OF EASTERN CARPETS.

An interesting exhibition of Eastern carpets and rugs obtained from Persia, India, and elsewhere by enemy firms whose businesses in this country have been liquidated by the Board of Trade, was held last week at the Midland Hotel, Manchester, the fabrics being subsequently offered for sale. Among the rugs was one presented to Charles the Great by Mahomet II. and valued at £7,000. The exhibits also included a fourteenth-century Ispahan rug valued at £14,000, a prayer rug for the Mecca pilgrimage, and a royal Sineh rug with 700 stitches to the square inch and more than two hundred shades of colouring.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, recommend a dividend of 10s. per share for the half-year to August 31, making, with the interim dividend of 5s. per share, 15 per cent. for the year, and a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, both free of tax. After providing in full for depreciation of securities and all taxation, and appropriating £9,000 bonus to staff, £10,000 to premises account, £20,000 to reserve fund, they carry forward £67,000. The date of the annual meeting is fixed for November 23.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 159 tons (previous week, 633 tons). Hurgada production for week, 3,041 tons, against 2,923 tons.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended October 14, 44,117 poods (712 tons).

British Maikop Oil.—Production week ended October 20, 825 poods (about 13 tons).

European Oilfields.—Production for week ended October 21, 64,200 poods. Production for week ended 14th not yet to hand.

Maikap Orient.—Plot 435a, well 3.—Week ended October 20, 11,100 poods.

Spies Petroleum.—Production, including 1,800 poods from ambars, for week ending October 1, 199,610 poods (or about 3,220 tons); total production for year from January 14 to October 21, 7,158,330 poods (or about 115,457 tons); total production for the corresponding period last year, 6,752,305 poods (or about 108,908 tons).

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended October 28, 3 p.m. :—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) :—

Arrivals	2,285
Sailings	2,321

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :—

1,600 tons gross or over	*14
Under 1,600 tons gross	4
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarine	1
British fishing vessels sunk	Nil

*Including one sunk during week ended October 21.

Mr. Palmer, the Custodian of Alien Property, has announced (says Reuter's Washington correspondent) that it is not intended to seize money deposited in the banks by subjects of Germany or of Germany's allies.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Avenue.
Wednesday.

Last week our market was very active, and prices were all tending upwards. But the news at the opening of our market this week of the Italian set-back created a temporary feeling of depression, with the result that many intending purchasers withdrew their orders, and several investors began taking profits. To-day, however, these sales have subsided, and fresh buyers have come along; the tone has become good, and prices are closing with an upward tendency. The very favourable information cabled by *The Times* correspondent from Cairo as regards the general conditions in Egypt, has no doubt been a factor in this improved feeling. Cotton is again rising in price; all reports from the other side continue of a very satisfactory nature; and sales of land, which are of the greatest importance so far as the companies are concerned, are taking place daily at very satisfactory prices.

In Government stocks all the Egyptian Unifieds on offer here were taken early in the week at 84¼, and to-day there are buyers at 84½, but sellers are scarce. In the 3½ per cent. preferences there have been persistent buyers at last week's price of 71½, but very little business has gone through, sellers being few and far between.

In Bank shares, Nationals, after some trifling transactions down to 16¾, closed ⅛ up at 17⅛ on some fairly large buying orders for Egypt. Agriculturals, which had dropped ⅛ to 6 3-16 are 1-16 lower at the close at 6¼. Some small business was done in the 4 per cent. preferences round 7. Anglo-Egyptian Banks have had a jump of ½ to-day to 13¾ on the exceedingly satisfactory report just issued. In Land Banks there have been constant buyers throughout the week, and a fair amount of business has been transacted, but the price remains unchanged. Delta Light Railway preferences are, after being somewhat quieter and changing hands as low as 6, closing 1-16 up at 6⅛, with a small transaction to-day at 6 3-16.

In Land shares Aboukirs, after touching 19s., are 3d. up at 19s. 9d. on a fairly large purchaser coming into the market to-day. Behéras have been in persistent demand at 12, but no shares are offering at the moment. Behéra preferences have changed hands in a fair line at 4 7-16, a rise of 3-16. Delta Lands, after dropping to 13s. 6d., were in demand again to-day, and closed only fractionally lower at 13s. 9¾d. New Egyptians, which had spurted to almost 15s., came back at one time under profit-taking sales to 14s. 1½d., but they are again on the up grade to-night at 14s. 4½d., which represents a quite fractional decline on the week. Sidi Salems are wanted, and the price is 1s. up at 16s., but business is difficult, as sellers are wanting higher prices. Union Foncières were done at 40s., a rise of 1-16, and there are probably further buyers.

In miscellaneous shares Alexandria Waters changed hands at 12¾, a rise of 3-16; some steady business has been done in Markets round 27s. 3d., a rise of 3d.; and Salts are 6d. up at 28s., with a very fair amount of business passing. Khedivial Mails have remained exceptionally inactive and unchanged.

In Greek securities Monopolies are a point up at 54, as are also Rentes at 44½. Some few thousand pounds of the latter have changed hands. There has been a small transaction in Four Per Cent. 1902 at 63. In Currant Bonds there is a seller on the market of a small quantity at 93½.

Oil Shares.

Wednesday's prices showed a rising tendency. Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 1s. 6d. to 27s. 6d.—28s. 6d. Roumanian Consols were unchanged at 11s.—12s., but North Caucasians were 1-32 better at 1 1-32—1 3-32, and Burmahs rose 1-16 to 6⅝—6¾.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department has just issued a new list of additions to the statutory list of firms of enemy nationality or enemy association with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade. Copies can be obtained at a trifling cost from the Superintendent of Publications, Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Oct. 26	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84½	84½
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	71½xd	71½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61½	61½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	53	54
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43½	44½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55⅝	56½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	62½	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	92	93½
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	52⅛	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	85	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	80	80
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	70	69
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅝	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7xd	7
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13½	13¾
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	4⅜	4⅜
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7½	7⅝
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	17	17⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅛	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72½xd	—
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	19/6	19/9
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	12	12
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4½	4⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/-	13/9½
Do. and Foreigh Trust	5/-	6/10½	6/10½
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	14/6	14/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	15/-	16/-
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	1⅛	2
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/10½	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	27/-	27/3
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	27/6	28/-
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	33/-	33/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 31st August, 1917, published in conformity with Article 3 of the Statutes.

Banking Department.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)	1,298,069
Special Reserve	78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	8,470,811
Mixed Tribunals	2,106,346
Egyptian Government	3,848,601
Bankers' Accounts	309,137
Cheques and Bills payable	219,481
Sundry other Accounts	613,061
	£E.19,868,506

	£E.
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	10,959,372
Sundry Securities	235,791
Advances on Merchandise	229,881
Advances on Securities	1,097,599
Advances otherwise Secured	651,808
Sundry other Advances	262,453
Bills of Exchange	1,406,428
Local Bills Discounted	140,448
Buildings and Furniture	226,220
Money at call and at short notice	1,940,250
Bankers' Accounts	1,016,380
Sudan Government	20,599
Sundry other Accounts	262,186
Cash— £E.	
Notes 1,211,443	
Gold 46,405	
Silver, Nickel, etc. 161,243	
	1,419,091
	£E.19,868,506

Issue Department.

	£E.
Notes issued	18,400,000
	£E.18,400,000

	£E.
Gold	4,482,309
* British Treasury Bills	4,717,691
Securities :—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	5,768,239
	£E.18,400,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30. 1916).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended September 30.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Sept. 21-Sept. 30	6,356	7,446
April 1-Sept. 30	88,756	106,876

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THE NEAR EAST

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

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.

No. 340.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1917. (Postage, ½d. Foreign, 1d. Annual Subscription, 4s.) Price 6d.

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is only occasionally lifted when neutrals are able to smuggle letters through from the interior. These letters give us

glimpses of terrible suffering

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 340.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The pressing danger on the Italian front has changed what would otherwise have been a brilliant week for the Allies into one of cloud and shadow. The Austro-German forces, favoured by the luck of the weather, as well as by the fruits of their political propaganda in the Italian ranks, have swept forward across the Tagliamento, and it is becoming doubtful whether Venice can be saved from the latest irruption from the North. Its loss would be serious, not only because of the blow to Entente prestige which the capture of so famous a city must cause, but also because Venice is an important naval centre.

It is quite useless to minimise the gravity of the position, as is, unfortunately, being done in some quarters. Italy has been invaded many times before, and the invaders have seldom been checked at the first onset in the northern plains, although they have nearly always failed to hold the peninsula in the end. The invasion has, it is true, reunited Italian opinion in favour of the war (with the exception of the extreme Italian Socialists, who threaten a pacifist campaign in France and England as well as their own country), but it has, unfortunately, done much the same for Austria. It must be remembered that Court circles in Vienna have never ceased to look on Venetia as a legitimate Austrian province, and the young Emperor would presumably not be averse to regaining the territory which Francis Joseph lost. No specific statement has been issued from Vienna on this point, and the Press has been officiously reticent; but the desire to reincorporate the Italian provinces in the Austrian Empire, always hungry for dominion, is more in keeping with traditional Hapsburg policy than the renunciation which Count Czernin recently discussed with all the gravity of the professional *poseur*.

Clearly the Italian question raises vital issues for the Near East as well as for Central and Western Europe. Without a definite Italian victory the Jugoslav programme remains so much waste paper, and all the nationalist aspirations of the Slavonic peoples in Austria would be doomed. That fact, which the events of the past few days has made patent to all, should stamp the Italo-Jugoslav *rapprochement* with the prospect of permanence. The misunderstandings which prevailed until last summer have at last been dissipated, and misfortune has demonstrated that the only chance of salvation for the two peoples lies in the dismemberment of Austria.

On the other hand, it is fairly certain that Austria will reply to the threat of dismemberment in similar fashion. It will not be enough for her to retain the Jugoslavs under her control; she will attempt to remove all danger from her path by endeavouring to dismember Italy, which has been an inconvenience to Germany as well as to Austria since the Turkish War, and a positive danger since 1914. Now the most convenient way for Austria to dismember Italy would be to seize Venetia and the northern plains for herself, and to divide the rest of the peninsula in two by restoring the temporal power of the Pope—a cause for which Austria, as a strongly Catholic country, has a strong partiality, and against which her master Germany has no particular reason for protesting. The Papacy itself, as is well known, has never acquiesced whole-heartedly in its renunciation of that anomaly.

In this connection the rapidly increasing importance of the Vatican in European affairs scarcely seems to have been adequately grasped in England. The Papal Peace Note, which was respectfully ignored in Western Europe, has been enthusiastically received in Russia, where its pacifist doctrines evoked an instant echo, and its silence on the future of the Balkans tallied exactly with the current attitude of Petrograd; it was followed very shortly by the proclamation of freedom for the Catholic Church in Russia. Again, the new German Chancellor is a Catholic, and, moreover, a man who has all his life been an outspoken adherent of the Centre Party and a supporter of the Jesuits—who have also received their freedom in Russia. The appointment is very significant, for Prussia is still a nominally Protestant country. Assuredly the Pope has no reason to regret his intervention in the maelstrom.

The counter-military moves of the Entente against the Austrian aggression are necessarily secret, but they cannot remain secret long, if they are to be effective. Their actual political attitude, of course, remains unchanged. The pacifist grouplet made a demonstration in the House of Commons which fell flatter than their previous experiments, and Mr. Balfour had no difficulty in answering them, and his challenge to them on the questions of Armenia and Poland was significant. The case of Armenia is so gross that even the pacifists can only ignore it, but to include the independence of Poland in our war aims is a very satisfactory indication that the Government is certain of the stedfast temper of the

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country; for whilst the Jugoslav programme implies the dismemberment of Austria, the restoration of Polish independence necessarily connotes the curtailment of Germany, and the latter task is likely to be more difficult than the former. But on all sides public opinion, although it reserves judgment as to the wisdom of the Allies' strategy, has shown an admirable fortitude in face of the latest German blow, which is strikingly in contrast to the nervousness shown in September when the Stockholm plot filled the air. The public has wisely settled down to the fact that the war may be indefinitely prolonged. And it prefers that rather than the "peace by negotiation," which would be a defeat by Germany. The German politician who announced last week that, in spite of everything, "England will not be ready for peace for a long time yet," deserves a decoration, or, rather, he deserves exemption from a decoration, as the wisest man in the Central Empires.

Apart from the Italian campaign, the week has been uniformly successful. The Canadian victory on the western front lies outside our province, as does also the final French success at the Chemin des Dames, which has at last ended the three-years' battle of the Aisne, the most searching test, perhaps, of the magnificent endurance of France that history has ever shown. But in other theatres of the war two useful actions have been reported. On the Tigris the British have made a further advance, and the enemy have been driven back on Tekrit after a brilliant little action which left prisoners and ammunition in our hands.

A more substantial advantage is reported from Palestine, where the Turks had announced a paper victory a day or two before the British obtained the more usual type of military success. General Allenby, after a long period of inaction, reported an advance against Gaza and the occupation of Beersheba, with over 2,600 prisoners. The Turks have concealed their chagrin in their usual bulletins. The capture of Gaza, reported a few days after the fall of Beersheba, was not unexpected after the previous bulletins. The Turks would appear to have fought well, but to have been outclassed by the British; and it may well be that their loss of this important point will cause them to revise their future strategy. The campaign in Palestine is by no means won, and probably many hard battles lie ahead, but at least it is progressing on right lines, and General Allenby's future movements will be awaited with considerable interest.

It is very natural that Jewish national feeling should be stirred by these events in the ancient patrimony of Israel, and the suggestion has been put forward of concerted action by the Jews to obtain assurances from the British Government as to the future of Palestine. It is stated that these assurances, if satisfactory, should have a great effect on Jewish sentiment towards the war, particularly in enemy countries. That is as it may be; one cannot help remembering that there was a controversy on the subject of national or religious allegiance among the Jews last summer, and that in the latest published Jewish resolutions on this matter the actual form of government desired in Palestine, in the event of repatriation, is left vague. There is no particular reason why the British Government—which has shown itself sympathetic to Zionism in the past—should not give satisfactory assurances as to the future of Palestine; but it would probably be better for the Jews to say exactly what they want before they ask Downing Street to define its position. For the bulk of British Jews, in any case, the question seems to be of no actual personal concern; it is unlikely that very many, either here or in the United States, or, for the matter of that, in Germany either, would return to the Holy Land. But the question has a very direct bearing on the future of Poland, where the Jewish question is only of less importance than the national question itself.

Every week brings its further revelation of King Constantine's perfidy. In the latest Royal telegrams that have been deciphered at Athens, however, the ex-Queen plays the leading part, entreating for a German army to drive the Allies into the sea, demanding German aid against the blockade, and frankly admitting that "we desired to enter the war on the side of Germany." That desire at least was restrained by wholesome fear of "British forces reported to be at Malta." The ex-Queen does not cut a very impressive figure in these confidential telegrams, but she was undoubtedly a useful asset for Germany.

It is said that there is still a small faction in Greece which desires to see King Constantine and his Consort return, and which predicts that within a year they will be back again. Loyalty, even to the unworthy, can sometimes be respected, but those who are working for this end would do well to remember that, if the consummation they profess to desire should be attained, Greece would not be a kingdom, but a German province ruled by a Governor-General (or his wife), who would take their orders direct from Potsdam.

Stockholm Conferences are rather out of fashion in these days, but some interest attaches to the programme put before the Organisation Committee, whatever that may be, of that body by the Serbian Socialist Party. While this manifesto begins with the usual preliminaries of no annexations or indemnities, without which no document is nowadays complete, it goes on to demand the reunion of Bosnia and Herzegovina with Serbia, and the union of Montenegro with the latter; the access of Serbia to the sea, the independence of Poland, full autonomy for Finland and the Ukraine under Russian democratic rule, and the deliverance of Armenia from Turkey. These demands, which are reasonable enough, will hardly be acceptable to even the minority wing of the Prussian Socialists. Another suggestion is the novel one that the origin of the war should not be discussed, and that all the Great Powers should contribute financial help to Serbia. On this it has only to be said that the Entente have already made some contributions to Serbia, and that it is obviously the turn of the Central Powers, which have done the damage, to do something towards reparation. This statement will probably be ignored by our English pacifists, since it conflicts with the views of Berlin.

There have been several speeches in Russia this week on foreign policy which have touched on the future of the Dardanelles. It is impossible to summarise these statements, which are vague, discursive, and contradictory, but a cautious reading of them appears to indicate that some of the members of the new Government are aware that foreign policy cannot be exclusively maintained on a basis of renunciation, and that the danger of Russia being shut off both from the Black Sea and the Baltic appears to be increasingly realised. Great opposition has naturally been manifested to this view, as was foreseen in Maximalist circles, which are again endeavouring to concentrate all the available force of the country into their own hands. Whatever the upshot of the latter attempt, it seems to be evident that the older school, which recognises facts, has still power to make its voice heard, although it may not have the power to carry out its ideas.

Few people outside the charmed circle of défaitists in Russia have been able to see how she could definitely resign all interest in the Black Sea. One may call it Imperialism, if one chooses, but it is no more evidence of Imperialism than, say, a British interest in the English Channel; it is dictated by the economic necessities of Russia, which are stronger than phrases. In the long run the facts must triumph over the phrases, unless the phrasemongers carry out their intention of making peace with Germany. There were several ugly suggestions of this kind in the telegrams last week, but up to the present the Government have shown a creditable firmness in dealing with them, despite the deplorable statement of M. Kerenski to an American interviewer that Russia was worn out, and that it was the turn of the Western Powers to carry the weight of the war.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 12. (*Delayed.*)

The Death of Sultan Hussein I.

As the cables will have already informed you, Sultan Hussein I. died on the 9th inst. at Abdin Palace. His death was by no means unexpected. He was suddenly taken ill last winter, and had to undergo an operation. The latter was in a sense but a slight one, nevertheless it was no secret that grave fears were entertained as to his recovery from the malady which then began to manifest itself, and which was the real cause of his death. His Highness did, however, recover sufficiently to make an extended tour in Upper Egypt, but he was ordered by his physicians to take a complete rest, and in consequence he spent the entire summer on his estates at Gabaris. Towards the beginning of September he expressed the desire to make a short river trip down the Rosetta branch of the Nile. The voyage was embarked upon, and he reached Dessuk safely. There he was suddenly seized with fainting fits, and his doctors, his family, and the Prime Minister were hastily summoned. For a time it looked as if he would succumb, but although he survived the attack, it became apparent that the end was not far off, and, as I informed you at the time, a hurried return was made to Cairo by the Cabinet, the Residency, and the Household.

His Highness arrived at the Barrage on board his yacht on September 25, and appeared to have improved in health. He remained there until October 5, when, at his wish, it was decided to take him to the Walda Palace at Helwan. His flotilla duly went to Helwan, but he was not able to land, as he again became ill. The yacht returned, therefore, to Cairo, and on Sunday, the 7th, after a consultation, it was decided to transfer him to Abdin Palace. This decision once taken, the Sultan appeared to take a turn for the better. Getting up, he insisted on dressing himself. He walked on to the deck and expressed his intention of walking on land to his car. He was quite rightly dissuaded from doing so by his staff, and he was accordingly carried on shore and conveyed to Abdin. The effort and excitement of what turned out to be his last drive through his capital did not have any immediate bad effects, and throughout the Sunday His Highness maintained his strength and attended to the more urgent matters of business. He slept well that night, and the next morning seemed no worse for the previous day's exertion, receiving the Ministers as usual; but later on in the day fainting fits set in once more, and it was evident that the end was approaching. All that night anxious watch was kept, but it was not until ten o'clock on the morning of the Tuesday (October 9) that he began to sink, and from that hour he did not speak again. His end—quite a peaceful one—came at 12.10 p.m.

Immediately the standard was lowered to half-mast, and the news of the Sultan's death was announced to the country by the Premier, Rushdi Pasha, in a touching and almost heartbroken message. Shortly afterwards the High Commissioner drove over to convey his own condolences and deliver to Prince Fuad a letter from the British Government expressing its grief at the death of his brother, and formally offering him the Sultanate, with succession to his heirs in a line to be eventually determined between the British Government and himself. Prince Fuad accepted the offer, but no public pronouncement could be made until after the funeral beyond the publication in the Official Journal on the day of the Sultan's death of the letter from the British Government and of one addressed to Sultan Hussein the day before by his only son, Prince Kamel Eddine, renouncing whatever claim, title, or pretension he might have to the succession to the Sultanate.

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The funeral took place on the afternoon of the 10th. It was a most simple ceremony, and because of its simplicity was all the more impressive. The Sultan had expressed the wish that his interment should take place with the least possible fuss or formality. He asked that there should be no parade of animals destined to be sacrificed at the place of burial, that there should be no wailing, that the members of the Tarikas should not read prayers or the Koran during the procession, and that none of the usual celebrations which take place in connection with the death of a Moslem, and especially forty days after that event, should be held. His wishes were respected, and the result was a funeral which, by reason of its utter simplicity and of the silence attending its progress, contrasted strangely with the pomp and circumstance amid which we Westerners lay our sovereigns to rest, but which made an indelible impression on all who attended or watched it.

Punctually at three o'clock the cortège emerged from the Palace. At its head marched detachments from the Egyptian Army, followed by deputations from the various schools, the Rector of El Azhar, the Grand Mufti, the Ulema, and the bodyguard. As the coffin appeared at the door of the Palace a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the barracks on the square and from the Citadel. The coffin was covered with a plain but exceedingly handsome pall, with the late Sultan's tarbush surmounting it. According to custom, it was carried, the honour falling to Marines of the Sultan's yacht. By the side of the bier walked the Household and a detachment from the bodyguard. Immediately behind came the chief mourners, Prince Kamel Eddine, the Sultan's son, and Princes Fuad and Mahmud, his brothers, followed directly by the High Commissioner, the Prime Minister, the Ministers, representatives of the Commander-in-Chief, the Senior Naval Officer, and the Sirdar, the Diplomatic Corps, the Under-Secretaries of State, the Public Debt Commissioners, the clergy of every denomination, the provincial governors, the Government officials, the leading members of the commercial community, and the provincial notables. The rear of the procession was brought up by detachments of British and Australasian troops. The cortège passed down Abdin Street to the Opera Square, and then up the Mohamed Ali Street to the Rifal Mosque, which stands below the Citadel hill. The entire route was lined by British troops, and, despite the fact that the crowds in the streets surpassed anything ever seen before, everything passed off in the most perfect order. The High Commissioner and most of the officials followed the bier up to the Rifal Mosque, where they left the procession and where a religious ceremony took place, the remains of Sultan Hussein being laid to rest close to where his father, Ismail, was buried. Government offices and all public establishments were closed on the day of the funeral.

Immediately after the funeral preparations were begun for celebrating the accession of the new Sultan. His Highness Prince Ahmed Fuad, who will henceforward be styled Sultan Fuad I., announced his acceptance of the offer made him by H.B.M.'s Government by a rescript addressed to the Prime Minister, in which, after paying a tribute to the great part played by his predecessor in the administration and development of the country during the past three very anxious years, he declared his intention to devote himself in even closer collaboration with his people to the execution of the programme traced at the time of his accession by Sultan Hussein, and to the realisation of the reforms so necessary to assure the material and moral progress of Egypt. At the same time Sultan Fuad called upon Rushdi Pasha to form a new Cabinet, the old one having, by the death of Sultan Hussein, lost its mandate and resigned. Rushdi Pasha replied, accepting this command, in spite of his bad state of health and the shock which he had suffered by the death of "a master who to him was also a friend," and proposed the reconstruction of the old Cabinet as it was. His proposal was accepted, and a decree confirming the old Cabinet was at once signed and promulgated.

The following day, October 11, the new Sultan made his official entry into Abdin Palace. Shortly after

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ten o'clock his Highness left his villa near the Savoy Hotel in a State barouche drawn by four magnificent bays, with coachmen and footmen in brilliant liveries, and sais running beside the carriage. By his side sat the Prime Minister, and in open carriages following drove the other Ministers. The cortège was headed by a detachment of the cavalry of the body-guard on white horses, while immediately behind the State carriage came another detachment of the body-guard on bays. The cortège drove past the Savoy Hotel, down the Kasr el Nil and Manakh Streets, across the Opera Square into Abdin Street, and down that street on to Abdin Square, the entire route being lined with British troops. As the Sultan's carriage entered Abdin Square a salute of twenty-one guns was fired from the barracks, the British and Egyptian guards of honour drawn up outside the Palace presented arms, the Sultania Anthem was played, and the vast concourse of guests who had been waiting in the courtyard rose to their feet. The new Sultan was acclaimed all along the route, and appeared, as he drove through the Palace gates, to be very satisfied with his reception.

On alighting from his carriage Sultan Fuad was received by the Princes, the Rector of El Azhar, the Grand Mufti, the President and Vice-President of the Legislative Assembly, the President of the Mahkama Sharia, the Advisers and Under Secretaries, the principal Law Officers, and the Governor of Cairo. He was conducted to the reception hall, where a few minutes later he received the High Commissioner. Sir Reginald Wingate arrived in a motor-car, followed by other cars containing the Residency staff, General Allenby, G.O.C. the British troops in Egypt, Admiral Jackson, Major-General Stack, Acting Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan and their staffs. In presenting the Sultan Fuad his congratulations, Sir Reginald informed him that H.M. the King, with whom the new Sultan had exchanged cordial messages the previous day, had conferred on him the Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. After the High Commissioner had taken his departure, the Sultan received the Pashas, officials, and notables; no speeches were made, and the reception lasted until noon. Later on in the day Sultan Fuad proceeded to the Residency, accompanied by Rushdi Pasha. He was received with military honours, and took tea with Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate, staying at the Residency over three-quarters of an hour. His Highness, after visiting Prince Kamel Eddine at his villa, proceeded to his own villa, where he spent the night. By rescript addressed to the Prime Minister the Sultan has ordered that henceforward the wife of the late Sultan shall be known as Her Highness the Sultana Melek, and that Prince Kamel Eddine, his wife, his own daughter, the Princess Few Kia, and the three daughters of the late Sultan shall bear the title of Sultania Highnesses.

BEERSHEBA.

Beersheba, or as the modern Arabs call it Bir-es-seba, has during this present war sprung into life and notoriety after a sleep of centuries. Famous as a sacred shrine in the days of Abraham (Gen. xxi. 33), and associated with incidents in the life of Hagar (Gen. xxi., 17), Isaac (Gen. xxvi. 24), Jacob (Gen. xlvi. 2), and Elijah (I. Kings, xix. 5), it is perhaps most familiar to us as the extreme southern town of Canaan. From "Dan to Beersheba," or from "Beersheba to Dan," are constantly recurring phrases in the Bible, and our army in occupying and passing north of this spot more truly enters the actual "Land of Promise" than in any other advance they have made on the Palestine front. South and east of Beersheba the land is but a wilderness; northward and north-westwards we pass into districts which in the spring are great corn and pasture lands. Beersheba itself occupies a fertile, though treeless, expanse on the course of a great valley, which after running south from Hebron as the Wady-el-Khatil here turns westwards under the name of Wady-Bîr-es-Seba and deepens still further west into the Wady Ghuzzeh or the Valley of Gaza. The original site of the town of Beersheba (or Sheba) of Old Testament times was upon a lofty hill some three miles east of the present town. This hill is known as *Tell-es-Seba*, and upon it we have the superimposed remains of successive occupations from the Seleucid period backwards through Hebrew times to still earlier ages. Deposits of pottery enable archæologists to infer that this site was occupied altogether for considerably over a thousand years. Like all these ancient sites it is a place of considerable natural strength, and it is interesting to read that it was strongly fortified during the recent operations. After the Seleucid period a new town was built on the lower and better-watered ground where the modern buildings now are; the soil here is richly strewn with Roman and Byzantine remains, and several interesting rock-cut inscriptions have been recovered. The foundations of two Byzantine churches have also been uncovered. All this civilization decayed after the Arab conquest, and the site was utterly deserted—except by wandering Bedouin—until very recent years. The adventurous tourist who wandered far from the settled country did so at some considerable risk, and the accounts of the discovery by Professor Geo. Robinson, of Chicago, of seven choked-up wells there was read with great interest when published a few years ago. It may be mentioned, however, that Beersheba does not mean, as many suppose, the "Seven Wells" (actually there are more than seven ancient wells at this site), but most probably the "Well of the Seven," or, as is suggested in Gen. xxi. 31, "The Well of the Oath."

Only a few years before the outbreak of war the Turks decided to strengthen their southern frontier, and at the same time civilize and subdue the wandering Bedouin of this district. They cleared the wells of rubbish and, by establishing oil-engine pumps, obtained from them a perennial supply of good water. They built a Serai or Government House, a mosque, a post and telegraph office, and a Khan. Encouraged by the security thus afforded a number of merchants built shops, until the settled population must before 1914 have reached upwards of one thousand. The houses and streets were well supplied with water, and a number of eucalyptus trees were planted. An unusually enlightened Turkish Kaimakam or Governor, who really had his heart in his work, managed to convert this district into a little oasis of prosperity, where shortly before there had been nothing but desert. The small town with its smart new, red-roofed buildings, its garrison of Turkish cavalry, and its revived life was a pleasant contrast to the stagnation, desertion and ruin of a few years previously. Since the outbreak of the was Beersheba has come into much greater prominence as the chief depôt for the troops and stores accumulated for the attack on Egypt. It was soon connected up with Hebron and Jerusalem by an excellent carriage road, which was later prolonged south to el Auja. The southward extension of the Haifa-Damascus railway, which before the war was begun from Afuleh, in the Plain of Esdraelon, and was intended to link up with the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway at Ramleh, was now speedily pushed on to Beersheba itself. This place thus became of great strategic importance as the place of junction of the main road through Central Palestine with the railway traversing the maratime plain.

When we consider the comparative abundance of water here, in this the "Negeb," or waterless "South" land, and the fact that it is the eastern end of the long line of defence which the Turks have fortified against us, diagonally from just south of Gaza, the importance of its capture will be realized as great. Those who were in Jerusalem last spring report that when the British forces so nearly got through at Gaza, the garrison of Beersheba fled, and the place was for some days entirely undefended. Its capture now after a stiff fight will doubtless make an even deeper impression in Palestine. To hold Beersheba is to hold the pivot of the whole Turkish defence line. In the waterless wilderness to the east—even in the rainy season—little serious opposition to a turning movement can be made when this oasis is in the hands of the attacking force. The occupation of Beersheba, though but the first step, is actually a very great stride into Palestine. E. W. G. M.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Roumanian Supplies.

The Roumanian authorities are multiplying their efforts to avoid a repetition of the terrible situation which prevailed last winter in Moldavia. There is no possibility, unfortunately, of making home-production satisfy all the needs of the population, and, in the main, conditions of life will continue to reflect the state of affairs, in production and transport, of our Russian neighbour. At the same time nothing must be left undone to make the available land and labour as productive as circumstances allow. To that effect all market-gardening has been placed under the direct control of the authorities. Further, regulations have been issued making the cultivation of the arable lands compulsory, the Government supplying all the necessary seeds, as well as a working-capital varying from 60-80 fcs. per hectare, which is to be repaid without interest from the value of the future crop. Should circumstances resulting from the war prevent the farmers from gathering in their crops, they will be under no obligation to repay the advances made to them, and will receive in addition a compensation for expenses incurred in cultivation. In the same way the necessary labour will be procured by the local authorities.

Health Conditions.

România publishes an interview with Dr. Cantacuzino, Director of Public Health. In the army there is no epidemic. It is none the less true that we are faced with serious dangers, but we are well prepared for meeting any epidemic outbreak. Among the civil population typhoid fever is present on a small scale. This epidemic has spread somewhat of late; the fault is solely that of those who do not understand the necessity for their submitting to preventive measures. There is also an epidemic of jaundice, but that is not a serious disease. There is now no strong centre of infection, but only isolated cases of typhus; while we are able to keep the army immune by means of successive vaccinations, that is more difficult to achieve in the case of the civil population and of some of the military who avoid regular vaccination.

There was a serious danger of an epidemic of cholera, which broke out with certain force in the Dobrudja three weeks after the Roumanian mobilisation, and, as a result of contact with the Bulgarian population and troops. But the vaccinations carried out at the time not only staved, but actually suppressed, the epidemic—there is not a single case of cholera at present in the country.

We owe these results to the excellent work of our bacteriological laboratories. Not only have they covered all our needs, but they supply every month enormous quantities of vaccination material to the Russian army in Roumania. "You supply us with more doses of anti-tetanus serum than all the Russian and other bacteriological institutes together," declared the Chief of the Russian Medical Service.

Dr. Cantacuzino also mentioned the interesting fact that, while in Serbia mortality from typhoid fever was up to 50 and even 60 per cent., in Roumania it never rose higher than 15 per cent., except among the medical corps, where it reached 40 per cent.

That there is nevertheless still room for improvement is shown by the fact that during the first three weeks of August 436 deaths occurred, as against 100 births.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, Oct. 14, 1917.

The Loss of the "Cita di Bari."

The sinking of the Italian mail steamer "Cita di Bari" on her voyage from Gallipoli to Corfu has aroused quite a storm of indignation in the local Press. The Italian mail boats have so far been practically immune from submarine attack, and this disaster, therefore, came rather as a surprise, and is of particular interest here from the fact that the vessel carried about 350 Greek passengers, amongst whom were Consular officials who have come away from Turkey owing to the breaking off of diplomatic relations. These men, after having experienced the hardships of life in Turkey, and after long and painful journeys, have fallen victims of Teutonic barbarism when so close to their destination. The great loss of life is said to have been caused by the Huns firing on the passengers after they had left the ships in boats. This is the first disaster in which a large number of Greeks have lost their lives.

The Food Problem.

The census last Sunday seems to have been carried out as well as could be expected, and, as anticipated, the actual number of the inhabitants of Athens was found to be considerably less than the number of bread tickets which had been issued. The census showed the population of Athens to be 221,000, whereas 415,000 tickets were in circulation. The allowance of bread per person per day has been fixed at a quarter of an oke, equal to about 11 ounces. Each person was given a large card, marked into small divisions, one of which is to be detached daily and handed to your baker. Anyone leaving Athens must deliver his bread card to the proper authority.

There does not seem to be any improvement in the food question so far, and the tendency of everyone to hoard has the effect of immediately clearing off any necessary commodity as soon as it appears on the market. Matches, for instance, are practically unobtainable, and these and other articles are being taken over by the Ministry of Food, and will be rationed by ticket. The scarcity of fuel appears to be one of the greatest difficulties the Government have to contend with, as the train services have to be curtailed, and there is then insufficient means of bringing goods to Athens from the provinces.

It is announced that assessors have arrived in Salonika from England to assess the losses of the English offices in the recent fire. These losses are estimated to be as follows:—"North British and Mercantile," £1,200,000; "Sun," £480,000; "Northern," 250,000; "Patriotic," £200,000; "Union," £120,000; "Lancashire," £100,000; "General," £80,000; "Western," £48,000; "Central," £16,000.

The Venizelist newspapers make very sympathetic reference to the death of Mr. G. Stevens, the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent, and comment on the services Mr. Stevens rendered to Greece by his steadfast opposition to the Constantine régime. A public meeting is announced for the 21st instant to give expression to these sentiments.

THE CRUSADES.

At Sion College, on Tuesday, the Rev. J. P. Whitney (Professor of Ecclesiastical History at King's College) began a course of lectures on the Crusades. In the course of his remarks he said that during the whole period from the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries there was fighting going on between Christians and Mohammedans, but there were periods when this state of things was more acute. Eight such periods were recognised as the Crusades of 1095, 1147, 1190—of peculiar interest to us because of Richard I.'s part in it—1203, 1217, 1228, 1248, and 1270. The French nation played a predominant part in the Crusades, one result being that to-day the name Frank was a general term in the East for a European. The Crusaders found the Eastern Empire with its seat at Constantinople, then a great Christian city. The firmness of the empire was one of the great facts of history, for it gave fixed rule and general peace to the East at a time when barbarians had overrun the West. Besides the Eastern Empire, the Crusaders found the Turks, to whom they were, of course, hostile. The Empire and the Crusaders did not work well together, for the Emperor was naturally jealous of the crusading leaders, and his policy was different from theirs. Besides this, the Crusaders were of mixed nationalities among themselves, so that there was great lack of unity of control. Nevertheless, they had military success at first, and were able to take Jerusalem and to found Christian principalities in the midst of the more or less Mohammedan East. A long period of wars, followed by negotiations almost as fierce, ensued. Rivalries in trade and politics which belonged to the West were introduced into the East, and even the leadership of the Papacy, when it was made effective, was not able to unite the crusading forces. These difficulties reached their height in the Fourth Crusade, when the Crusaders sacked Constantinople and set up a Latin kingdom there.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Indebtedness of the Peasants.

The report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the extent and causes of indebtedness in the island should be one of particular interest, and it must be hoped that it will lead to some real betterment of the agricultural classes. The members are the Chief Justice, Sir Charles Tyser, Mr. J. C. Fenn, Chief Assistant Secretary, and Mr. J. S. Markides, Chief Registrar and Interpreter of the Supreme Court. Sir Charles Tyser has in several reports called attention to the conditions of village life as connected with usury. Mr. Fenn is intimately acquainted with the financial situation, having acted both as Treasurer and, for a considerable time, as Chief Secretary. Mr. Markides has had a long experience in various offices, and has been a remarkably competent interpreter in both District and Supreme Courts. A better choice could not have been made.

The High Commissioner, in his opening speech to the Legislative Council this year, spoke of the hopeless present condition, and stated that it must be provided that honest debtors who had done their best to fulfil their obligations, but failed, should be able to start afresh, after giving up their goods to the creditor, instead of having "nothing to look forward to but a life-long drudgery and dependency, or emigration to a foreign country." He referred to Solon, who had dealt successfully with a very similar state of things in Greece some 2,500 years ago.

Many interesting features of the present indebtedness of the peasantry will, no doubt, be brought to light, but it can hardly be expected that the conclusions to be drawn will differ much from those reached in the case of previous inquiries that have been made from time to time. It has long been obvious that no real progress can be made by the agricultural classes until some remedy is found against the curse of the usurer, who, as another report asserted, "still remains an incubus in every village in the island." Villagers must be helped with loans that will enable them to put into practice the lessons which the Agricultural Department is endeavouring to teach them. After many years of disappointment and unrealized schemes, it was believed in 1906 that an opportunity would be given to the Cypriot farmer by an "experiment" very similar to one which had been working successfully in the valley of the Nile. An agreement was entered into between the Government of Cyprus and the Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment Company, which gave to the latter the exclusive right of establishing an Agricultural Bank in Cyprus for fifty years. The bank was duly opened. Its principal business was to make advances to the agricultural and industrial classes upon the security of immovable property, stock and produce, and upon personal and such other security as the company might determine. The rate of interest was not to exceed 9 per cent. The movement was in large measure due to the energy of Sir William Wilcocks, who paid many visits to Cyprus. The results have, however, been disappointing, and the hoped-for era of regeneration has not yet been inaugurated. It was also trusted by many that the law passed in 1914 "to provide for the Constitution and Control of Co-operative Credit Societies" would encourage thrift and help to free agriculturists from "the yoke which still lies heavily upon them." Hopes are now once more raised that the present inquiry will not, like so many others, have been made in vain.

The subscriptions received by the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund up to the week ended November 2 amounted to £714,875. A letter has just been received by the fund from the Acting Director of the Motor Launch and Hospital Ship Department of the British Red Cross Society, who has just returned from Mesopotamia, stating that the ambulance launch "May," one of the launches provided last year by the Farmers' Fund, has proved one of the most successful boats in the country.

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CONDITIONS IN SERBIA.

Not long ago, in the Vienna Parliament, Deputy Dr. V. Ribar, protesting against the systematic extermination of the Serbian population, said:

Go to the Balkans, and you shall see how the former flourishing towns and villages are now but smouldering ruins. Not military necessity, but the deliberate will of the authorities has devastated our lands in such manner as has not been witnessed in Europe since Kossovo. Our unhappy people has been scattered to the winds; from whole districts the military authorities have carried off women and old men and children, just as did the Assyrians and Babylonians the conquered peoples of ancient times. From the vicinity of Nish alone the Bulgars have carried away 30,000 persons to the deserts of Asia Minor. It is a war of extermination of the Jugoslavs. The Allies speak about a restoration of Serbia and the unification of the Serbian race. *Serbia* they may save, but not the Serbs and Jugoslavs, for there will not be one there at all to rejoice in the blessing of peace.

In the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest a similar protest was raised by the Hungarian Deputy, Mr. Zoltan Vermes, who, referring to the barbarity of the Bulgarians and their crimes against the unfortunate population of Serbia, said:

As commandant of a detachment my duties called me to the mining village of Maidanpek, from which neighbourhood is obtained the pyrites necessary for the manufacture of munitions. The monarchy needs some 120,000 tons of pyrites, of which quantity this mine alone produces 40,000 tons; its regular working, therefore, is of capital importance for the monarchy. There are working in the mine 1,080 labourers, invalided soldiers, and interned persons from the Serbian civilian population. But the mine is adjacent to the Bulgarian administrative territory, where the Bulgarians pursue with the cruellest severity bands of insurgent Serbs, whose relatives they systematically put to death; thus at Maidanpek executions are the order of the day. Nobody troubles to bury the bodies of those who thus meet their fate; one after another whole villages are cleared of the friends and relatives of these unhappy people; the Bulgarians round up the people and send them off, some to the Dobrudja, others to Asia Minor. In this way farms are left masterless and cattle to stray over the country; and even the richest villages fall into a state of utter wretchedness, so that the workmen in the mine are unable with any certainty to procure even the barest necessaries of life. Representations had been made without result to the Bulgarian Government; it appears, indeed, that the matter is not urgent in Bulgarian eyes. Therefore, the moral obligation rests with the Bulgarian Government of taking the matter into its own hands and of trying to save the lives of at least a proportion of these poor people. But this is only a special instance; there is a crying need on every hand for a more humane administration of these lands. For nearly four years now children have gone without schooling, sick people have been allowed to die without any medical assistance or alleviations of any kind, loathsome diseases have spread among the people, and yet there is not the slightest attempt at any betterment of conditions on the part of the administration.

THE INFLUENCE OF M. VENIZELOS.

Lecturing at a joint meeting of the Historical and Classical Association at 22, Russell Square, on November 2, on "Venizelos and the Future of Modern Greece," Dr. Burrows said that in regard to material progress Venizelos made very little difference. From the establishment of the monarchy Greece had made great strides in prosperity and riches. There was also great progress in the spirit of freedom. Before this war Greek finance had gradually found itself on a very firm and sound basis. What corruption existed was the corruption of being easy-going and unwilling to offend friends. There was, however, before Venizelist times, a great amount of inefficiency. This inefficiency of administration wrought ruin in the army and navy and brought about the war against Turkey in 1897. The advent of Venizelos, Dr. Burrows continued, crystallised a renascence which had already begun. When he came the torch he carried was the torch of telling the truth, palatable or not, and that was the secret of Venizelos's strength and power. It was largely Venizelos's achievement to have built up the Balkan Alliance. During the Balkan war Greece, by having command of the sea, was able to isolate European Turkey from Asiatic Turkey. After that war Venizelos so wanted to keep Bulgaria in such an alliance that it was only as a last resort that he was driven to make the defensive treaty with Serbia in 1913. Even at the time of the treaty of Bucharest, if there had been any chance of Bulgaria to come to an agreement, Venizelos would not have asked for the Kavalla district. When Venizelos maintained that the Serbian treaty was valid he was right, and Constantine had now been proved wrong. King Constantine, with his eyes open, signed the treaty, and yet Constantine had the face to say the treaty was not valid. He was tempted by the German Emperor to come out on the German side at the beginning of the war and had been really on their side from the first. But that did not excuse our culpable mistakes in allowing him to deceive us and in giving him such wonderful chances. Looking back on the history of the war, we had no right to criticise Greece as a whole. The vast majority of Greeks never changed their minds as supporters of the Entente from first to last. We must make the Salonika front absolutely safe. If that were done there was at least the possibility of a Balkan *bloc* with us at the end of the war. That was the only way to bring Bulgaria to her senses.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FRANCE AND THE EAST.*

M. Driault's work on the Eastern Question is a standard book, and he has done wisely to bring it up to date, so far as it can be brought up to date. Unfortunately, history moves too quickly in these days for the historian, and there are signs that the last chapter was written in the brief period between the intervention of Roumania and the fall of Bucharest. A remark, too, that the Eastern front has become as immovable as the Western is obviously no longer true, and the reaction of the Russian revolution, with the necessary (or unnecessary) consequences on the whole Eastern Question, consequently lies outside the scope of this book. That is one of the difficulties of writing contemporary history, and in this case contemporary history almost necessarily involves a certain amount of prophecy. And one can hardly blame the historian if he refuses the mantle of the prophet; his vocation has made him too painfully familiar with the unfulfilled prophecies of the past to compete in that dangerous trade.

The author, as is well known, takes a wide view of the Eastern question. Considering its essence to lie in the conflict between Christianity and Mohammedanism, he is forced by his thesis to examine the position not merely in the Balkans and Asia Minor, but from India to Senegambia, and to pass in review the colonial policy of all the Great Powers in Africa and Asia. It would be easy, of course, to pick holes in a narrative that is necessarily condensed. We think, for instance, that he gives too great credit to our own Government for a continuity of foreign or colonial policy. Before the last ten years or so it had certainly not been visible to Englishmen, and possibly a further examination of our political biographies, official documents and—if M. Driault is of the true heroic mould that befits a son of France—even of our Victorian statesmen's speeches will convince him that rather considerable fluctuations have occurred from time to time. It is true that the caravan has marched on in the end, but it has sometimes turned aside from the straight path when the political dogs have barked particularly loudly. His glowing account of the brilliant work done by France in the founding of her new colonial empire—a work whose excellence is becoming more and more understood in England, whose judgment in colonial affairs is at least that of an expert as well as a friend—is, however, a model historical summary, whose only fault is that it is not sufficiently detailed. But, in view of his main proposition, that the Eastern Question is emphatically one of rival creeds, he does not appear to bring out sufficiently one outstanding contrast between British and French administration. He remarks, quite truly, that France is introducing her civilisation, which is essentially Christian, in Mohammedan countries; and he suggests that it may be possible to fuse the two creeds and the two ways of life in one new culture, suitable to the country and the people, under French control. He does not elaborate this pregnant thought, no doubt for the reason that it would require a whole treatise to do so: but also he does not point out the contrast with the British system, which tends, so far as it can, to leave religious questions outside the ambit of statecraft altogether. The contrast is significant; it is impossible at present to say which method will be finally endorsed by history. It is always possible that both will have a partial success. Nor does M. Driault mention the fact, rather sadly admitted by many of our own luminaries, that in many, if not in most, parts of British Africa Islam is progressing more rapidly than Christianity. A study of the different methods pursued by French and British evangelists would be of great interest.

On the actual problem of the Near East, M. Driault is emphatic that the only solution, after a long and patient analysis of the various elements of the case, is that which he briefly describes as "the end of Turkey"—with Germany debarred from sharing in the estate as too late a comer to the sick man's bedside. In England at least there will be no disposition to criticise this attitude. On the other hand, as regards the federation or union of the Balkan States, he is pessimistic. The formation of the Balkan League, he remarks, was a miracle, and miracles do not commonly repeat themselves. He cites the Allied and German diplomacy of 1914-16 as evidence of the difficulty of accommodating their rival interests; but this is not altogether conclusive. The Allies were undoubtedly sincere in wishing to reconstruct a Balkan League, but their diplomatic methods were as unfortunate as their military ideas at that time, and Germany was frankly cynical in her policy. But cynicism is not necessarily a guarantee of permanent success.

We have only to add that since it is in the nature of things that an eighth edition of this book will soon be called for the author should at once add the additional chapter which recent events in Russia has now made inevitable.

A. W. T.

*La Question d'Orient. Par Edouard Driault. (Librairie Felix Alcan, Paris. 7f.)

GERMANY AND THE BALKAN FRONT.

GREEK DIPLOMATIST'S REVELATIONS.

ATHENS, November 6.

The *Eleftheros Typos* publishes the following information regarding the offensive projected by the Germans in Macedonia—information which is known to emanate from a young Greek diplomatist who served in Berlin and afterwards at Berne where he remained until the dethronement of King Constantine, whose faithful servant he was, and who has now been dismissed from the service. He says that negotiations between the German Staff and King Constantine for an offensive began in 1915, when the Allies' forces in Macedonia were not formidable. The Germans, unwilling to employ their forces on the Balkan front, persuaded King Ferdinand of Bulgaria to undertake the offensive, and then General von Falkenhayn demanded King Constantine's assent. King Constantine replied that he himself had always advocated an offensive on condition that it was made only by the Austrians and Germans, as he did not trust the Bulgarians. The Germans thereupon officially guaranteed that the Bulgarians would evacuate Greek territory immediately after the Allies had been driven away, but King Constantine still hesitated, and the Germans then threatened to withdraw the guarantees they had given. At this juncture the Queen intervened, and King Constantine assented on the following conditions:—

1. The supreme command to be in German hands
2. No initiative to be allowed to the Bulgarian commanders.
3. The Bulgarians not to be allowed to enter Macedonian villages.
4. All damage caused and all requisitions to be paid for immediately.
5. No Bulgarian officer or soldier to be allowed to enter Salonika.
6. The Greek territory to be evacuated immediately after the operations were over.
7. Monastir to be ceded to Greece as compensation.

These conditions were proposed through a diplomatic channel, and Herr von Jagow replied that, as far as the conditions of a military order were concerned, means would be found to have them accepted by the General Staff, but he would not hear of the cession of Monastir. General von Falkenhayn apparently favoured King Constantine's conditions, and submitted them to the Kaiser, who referred them to Field Marshal von Hindenburg. Hindenburg, however, who was in constant disagreement with Falkenhayn, categorically declared that an offensive on the Balkan front was unprofitable, inasmuch as the concentration of the Allies' forces at Salonika relieved the situation on the Western front. Hindenburg further maintained that, if the Bulgarians were given the opportunity to occupy Salonika, they would immediately conclude peace with the Entente, while it was the Central Powers' interest to retain them as Allies till the end of the war. Hindenburg's determined attitude put an end to all idea of an offensive on the Balkan front, which, according to the dismissed Greek diplomatist, never took place and never will take place. Hindenburg's view, he says, has always prevailed.—Reuter.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

India and the Future. By William Archer. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 16s. net.)

The Tenth (Irish) Division in Gallipoli. By Major Bryan Cooper. (London: Herbert Jenkins. 6s. net.)

Roumania's Causes and Ideals. By Leonard A. Magnus, LL.B. (London: Kegan, Paul, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

Walter Greenway: Spy and Hero. By Robert Holmes. London: W. Blackwood and Sons. 5s. net.)

Inside Constantinople: A Diplomat's Diary. By Lewis Einstein. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

The Everlasting Quest. By Henry L. Webb. (London: Macmillan and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. November	1917. October.		1336. Muharram.	5678. Heshvan.
9	27	Friday	24	24
10	28	Saturday.....	25	25
11	29	Sunday	26	26
12	30	Monday	27	27
13	31	Tuesday	28	28
	November			
14	1	Wednesday	29	29
15	2	Thursday	30	30

The Greek Minister was among the diplomatic visitors to the Foreign Office on November 2.

Lord and Lady Oranmore and Browne have arrived in London from Castle Macgarrett, Co. Mayo.

A Constantinople telegram dated October 31 announces that the Parliamentary Session has opened.

M. Voislav Antonievitch, the Serbian Chargé d'Affaires of the Legation in Rome, has left London for Italy.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the Serbian Minister at Berne, arrived in London on November 2 from Switzerland on her way to America.

A number of Serbian officers have been decorated by the Roumanian Government for their heroism when fighting with the Roumanian Army.

The Order of the White Eagle, 4th Class (with swords), has been conferred on Cdr. (Acting Captain) Dennis A. H. Larking, C.M.G., by the King of Serbia.

At a General Court of Governors of Guy's Hospital, Colonel Sir Francis E. Younghusband, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., was elected one of the Governors of the Corporation.

Sir Spencer Harcourt Butler, Lieutenant-Governor Designate of the United Provinces, had an audience of the King on November 5 at Buckingham Palace.

M. Milos Jadjiz, a sub-lieutenant in the Serbian Reserve, who is now at the Salonika front, has during the war lost six brothers, all of whom were killed in the ranks of the Serbian army.

According to an Athens message, Mr. Balfour's reply to Mr. Buxton in the House of Commons on the question of the position of Bulgaria has come as a great relief, and has created an excellent impression in Greek official circles.

On October 30 the King of the Hellenes visited the barracks at Athens and inspected the troops. He expressed his satisfaction at the new spirit of the officers, whom he urged to hasten the preparations for war in order to crush the Bulgar enemy.

On the recommendation of the Hellenic Government the King of the Hellenes (Reuter's Agency learns) has conferred the Grand Commandership of the Royal Order of the Saviour on M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister in London, for distinguished services.

M. Venizelos arrived in Rome on November 2, and subsequently proceeded to Nice, where he arrived on Sunday evening. Reuter's Paris correspondent reports that M. Venizelos is expected there when M. Painléve returns from Italy, and that he will afterwards proceed to London.

According to a statement made in New York by Mr. Frank W. Jackson, chairman of the Relief Committee for Greeks of Asia Minor, the Turk has turned against the Greek Christians in his dominions, and more than 700,000 have fallen victims to persecution in the form of death, suffering or deportation.

Mr. Frederick Ongley, Registrar-General in Cyprus, is on his way home on leave, and spending some time in Paris. Mr. Ongley is the best Turkish scholar among the British in Cyprus, and has been able to render good service on that account not only within, but also outside, the sphere of his own department.

The Foreign Secretary has appointed an Advisory Committee in London to consider the drafts of the legislation for Egypt which is being prepared by the Capitulations Commission in Cairo. The Committee consists of:—The Lord Advocate (chairman), Mr. Justice Rowlatt, Sir Mackenzie Chalmers, Sir Erle Richards, Mr. C. J. B. Hurst, Mr. W. R. Briscoe, and Mr. H. W. Malkin. The secretary is Mr. L. C. Liddell, 21, St. James's Square, S.W.1.

The offices of the Roumanian Government Committee of the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement have been removed to Queen's House, Kingsway.

A memorial service for Lord Basil Blackwood, Grenadier Guards, will be held at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, on Tuesday, at 12 o'clock.

Viscount Knutsford was the principal speaker at the annual meeting of the Highgate War Hospital Supply Depot on November 6, at which during the past year nearly a quarter of a million articles were made to be sent to hospitals in Mesopotamia, Serbia, Italy, Belgium and Roumania, and to the casualty clearing stations and hospitals in France.

Archdeacon Beresford Potter, since he left Cyprus, accompanied by Mrs. Potter, has had, it would seem, some unlooked-for experiences, if our information is correct. He decided to avoid the Mediterranean and to travel home by the Cape. But at Ceylon he found this was impracticable, and resolved to proceed by Japan and the Siberian railway. The outbreak of the revolution in Russia caused another change of plan, and he went viâ San Francisco to Canada, where he now is.

Sir Michael O'Dwyer, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, speaking at the Jhelum Durbar (says Reuter's Lahore correspondent in a message dated November 4) said that the Government had not been slow to recognise the claims of those fighting, for it had placed at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief 178,000 acres in the Lower Bari Doab colony, to be allotted as rewards to those who have rendered distinguished services in the field. The Punjab's contributions to the Indian Army since August 1, 1914, the Governor added, amounted to about 220,000 men.

During July, August, and September 592,240 books were sent from the Red Cross and Order of St. John War Library to the sick and wounded. Of these 199,320 were distributed in Great Britain, 27,000 in Alexandria, 21,800 in Malta, 36,680 in Salonika, 11,000 in Bombay, 47,920 in Busreh, 2,000 in Port Said, and 240 in Roumania. Gifts of books from the public are urgently needed, and should be sent direct to the Hon. Secretary, War Library, Surrey House, Marble Arch, London, W.1.

Reuter's Corfu correspondent writes that on his appointment as Italian Prime Minister, Signor Orlando sent M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, a message expressing anew "the feelings of sympathy and solidarity felt by the Italian people towards the generous people of Serbia," and asserting Italy's faith in victory. To this M. Pashitch replied, saying that it was his "deep conviction that the Italian people, guided by its patriotism, which is proof against everything, and by its gallant army, which is ready for everything, will obtain a definite victory over the common enemy."

The Postmaster-General announces the loss through enemy action of parcel mails containing in most cases about a fortnight's postings from China, Hongkong, Siam, North Borneo, Straits Settlements, Ceylon, India, Mesopotamia, Aden, British Somaliland, Egypt, Cyprus and Malta, and dated as follows:—Shanghai, August 28; Hongkong, August 31; Singapore, September 10; Penang, September 13; Colombo, September 22; Busreh, September 15; Calcutta, September 22; Karachi, September 23; Madras, September 25; Bombay, September 27; Aden, October 5; Port Said, October 11; Cyprus, October 3; Malta, October 18. No letter mails were lost.

The Times correspondent with the Roumanian Army says that the anniversary of Queen Mary's birth was celebrated on October 29 in a spirit which showed the desire of the whole nation to manifest its deep love and gratitude for all that her Majesty has done for this country since the outbreak of war. Notwithstanding manifold difficulties and dangers, the Queen has always remained among her beloved soldiers in the hospitals, both throughout the hardships of last winter and during the heavy fighting this summer, encouraging and cheering by her presence the sick and wounded. Time and again her Majesty was to be seen in the hospitals right up at the front, and repeatedly she was exposed to the bombs of enemy aeroplanes. When those around her begged her to take shelter, she always refused, replying, "We are all bound to do our duty in time of danger," and proceeded with a smile on her errand of mercy as if nothing had happened.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The *London Gazette* announces that the King has approved the appointment of General Sir Arthur Arnold Barrett, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., and Lieutenant-General Sir William Riddell Birdwood, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., to be Aides-de-Camp General to his Majesty, in place of General Sir Beauchamp Duff, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., C.I.E., and General Sir John Eccles Nixon, K.C.B., Dated November 3, 1917.

Mr. T. F. D. Miller, K.C., has been appointed Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Patna, in the place of Sir Edward Chamier, who has resigned.

M. von Etter, Russian ex-Minister at Teheran, has been appointed Minister to Portugal, and M. Stochin, Councillor of the Russian Embassy at Tokyo, Minister at Teheran.

OBITUARY.

COLONEL H. M. VIBART.

Colonel Henry Meredith Vibart, late Madras Engineers, whose death took place on November 1 at Woodlands, Henley-on-Thames, was born at Taunton in 1839. He was the second son of Mr. Henry Vibart, Madras Civil Service, and was educated at Addiscombe College, obtaining his commission in the Honourable East India Company's Engineers in the Mutiny year. He arrived in India in 1859, and was shortly afterwards appointed to the Public Works Department. He became Under-Secretary for Irrigation in 1879, and ten years later was appointed Superintendent Engineer. He retired from the service in 1891. He published the "Military History of Madras Engineers and Pioneers; an Account of Addiscombe, its Heroes and Men of Note"; "Richard Baird Smith, the Leader of the Delhi Heroes of 1857"; and a Life of General Sir Harry Prendergast, V.C., G.C.B., R.E.

Colonel George Dodsworth Stawell, whose death took place at Bristol on November 2, in his sixty-ninth year, received his commission in 1868, and was for some time Director of Military Education in India.

Lord Abercromby, whose death occurred in London last week, was a descendant of Sir Ralph Abercromby, who died at the battle of Alexandria in 1801, and whose widow was created Baroness Abercromby immediately after his death.

The death has occurred in India, at the age of 62, of Mr. R. L. Shubrick, who was appointed Superintendent of Gaols in Madras in 1890. He was the only son of the late General R. Shubrick and grandson of the late Sir W. R. Gilbert.

Major Linwood Field, M.C., R.F.A., second son of Mr. Moyle Field, late of the Irrigation Department, P.W.D., Punjab, was killed on October 26, while in command of a battery. He was educated at Wellington College and Woolwich, and obtained his commission in the R.F.A. in 1908. He served in South Africa and India, and went to the front with the Indian Expeditionary Force in 1914. He received the M.C. for great gallantry in saving the wounded under heavy shell fire last year.

Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Augustus Fitzroy Nailer, I.M.S., retired, has died at Bedford. Educated at Edinburgh University, he qualified as a Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Edinburgh, and was on military duty till 1882, when he was appointed Civil Surgeon at Chingleput, reaching the rank of lieutenant-colonel. He was district medical and sanitary officer at Tanjore from 1899, and retired from the Service in 1903.

Mr. Reginald Pemberton Russell, C.S.I., whose death has occurred at Hill View, Uckfield, at the age of 57, was a son of the late Rev. S. F. Russell, rector of Isfield, Sussex. He was educated at the Royal Indian Engineers' College, Egham, and Coopers Hill, and was appointed to the Public Works Department in India in 1882. He served on the Punjab Irrigation Works from 1883 to 1907, when he was transferred to Burma, where he served as Superintending Engineer and Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government.

The funeral took place on November 5 at All Saints', Ennismore Gardens, of Colonel R. C. Hare, of Reymerston Hall, Attleborough, Norfolk, who died on October 31. Born in 1844, he was the eldest son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Richard Hare and a great-grandson of the first Earl of Listowel. He became an ensign in the 22nd Cheshire Regiment, and later was appointed A.D.C. to Sir C. A. Windham, then Commander-in-Chief in Canada. After being adjutant to the Cheshire Regiment, he served through the Ashanti Campaign, and subsequently passed through the Staff College. He served in Cyprus as D.A.Q.M.G. to Viscount Wolseley, and was then appointed brigade major at Aldershot. In the Egyptian Campaign of 1882 he was twice mentioned in despatches, and received the medal, bronze star, and the brevet of major, and was appointed to the Medjidie Order, Fourth Class. Later he commanded the 64th Manchester District and the 24th Brecon District, and was made a C.B. in 1900.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

ADDINGTON.—On November 1, at Jhansi, India, the wife of Captain the Hon. R. A. Addington, of a son.

CARRE CARTER.—On October 31, at 77, Gunterstone Road, W., the wife of Major J. F. Carre Carter, I.A., General Staff, of a daughter.

YOUNG.—On October 22, at Ridgeway Place, Simla, the wife of Gerard Mackworth Young, I.C.S., of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

STOW—NASH.—On September 17, at the British Consulate, Tunis, Lieut.-Com. Charles Fenwick Stow, R.N., youngest son of the late Rev. Fenwick W. Stow, Vicar of Aysgarth, Yorks, and Mrs. Fenwick W. Stow, of 14A, Edith Grove, Chelsea, S.W., to Cicely Ingle Nash, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Turrell Nash, Guildford, Surrey.

DEATHS.

LASSALLE.—On October 15, at Grasse, A.M., France, Lieut.-Colonel Lassalle, retired, Bengal Army, and Assistant Commissioner at Beawr and Agmere.

LIVINGSTONE.—On October 30, at Altrincham, Arthur William, late of Baghdad, youngest son of the late Alexander Speid Livingstone, aged 53.

RUSSELL.—On November 2, at Hill View, Uckfield, Reginald Pemberton Russell, C.S.I., late Secretary to Government of India, P.W.D., aged 57 years, eldest son of the late Rev. S. F. Russell, of Isfield.

KILLED IN ACTION.

RAWLING.—Killed in action on October 28, Brigadier-General Cecil Godfrey Rawling, C.M.G., C.I.E., commanding Infantry Brigade, beloved son of Mrs. Rawling, of 16, Montagu Street, Portman Square, W.

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THE ALLIES AND ROUMANIA.

The moral of the grave setback in Italy is that the Allies cannot afford to regard their various fronts as so many watertight compartments, in each of which whatever happens is the concern only of those immediately in charge. Where the honour of all is pooled, so is their responsibility. If the Italian authorities were aware of the enemy's attempts to suborn the loyalty of the troops on the Isonzo, they did wrong to ignore them; but they were even more ill-advised to disguise the fact from the Allied Governments. The defence of that particular sector of the vast line which stretches from the channel through France, Italy, and the Balkans to the Gulf of Finland was not a purely Italian affair, even though Italian troops were unsupported save by a handful of Allied gunners. It would have been better, therefore, to have disclosed the special weakness to which this sector was exposed, in order that joint counsel might have been taken to cope with it. In Italy the mischief is already done, and other steps have had to be taken to make good the deficiencies in the co-operation of the Allies. It is not too late, however, to apply the experience thus gained. What has happened on the Isonzo may, unless the necessary precautions are taken, recur on other fronts. The signal success of their intrigues in the one case will make the Germans the more eager to redouble their similar efforts elsewhere, and the Allies should see to it that the danger is discussed with as much frankness by the authorities concerned as would be the shortage of munitions or the need for special help. But it is not merely to guard against intrigue that a tightening up of joint responsibility is required. A reverse at any one point affects directly or indirectly the whole of the long Allied front, and as far as possible the steps employed to obviate such an event ought to be applied with equal thoroughness in every sector. For the time being Russia drops out of the picture. If M. Kerensky really meant to suggest that she was "worn out," the reference must have been to that exhaustion that comes from over-talking and not from fighting. That the Petrograd for which he speaks is not Russia may be inferred from the scarcity of food in the capital, while plenty reigns elsewhere. The Russian giant is bemused with the drugged wine of revolution, but as soon as he has thrown off the stupor his strength will return to him.

Fortunately for the Allies the vastness of Russia prevents the enemy from pressing home his advantage, and having helped to place a dangerous weapon in the giant's hand, he leaves him in the hope that he may do himself a mortal injury. A more vulnerable spot was offered by Italy, and there for the present the Germans stand committed. If they have resources for another assault, the blow must almost inevitably fall upon Roumania, and even if the season of the year or other causes hinder military operations, intrigue no less insidious than that which undermined the defence of the Isonzo will be set on foot in the Carpathians and along the Sereth. Are then the Allied Governments better informed of conditions on the Roumanian front than they were of the situation in Italy? We have no means of knowing; but there can be no doubt that more attention is likely to be given to the subject, if public opinion in Great Britain shows an enlightened interest in Roumania's position. A message from Odessa to *The Times* states that in well-informed quarters the opinion is expressed that the Russian and Roumanian troops will succeed in maintaining their positions throughout the winter, enabling the Roumanian Court and Government to remain in residence at Jassy. For both armies, however, the correspondent adds, the question of supply is now becoming urgent. It requires no special knowledge to understand the real significance of this message. The fact that even the possibility of a further retreat in Roumania had to be contemplated is serious enough; but as no limit could be put to the extent of the failure of the Russian Army, there could be no certainty in regard to the degree in which the Roumanian Army might be involved. Apart from this consideration, however, there is clearly a more preventable danger to be guarded against—the shortage of food. In the narrow limits of the territory left to them the Roumanians, we believe, have done wonders; but they have not been able to grow sufficient grain for the requirements of their own population and of the large Russian Army within their borders. Foodstuffs must reach them from without; that is to say, they must come from or through Russia. There is abundant evidence to prove that Russia has in the country more than enough for her own needs and those of Roumania. Defective organisation and other causes have led to local shortages, and practically nothing is reaching Roumania. Even if the Allies felt obliged to stand aside, while Russia worked out her own salvation, they cannot allow the Roumanians to starve; still less can they remain indifferent to the prospect of the Russian and Roumanian armies leaving their present line in Moldavia in order to find in Russia the food that they know is to be had there for the asking. In a matter of this nature the Allied Governments can be deterred by no fears of wounding susceptibilities. Between now and January Russia's railways and her whole system of transport must be reorganised with a view to providing both Russian and Roumanian troops with the supplies of which they are in urgent need.

When the history of Roumania's part in this war comes to be written, it will be seen that she has a special claim on the respect and admiration of her Allies. No people, probably, has found itself so rapidly as the Roumanians. There were many aspects in Roumanian public life before the war that were regretted by the more thoughtful Roumanians themselves. The gulf between the peasants, who formed nearly five-sixths of the population, and the upper classes, the lack of the sense of responsibility shown by the latter and the low standard of administrative efficiency—these and other admitted failings have been shed with wonderful completeness under the pressure of the crisis through which the country has passed. There is now an admirable solidarity between all sections of the nation. The army under French training has been welded into a splendid fighting machine, and no praise is too high for it for the manner in which it checked von Mackensen when the Russian withdrawal in the north threatened to involve the whole eastern line. The organisation behind the battle front leaves nothing to be desired; the Roumanian railways are in good working order, and if supplies of food and munitions are forthcoming, Roumania, with the help of the Russian troops fighting with her, will yet render a good account of herself. It rests with her Allies to see that her efforts are adequately supported and in time.

LORD HARDINGE AND MESOPOTAMIA.

H.H. the Maharaja of Bikanir, on the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the Hardinge Municipal Hall at Bikanir (says Reuter's Bombay correspondent), paid an eloquent tribute to Lord Hardinge. India, the Maharaja said, never had a better or a truer friend. In referring to the Mesopotamia report, the Maharaja declared:—"India realises that the initial failure of the campaign was due to a military system which sooner or later was foredoomed to fail, and especially so under the strain of a war of this magnitude. India knows that only theoretically can Lord Hardinge be held responsible."

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JUSTICE IN INDIA AND EGYPT.

(*Continued.*)

By COLES PASHA.

It will be seen that the French classification of offences into crimes, delits and contraventions has, as far as the Courts are concerned, been entirely abandoned. Plurality of judges, another important feature of French justice, is now only considered necessary when dealing with the grave offences tried by the Assize Courts, from which there is no appeal except on a point of law (Cassation).

Whether the abolition of the right of appeal is or is not a reform was a point much discussed in Judicial circles when the change was made. It is remarkable, too, that this change in the law in Egypt was brought about at the very time that a Court of Appeal in criminal cases was being created in England. But anything was better than the old system in Egypt, where the accused had to appear and witnesses were generally recalled before the Court of Appeal, necessitating months before a prisoner was finally convicted. The Indian system of the Appeal Court confirming the sentence or otherwise on evidence recorded by the lower Court without calling up the accused or witnesses did not find favour in Egypt, though suggested as an alternative to Assize Courts.

In every other respect the reorganised Tribunals are undoubtedly a success. The Cantonal Courts (the late Lord Kitchener's creation) are probably copied from Petty Magistrates' Benches in certain districts in India. These are the only Courts in Egypt not officered by the regular Judiciary. Personally, I am of opinion that these Cantonal Courts should have increased powers, and the head of the sub-district (Mamur-el-Merkaz) should be ex-officio chairman. This would bring these Cantonal Courts more in line with third-class magistrates' Courts in India. I fancy, too, that, as local government develops in India, we shall see more of these Benches gradually taking the place of local third-class magistrates.

The question will probably now be asked, Why with all these admitted reforms in Egypt do murders and robberies still continue so prevalent? Is it to be attributed to the fact that the administrative officers are still without any magisterial powers? This undoubtedly was the principal cause in the early days of the occupation; but so many years have passed since the Mudir was dethroned that I doubt whether reinstating him in his former position on the Indian lines would now have the desired effect. Public security must, I think, be improved by some other means.

In an earlier paragraph a brief reference was made to the Parquet system. Some years ago an English barrister found himself attached to the Parquet on his arrival in Egypt, and, so the story goes, naïvely asked "What is the Parquet?" It is a very natural question for anyone not conversant with French Codes to ask, and I will endeavour to answer it.

The Parquet is the Public Prosecutor's Department, presided over by the Procureur-Général, without which no French Court can take action. The members of the Parquet are solicitors and barristers combined, pleading to the briefs they have themselves prepared. In Egypt they are also Committing Magistrates, taking the place of the French Juge d'Instruction. Except when arresting defenders caught *in flagrante delicto* the police as a body have no defined powers other than may be delegated by the Parquet in each case. A Parquet inquiry is not a "Police Investigation" in the Indian and English sense, but a "Judicial Inquiry" admissible as evidence, and has in consequence to be very carefully prepared. I have been told by more than one Judge of Appeal that they rely more on this preliminary inquiry than on evidence subsequently recorded by the Courts, when "the witnesses have been got at." This statement would most certainly shock an Indian magistrate, but it must be remembered that the whole tendency of the French Code is to complete the trial before the Court is reached. On the other hand, any Indian police officer will tell you that in the East evidence has to be extracted, and it by no means follows that the original statement of a witness is the one to be relied on!

In Egypt there is no law of evidence to guide a magistrate or police officer, and I leave my readers to imagine the amount of irrelevant matter which usually forms part of a *procés verbal* (Judicial Proceeding), to say nothing of contradictory statements made by the same witness. All this has to be waded through, and sifted by the judge dealing with the case. Luckily for the prosecution, Egyptian judges are not so particular as in India, and evidence is accepted which an Indian magistrate would not listen to. Notwithstanding this, the percentage of acquittals is very high.* An Egyptian Court gets through many more cases in a day than an Indian Court, the Court Proceeding being often very summary when compared with the Parquet inquiry.

We thus see that it is the Parquet and not the Police who are responsible, or should be held responsible. But the trouble does not end here. The members of the Parquet are highly educated (Egyptian Schools) young men, undoubtedly more intelligent than the average police officers, and probably of a higher standard of morality, but their forte is with the pen and not in the saddle. They visit scenes of crime, it is true, but never sleep out, if they can possibly avoid it, pinning their faith on cross-examinations conducted in their own offices, where witnesses are all summoned. Again, their long residence in Cairo to complete their legal training has left them out of touch with village customs almost as much as a European. Finally, as subordinates of the Ministry of Justice, they are officially quite independent of the Mudir, the head of the Province, who takes his orders from the Minister of the Interior.

Theoretically, the legal acumen of the Parquet and the local knowledge of the Police should prove a combination hard to better. But in practice it is by no means a success, as the interference of the Parquet in the large majority of misdemeanours and in all serious crime enables the police officers to shift the burden of responsibility to other shoulders. Unfortunately, too, this drawing up of long *procés verbaux* is a very infectious disease, and the amount of time and ink wasted by police officers in the petty cases left to them to deal with is appalling, time which would have been more profitably spent inspecting villages and making themselves generally acquainted with their charges.

This is all very different from the Indian system, which provides for the assistance of the Public Prosecutor in serious cases, but only to advise on points of law and to speak to a brief prepared by the police. In India the police know that not only are they responsible for the prevention of crime, but also for the detection and prosecution of offenders.

Of course, the Egyptian Parquet should take the place of the Indian Criminal Investigation Department, and it is a matter of comment that the English police officers have been allowed to create a criminal investigation department alongside the Parquet. I doubt whether there is any country in the world where, for its size, so much money is expended on the prosecu-

* 1913. Serious crime—Classed and undetected, 1,841; acquitted, 318; convictions, 1,813; pending, 124; death sentence, 29.

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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tion of offenders, and, I may add, with such poor results.

To the Indian authorities I say, therefore, stick to the Courts and your Code of Criminal Procedure. You will not improve on it, even if Nationalists have earned the right to govern themselves to a certain extent.

The Egyptian Government has paid heavily all these years in both blood (murders) and treasure (stolen property) for its obstinacy in not adopting the Indian system from the first, but to go back to that system now is, I am afraid, too late. There is no reason, however, why the existing Parquet system should not be vastly improved. Let the whole Parquet, with the Procureur-Général, be transferred to the Interior, abolishing or amalgamating with the Parquet the Criminal Investigation Department. Let them cease to be Committing Magistrates, which power may be granted to Summary Judges (see table printed in last week's issue). Make the young members of the Parquet understand that they are not magistrates so much as legal advisers of the police, and with them will be held jointly responsible by the Minister of the Interior for the prevention of crime. See that the responsibility is exacted, and in a few years there will be no longer any necessity for H.B.M.'s representatives to write apologetic reports for the state of public security.

I must not close this article without some reference to the Bureau of Antecedents, and system of finger prints organised by Harvey Pasha, Chief of the Cairo Police. It is the one department in Egypt which has nothing to learn from either India or England, and I might almost say France. I remember some years ago a high judicial official stating in one of his annual reports that he had yet to learn that there were many Egyptians with criminal antecedents! Harvey Pasha's Criminal Antecedent Sheets with finger prints have altered all this, and, what is more to the purpose, the Egyptian Courts now no longer hesitate to accept these sheets as evidence of identity. It was only a few weeks ago that I read about some magistrate in England who was converted to the finger-print system, apparently much against his will. I, too, constantly read in the Press that such and such a warder or constable was being put up as a witness to identify the prisoner as having previously served a long term of penal servitude. When I mentally compare this crude procedure with the system appertaining in Egypt, well, I smile!

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE HON. EVELINA HAVERFIELD'S COMFORTS FUND FOR SERBIAN SOLDIERS AND PRISONERS (REGISTERED).

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—May I ask the hospitality of your paper to publish a special urgent appeal on behalf of Serbian soldiers and prisoners?

In conjunction with the Serbian Relief Fund, I am arranging to send comforts to the Serbs in the trenches at Salonika. These men, it should be remembered, form an army of "lonely soldiers," who have now no country from which to receive parcels.

Those of us who have seen the Serb under all conditions —when flushed with his brilliant victories over the Austrians in 1914; when, alone and unsupported, facing the combined attacks of Austria, Germany and Bulgaria in the autumn of 1915—those of us who shared with him hunger and captivity, and others who took part in that terrible march across the Albanian snows, realise that every effort must be made to contribute to the comfort of Serbia's heroic army throughout the coming winter.

In appealing for woollen comforts, I would also ask for concertinas, flutes and mouth-organs. If all readers of this letter would put even sixpence into an envelope and send it to me at the above address, think what a substantial help that would be!—Yours faithfully,

EVELINA HAVERFIELD.

22, Old Burlington Street, W.1.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN

It is to be hoped that some conscientious German professor has been compiling a list of the references to *Kultur* in public utterances during the war, with a view to publishing a Cult of Kultur Honour List. The Emperor, of course, would easily head the document. Even if the Germans could disguise from themselves the fact that the mere mention of the word gives the world furiously to laugh these days, one would have thought that they would by now have grown tired of the oft reiteration of it. But no; their hide-bound complacency is proof against anything, and quite solemnly they proclaim to the world the solidarity of German and Turkish co-operation in the peaceful works of *Kultur*. If I were a member of the Committee of Union and Progress, I should no doubt rather like the idea, but if I were a German I should blush for *Kultur*. Seeing that it is essentially of German invention and of German make, one would want to know how it came about that it was so easily assimilated by Turks alone of the people of Europe and Asia.

***

The decipherment of the messages exchanged between the Athens and Berlin Palaces seems unlikely to increase the world's respect for either ex-King Constantine or his better half. The treachery of the former in offering to attack the Allies in the rear, if only his Royal Brother-in-law would attack them in the front, will hardly surprise anyone, after the revelations that had already been made before this latest batch; and if anybody is surprised by ex-Queen Sophie's reference to the Allies as "infamous pigs," they must have lost sight of her Hohenzollern ancestry. As tales that I have told before in these columns would indicate, the temper of this Royal Lady has apparently developed at the expense of her manners. When she found herself (and her husband) in a tight place, it was quite natural for her to relieve her feelings in language which elsewhere than in Prussia would be left to the fish market.

***

That useful, if unornamental, animal, the Pig, will no doubt experience a certain relief if it learns that a comparison has been instituted between itself and the Allies. The only other comparison drawn between it and Man, in this war was, I believe, that instituted by Jemal Pasha in the moment of exasperation when he heard of the Goeben's treachery in the Black Sea. Then, you will remember, he exclaimed furiously: "*Ce cochon de Souchon!*" But Admiral Souchon was, after all, only a German; and the pig must have felt pretty bad about it ever since.

***

The air raids by moonlight have undoubtedly caused many people in this country to pay more attention to the movements of the moon than ever they have done before. One heard such strange-sounding expressions as, "I'm afraid we are going to have a clear moonlight night," and "There doesn't seem much hope of clouds or rain just now, does there?" These expressions do not, as a rule, indicate fear, but rather annoyance. But the fact remains that the moon has become an object of special interest. One lady remarked to me that she supposed the moon was more closely watched and more talked about now than ever before. She was surprised when I pointed out to her that in Moslem lands the new moon that begins Ramadan and the one that ends that month of fasting are both looked out for by many millions of people with an anxiety that no thought of Gotha or Zeppelin can stir in the stolid Englishman. It is possible that the Germans may greet the appearance of the full moon with wild enthusiasm, as affording them a fine chance for "frightfulness"; but I am quite sure that their enthusiasm is as nothing compared with that of the Moslem who hails the moon that puts an end to the Fast of Ramadan.

A KITCHENER MEMORIAL CHAPEL.

The Lord Mayor presided at the Mansion House on November 2 at a meeting of the Council of the Lord Kitchener Memorial Fund, when a committee was appointed to confer with the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's as to the practicability of erecting a memorial chapel in the Cathedral. With regard to other aspects of the memorial, it was stated that a committee of educational experts is preparing a scheme of Kitchener scholarships for sons of officers and men serving in the present war, and for young men already in the fighting forces whose academic studies have been interrupted by the war.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Vote of Thanks to the Army, Navy, and Mercantile Marine. Oct. 29.

[Considerations of space prevented any reference last week to the Vote of Thanks to the Army, Navy and Mercantile Marine. No summary can do justice to the speeches delivered by the Prime Minister and Mr. Asquith on that occasion, but we may append here the references to the Indian Army.]

Mr. LLOYD GEORGE: ". . . . And then there is India. How bravely, how loyally she has supported the British arms! The memory of the powerful aid which she willingly accorded in the hour of our trouble will not be forgotten after the war is over, and when the affairs of India come up for examination and for action." . . .

Colonel YATE: May I, as an old Indian officer, be permitted to say one word to associate myself with what the Prime Minister has told us regarding the doings of the Indian Army in this war? We must remember that the 70,000 men who formed the first force from India landed in France in the autumn of 1914, just about the time of the first battle of Ypres, and that they came just in time to fill up the gaps then, and to help to hold the trenches until our New Army was ready. Those men came over at a moment's notice—the first Indians, I may say, that ever came over to fight in Europe, utterly strange and foreign to the country. We all know that Indians can stand heat, and we know, as the result of the Tibet Expedition, they can stand cold, but what Indians cannot stand is wet and cold. Now, the way those 70,000 men stuck it out there through the whole of that terrible winter of 1914-15 is a thing that should always remain in our memory for generations to come. They took their full share in the trenches. I have often heard described the terrible sufferings they went through—how, when they got out of the trenches, their feet were so swollen that they could hardly crawl back to their billets; how the little Ghurkas were up to the waist in mud, and it took two men to get each of them out of the trenches. Well, those men stuck it all through the winter of 1914-15, and we owe them undying gratitude for what they did. The infantry afterwards went to Mesopotamia. The Indian cavalry are still in France, and will have their fourth winter there this year. Not one of those men has had leave, and yet there is not a murmur. Those Indian cavalrymen have lands and have great cause to want to get home, and yet there they are. We hear continual complaints here of men not getting leave for eighteen months, yet those men have been nearly four years in France and have never had any. It is the same with the Indian Army in East Africa; the men have never had any leave, and we hear no grumbling. The Indian Army also has served in Egypt and done well there. They have also won admiration in Salonika and elsewhere. I need not say a word about Mesopotamia or as to how the Indian forces stuck it throughout the whole siege of Kut. The country owes a great debt of gratitude to the Indian Army, and I am proud to think that they have now received this mark of appreciation.

Wheat Elevators. Oct. 31.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if he would state what steps were being taken by the Government of India to further the erection of wheat elevators in India.

Mr. FISHER: I understand that the Punjab Government are constructing, as an experimental measure, an elevator at Lyallpur, the centre of the wheat trade of the Punjab. The war has delayed its completion. Until the system has been practically tried its suitability to Indian agricultural conditions cannot be confidently predicted.

Tobacco for Soldiers.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India if presents of tobacco and cigarettes sent to soldiers in India were admitted free of duty; and, if so, why the same privilege was not accorded to the officers.

Mr. FISHER: The concessions already granted are as stated by the Secretary of State in reply to the hon. member for the College Division of Glasgow on June 21 last. After careful consideration of various proposals the Government of India have decided that they cannot further extend these concessions.

Royal Indian Marines.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether the petition presented to the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in May, 1916, by the commanders and senior lieutenants of the Royal Indian Marine had yet been considered, and, if so, whether he could now state the terms of the reply.

Mr. FISHER: No information is available here regarding the petition in question. But the Government of India have proposed certain measures which were sanctioned in May and July last respectively, namely:—(1) Grant of certain supernumerary promotions in succession to officers specially retained on the active list since January 1, 1916, in the rank of first-grade commander and chief engineer. (2) Adoption of naval designations for officers of the executive and engineer branches of the Royal Indian Marine, including the grant of the rank and title of captain to officers hitherto designated first grade commanders.

Forestry in Cyprus. Oct. 25.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would state what amount had been sanctioned this year for the development of forestry in Cyprus; what area of land had been declared State forests; what laws had been issued for the protection of these forests; and what steps had been taken for the encouragement of the growth of the carob tree and other similar products of the island.

Mr. HEWINS: The answer to my hon. friend's four questions are:—(1) £40,843; (2) over 700 square miles; (3) the Forest Laws of 1879, 1881, and 1889, the Fuel Ground Law of 1901, and the Goats Law of 1913; (4) improved methods of cultivation and of protection against pests have been introduced, and facilities for instruction in agriculture and forestry have been provided at various centres.

The Secretary for India's Absence.

Sir JOHN JARDINE asked the Prime Minister—(1) Whether he would state which of the Secretaries of State, during the absence in India or on his way there and back of the Secretary of State for India, has and performs the powers and duties relating to the government or revenues of India contemplated by the Government of India Act, 1915, and in particular what Secretary of State during the absence of the Secretary of State for India from the realm does, as provided in Clause 2 thereof, superintend, direct and control all acts, operations and concerns which relate to the government or revenues of India, and all grants of salaries, gratuities and allowances, and all other payments and charges out of or on the revenues of India; (2) which of the Principal Secretaries of State is, during the absence from the United Kingdom of the present Secretary of State for India, responsible to the Crown and Parliament for the exercise of the Royal prerogative in the Government of India; (3) whether he would state what officer of the Crown does, during the absence from the United Kingdom of the present Secretary of State for India on his expedition to India, exercise the duties of convening and deliberating with the Council of India and of voting at meetings of that Council, and in particular in regard to such matters as Section 28 of the Government of India Act, 1915, requires to be decided at a meeting of the Council of India with the concurrence of a majority of votes in respect of raising money, mortgaging estates, making contracts, and giving assurances.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, replying to Sir J. Jardine, said:—Technically my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for India, during his absence from this country, retains responsibility for the due and proper exercise of the powers vested in him by the Government of India Act, 1915, and an Act of Parliament would be required to relieve him of these responsibilities; but the Cabinet were of opinion that as a temporary expedient the following arrangements would suffice. Despatches to India require the signature of the Secretary of State. Any Secretary of State may act for any other, and at present the despatches are being signed by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Most of the powers of the Secretary of State for India are exercised by the Secretary of State in Council, and the Act provides for meetings of the Council for the transaction of business in the absence of the Secretary of State. Council continues to meet weekly, the Vice-President presiding, as required by the Act. Urgent questions of the first importance will be decided by the Cabinet. Questions of importance, but not of great urgency, will be decided after the Secretary of State for India's views have been obtained by telegraph. Questions of less importance will be decided in the Department in accordance with ordinary Departmental procedure. Lord Islington, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, represents the Secretary of State in the Ministry and in Parliament.

Commander WEDGWOOD: Do I understand that Lord Islington is not actually acting in place of the Secretary of State at present?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: Yes, he is acting for the Secretary of State, so far as anyone can act for him.

Commander WEDGWOOD: And has the powers which the Secretary of State would have in Council?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: That is subject to what I have already said: "So far as it is possible for anyone else to act for him."

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN: Is my right hon. friend aware that the Vice-Chairman of the Council selected from time to time by the Council, and in the absence of the Secretary of State from Council meetings, takes the chair; also that the Parliamentary Secretary of the office is not a member of the Council, and has no right to speak there, though he habitually attends its sittings?

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER: I was not aware of that.

[Mr. Chamberlain subsequently corrected his statement by saying that, in consequence of the absence of the Secretary of State for India, the Under-Secretaries of State, though not voting in Council, were now empowered to address the Council on subjects which come before them.]

Replying to Mr. LOUGH, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said: We could not have made any other arrangement except by an Act of Parliament. The arrangements to be made in his absence were submitted by the Secretary of State for India to the Cabinet, and approved by them.

East African Campaign (Indian Troops). Nov. 6.

Colonel YATE asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he could state what arrangements had been made to inquire into the condition of the Indian troops serving in East Africa, with special reference to their medical equipment, convalescent treatment, and rationing.

Mr. MACPHERSON: Yes, sir; a special inquiry is being made by officers who have been deputed for this purpose.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Future of Albania.

Miss M. E. Durham has written an interesting article on the Albanian question in the *Contemporary Review*. A devoted friend of Albania, she has the firsthand knowledge of the country that enables her to penetrate below the surface of the feud of rival chiefs and tribes, and what she invites her readers to look upon is a people with a national instinct strongly developed and consciously striving throughout the generations for political unity and independence. Miss Durham, in popular language, "has no use for" Essad Pasha. She is prepared to welcome an Italian protectorate, with a foreign prince as ruler. Her solution of the Albanian question is as follows:—

France and Italy have now reclaimed those districts for Albania; France has declared Koritza an Albanian republic, and has again hoisted the Albanian flag there. The reason why Albania's foes are so anxious to deprive her of Koritza is that there are large deposits of brown coal and copper in the neighbourhood. And they hope by depriving the Albanians of all their cultivable land and mineral resources to make independent existence impossible for them.

Albania's future must now be considered. It has been amply proved that a mixed Commission of control is useless, as the Commissioners work each for his own country and not for Albania. Greece and Bulgaria, when first liberated, were given strong protectors, and financed till able to stand alone. Albania should receive similar protection. And of the many Powers Italy seems the best qualified for the post. It is very much to her interest to have a strong Albania and a friendly one on the Adriatic coast. Albania has traded amicably with Italy since the early days of the Venetian Republic, and, as we have seen, Venice and Albania together resisted the Turkish invasion.

Another proven point is that Albania's worst troubles have been caused by her rival Beys. Old Prenk Bib Doda, head of the Mirdites, remarked cheerily one day to the Prince of Wied: "If you want to make a united Albania you must hang Ismail Kémal, Essad Pasha, and me—don't forget me!" It is not necessary to take such drastic measures, but nations on all sides are throwing off their hereditary despots, and the Albanians are well aware that the Beys, who have torn Albania to pieces in the past, must not be allowed to do so in the future. There is not one hereditary Bey whom the nation as a whole would now accept as ruler. They ask for a foreign Prince, but a better one this time—and protection.

Italy, if she will see that Albania's frontiers are so rectified that all Albanian districts are included within it, and will say, "Hands off!" to would-be intruders, would give such satisfaction to the whole nation that no objection is likely to be made to her holding Valona with a small garrison. But it must be clearly understood that no attempts at Italianising are made, and that Albania is free to develop on her own lines and save her own soul. Such an arrangement would make for future peace. Albania divided between the Serbs and Greeks would be only a future Poland and a source of great weakness to those who annexed her. The Albanians are second to none in the Balkans for energy and intelligence, apt both at trade and handicraft. Other Balkan peoples have been given their chance. The Albanian has struggled for freedom as much as any of them. Let us hope that his day, too, will now dawn.

THE EDUCATION OF WOMEN IN EASTERN LANDS.

There was an interesting discussion at a meeting of the Société Internationale de Philologie on Monday, when Lady Stuart delivered an address on the position of woman, and, still more, of the child in East and West. She said that one of the links which should unite East and West was the education on proper lines of the mothers of this country and of those of India. The present system of education in this country she condemned, as not taking into account the individuality of each child, and she outlined a scheme for the education of the women and children of India on better lines.

Mufti Mohammed Sadig said that much of what had been said by Lady Stuart was applicable, not only in India, but to the whole of the East. Over thirteen centuries ago the Holy Prophet had perceived what was required as to the education of the young, and had solemnly declared that Paradise lay at the feet of the mother.

Professor Léon said that he did not know India; but that, so far as Turkey was concerned, for some time past the Government there—particularly during the reign of the ex-Sultan—had been making efforts to educate the female population. Many girls' schools had been established, a large number of them being organised at the cost of Abdul Hamid's privy purse. The education given therein was similar to what used to be a girl's education in England.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Brief but significant reference is made in the White Paper on Malta in 1916-17, some extracts from which are given elsewhere, to the effect of war conditions in the Colony. Like other parts of the Empire, Malta has been affected by the increased cost of the necessaries of life, and the influence of this factor has, it is stated, been accentuated there because of the high proportion of the industrial and labouring classes to the total population. This factor has had the natural effect of preventing a corresponding rise in wages, with the result that every advance in the cost of living has been acutely felt. The situation which has thus arisen has been met by Government measures of a similar nature to those which have been adopted in this country. Steps have been taken for the contral of prices and the maintenance of supplies, and these objects are being attained by the operations of a Food Control Board and a Supplies and Prices Board.

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Financial and trade matters during the year are very briefly summarised in the report, and I must, therefore, withhold extended comment until the arrival of the annual Blue Book. It may be noted, however, that the finances of the Colony have sustained a slight set-back, and that owing to increased expenditure there was a debit balance of £2,304 on the year, as against a surplus in 1915-16 of £52,613. Trade conditions in general were satisfactory. Imports were well above the average, while exports showed an increase of £30,803. During the year considerable progress was made in agriculture; 42,687 acres were under cultivation, as against 41,614 in the previous year, and the area of uncultivated land had diminished to 3,979 acres. Of this area 18,330 acres were under cereals, an increase of over 4,000 acres, and it is pointed out that the advance is to be attributed to the high prices obtainable for produce.

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A correspondent of THE NEAR EAST gives some very interesting particulars this week of the latest development of German methods in Roumania, which make it clear that matters are pursuing exactly the same course there as in Belgium. It seems that the German authorities in the occupied territory have now issued an order for the liquidation of concerns in which the Allied subjects are interested. This latest example of peaceful penetration is one which particularly affects this country, for, as our correspondent shows, British interests in Roumania are greater than those of any other of the Allies. In this connection it will be noticed that the present order only affects this country, France, and Belgium; and that American and Italian interests are so far untouched. One wonders at the idea at the back of Germany's mind in these subtle distinctions.

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No doubt the principal reason for the order is to be found in the extent of British interests in Roumania, since while Germany must know that her coming defeat will render anything she does now null and void, she is probably under the impression that her action will cause a good deal of annoyance. It may also be due to the desire to render the process of reconstruction as complex as possible. In the case of any other country one would hesitate to draw this deduction; but Germany's conduct during the war has been such that even this intention cannot be dismissed as out of the question. Incidentally I imagine that the first sign that the process of confiscation was in operation was afforded by the report of the treatment accorded to the Bank of Roumania in Bucharest, to which I referred recently.

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In imposing an excise duty on sugar manufactured and consumed in the country the Egyptian Government has adopted a prudent method of raising additional revenue. Sugar has been selected for this taxation for the very good reason that its price in Egypt has kept far below what it brings in Europe. Its price works out roughly at 3d. per pound, and the duty of £E.14, which is estimated to produce £E800,000 a year, is expected to add 1½d to the price, an addition which, it is maintained, the public can well afford to bear. There is no possibility of the increased price affecting consumption and so hindering production, for it must be remembered that export requirements will readily absorb any surplus that may exist. It may be pointed out in this connection that the export of sugar has greatly increased since the commencement of the war, and last year 28,000 tons were exported a total which, according to present indications, will be easily surpassed this year.

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I think it may be of interest to my readers to give the figures and particulars of the redemption arrangements so far as is known of various Turkish note issues, which are covered in one form or another by the Central Powers. The first issue was £T5,661,000, repayable in gold six months after peace, and secured by gold deposited in safes in Germany and Austria. The second and third issues, amounting to £T7,800,000, and £T11,700,000 respectively, are covered by German Exchequer bonds, and are to be repayed in gold a year after peace. The fourth issue, amounting to £T27,777,940, is covered by German bonds deposited in Constantinople, and its term of redemption in gold is from three to seven years after peace; and the fifth, totalling £T32,000,000, is also covered by German bonds, and is redeemable in gold in from eight to eleven years after peace. The last issue of notes covered by Germany amounted to £T50,000,000, and was made against the deposit of German bonds. The total value of the notes issued in these circumstances amounts, therefore, to over £T134,000,000.

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Signs have not been wanting for some time that Germany's Near Eastern allies are no longer quite so friendly disposed to Germany's commercial methods as they were. The latest indication of this emanates from Bulgaria, where, according to a correspondent, whose message appears on another page, in order to take public attention from the war, wide schemes are being undertaken for the promotion of trade. The motive no doubt has Germany's full approval, but the means adopted are evidently the cause of considerable anxiety, for she sees that the process of keeping the Bulgarian public quiet will entail serious drawbacks to her own commercial enterprises in that country. There is just a suspicion, of comic opera about the business; for Germany is suffering from too frequently demonstrating her methods, which, judging by the correspondent's description of the expansion of Bulgarian banking enterprises, that country must have studied to considerable advantage.

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I am glad to note that next year's British Industries Fair will be on a more pretentious scale than on previous occasions. This institution in the course of its short life has already firmly established itself in public favour, and its promoters are so impressed with its success that they rightly look upon it now as an annual event. It is certainly a most valuable medium for its purpose: the capture of enemy trade. On each occasion the fair has been held, buyers have come from all parts of the world, and much business has been done, and the development of the project suggests very forcibly that if the fair does not actually eclipse the Leipzig Fair after the war it will at any rate prove a most formidable rival to that event.

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The August return of the National Bank of Egypt of the Egyptian note circulation shows that at the end of that month the total note circulation was £E18,400,000, an advance of £E1,100,000 on the July figures. The gold reserve against the note issue amounted to £E4,482,309, as against £E4,852,609, while the holding of special British Treasury bills came to £E4,717,691, as against £E3,797,391. The holding of Egyptian Treasury bills was unchanged at £E2,876,250. There was also no change in the amount of Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, but British Treasury bills and Exchequer bonds amounted to £E5,768,239, as against £E5,218,239 at the end of July.

COMMENTATOR.

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GREAT BRITAIN, SERBIA, AND ROUMANIA.

Development After the War.

It is probably not an exaggeration to say that the most difficult problem of reconstruction after the war will be found in the Balkans, and, if it is difficult, it will be so because the needs of the Near East are as yet only imperfectly understood in the West. There is a tendency to think that the word "settlement" covers all that is required, and that when that process has been accomplished nothing more will be necessary. It is well, therefore, to emphasise the fact that so far from this being the case, the task of seeing that the Central Powers make due reparation for the damage they have done in Serbia and Roumania will only be the first duty of Great Britain and her Allies. Settlement in that limited sense would merely secure these States their former existence, and that is not enough.

A Final Settlement.

The chief object of the Allies is to achieve a settlement of such a nature as will, if not prevent, at least render remote the possibility of future wars. It would be the very negation of this policy if the Balkan States were restored without being strengthened, for it is certain that, be the results of this war ever so unfavourable to the Central Powers, Germany and her Ally will still continue to cast longing glances towards the East, and when time has enabled them to recover to some extent from the strain of the war they will only be deterred from translating these glances into action by the fact that the way to the East is barred by strong independent communities. This was far from being the rôle of Serbia and Roumania before the war, but it will be theirs in the future, if this country sees to it that the development of their material resources is not hampered or hindered by the lack of capital. We say this country, because Great Britain alone of the Western Powers (America excepted) is likely to be in a position to help other countries after the war. Her assistance will in the first place take the form of loans, but these will require to be supplemented by private enterprise, and the extent to which this will be forthcoming will depend entirely on whether financiers can be induced to take a large view of their obligations. They will be faced with a profusion of promising opportunities at home and these will no doubt tend to diminish their interest in foreign undertakings especially in a field like the Near East which they have hitherto regarded as precarious, and to induce their co-operation to a requisite extent it will be necessary not only to impress upon them the importance of the issues at stake in the Balkans, but also the fact that capital invested in countries like Serbia and Roumania is likely to prove in the end a far from unremunerative investment. Once they understand the position they may be trusted to take the right view of their responsibilities.

There can be no question of the character of the issues at stake. The problem is briefly whether or no we are willing to prevent the possibility of a return to pre-war conditions in Serbia and Roumania, with all that would imply. To ignore the needs of these countries, or only to give them half-hearted assistance, would mean that as soon as the Central Powers had in some measure recovered their strength, they would again find an easy field for their commercial penetration in the Near East, and once more we should see Serbia economically in the grip of Austria-Hungary, and Roumania being "peacefully" exploited by the Ally of the Dual Monarchy. The mere contemplation of this possibility is enough, and we must hope that nothing will be left undone to prevent the remotest chance of its recurrence.

Economic Prospects.

It may possibly be asked whether the prospects of the economic independence of Serbia and Roumania are such as to justify optimism. As to this there is little room for doubt. Neither country, it must be remembered, has enjoyed a very long period of independence, and their existence has been maintained under the worst possible conditions. They have had to face external dangers from many quarters, and their economic development has been carried on under the hopeless handicap of having to be constantly prepared to defend their hardly-won freedom. But despite the fact that war and the preparation for war have occupied the greater part of their energies to the detriment of internal affairs, both countries have, all the same, been able to make a considerable economic advance, and it is certain that their position would have been materially improved before the war, if only they had had adequate financial assistance. In this respect, of course, Roumania has been much better off than her neighbour, for the reason that her vast oil resources have attracted capital from all parts, and have indirectly tended to draw attention to the potentialities of the country. But the work of development there has only begun, while in Serbia, which has been practically neglected by foreign capitalists, very little progress has been made in the realisation of her undoubted resources. The primary need of both countries is for communications of all kinds, if their industrial possibilities are to be realised, and this requirement is particularly pressing in the case of Serbia, in order that she may not be compelled to avail herself in the future of the trade routes of the Central Powers. Once the roads, railways, and it may be added ports, are adequately developed both countries will be on the high road to economic freedom.

Pre-War Schemes.

Wide schemes of development of this nature were, as a matter of fact, on foot in 1914—a fact which speaks volumes for the energy and the recuperative powers of these States, seeing that a comparatively short interval had elapsed since the Balkan wars. In Roumania, indeed, a vast field was being opened up for engineering enterprise. It was proposed to erect works of various kinds in the Dobrudja, and there was to be much road making and railway construction there, while in Roumania proper new railways and bridges were to be constructed. The proposals were not, however, limited to work of this character. They also included town planning to some extent, and in Bucharest itself it was intended to build a great central railway station, a new town hall, and also larger Government offices. Serbian development was to run on very similar lines. There, also, much railway construction was in view. A trans-Balkan railway from the Danube to the Adriatic was to be completed, there was to be a line from Uskub to Monastir, and the Salonika railway was to be linked up with other lines. In addition, there was in view the canalisation of the Morava river, with the idea of the reclamation of vast areas of uncultivated land. All these schemes were contingent, of course, on financial facilities from abroad, and it is doubtful whether capital would have been forthcoming sufficiently quickly to make rapid progress possible. After the war it will be the duty of this country to see that it is possible to proceed with this construction at once as a preliminary to the industrial development of these countries. Failure in this respect will not only postpone the industrial future of Serbia and Roumania, but it may even mean that when it comes it will be through the medium of the Central Powers—a fact which is sufficient in itself to set failure on one side.

The Position of Bulgaria.

Even when adequate assistance has been given to Serbia and Roumania to assure them a prosperous future, it is by no means certain that the task of Great Britain in the Balkans will be completed. The prosperity of the Balkan countries is, for various reasons, dependent to some extent on the condition of their neighbours. In other words, affairs in one district have a habit of interacting elsewhere, and it would be the height of bad policy if Great Britain were content to promote the establishment of a series of Naboth's vineyards in the Balkans for the envy of less fortunate neighbours. It may, in short, be necessary, if after the total requirements of our friends in the Near East have been completely satisfied, to make loans for the purposes of development even to a country like Bulgaria, which has taken arms against us, for it must be remembered that a nation whose economic circumstances are indifferent must always be a danger to peace; for a discontented people are readily induced to engage in warlike adventures, on the principle that nothing can happen which is likely to alter their state for the worse, while the hazard of war may conceivably mean the dawn of better things. In this fact lies a clue to past history in the Near East. When the war ends Bulgaria's position will be in every way inferior to that of her Balkan neighbours, and it will be a long time before she will be able to look to her German Allies for assistance. Her economic position in the meantime is likely to do anything but reconcile her to the growing prosperity of her former opponents, and thus assistance given to them alone can hardly advance the hope of a permanent settlement in the Near East. The idea of helping Bulgaria is admittedly repugnant to our sentiments at this moment, but when the time for help comes it will probably be found that the recipient is no longer the country ruled by a Coburger and governed by a clique in German pay. The aim of the Allies must be a federated Balkans; everything possible should be done to bring that about; and, having brought it about, to see that it is maintained in prosperity on a sound basis.

U.S. LOAN TO ROUMANIA.

Coincident with the news that a conference has been sitting in London to consider the Roumanian situation (says Reuter's Washington correspondent in a message dated November 5), it is announced here that the United States have advanced 3,000,000 dollars to Roumania through Russia.

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MALTA IN 1916-1917.

A Satisfactory Position.

A White Paper has just been issued containing a report on the Blue Book for Malta for 1916-17, from which we give the following extracts :—

The revenue for the year 1916-17 was £460,165, and the expenditure £462,469; there was, therefore, an excess of expenditure over revenue of £2,304. The total amount collected on dutiable articles imported for his Majesty's Naval and Military Services, and subsequently refunded to the Imperial Government in the form drawback, was £38,352. The actual revenue for the year was, therefore, £421,813, and the actual expenditure £424,117. The net surplus on March 31, 1917, stood at £43,074, as against £45,378 on the corresponding date of the previous year.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of the imports of merchandise, including the value of goods entered by parcel post and excluding bullion and goods imported for transhipment, was £3,318,412, as compared with £3,213,890 in 1915-16, showing an increase of £104,522. The value of imports during the year was £835,945 above the average for the past three years. The value of exports amounted to £589,552, as against £558,749 in 1915-16, showing an increase of £30,803 in the year under review. Food, drink, and tobacco account for £168,384 of the total, raw materials for £369,402, manufactured articles for £13,265, and miscellaneous exports for the remainder.

Agriculture.

The total area of land under cultivation was 42,687 acres, as against 41,614 in the previous year, while the area of uncultivated land was estimated at 3,979 acres, as against 4,780 in 1915-16. At the end of the year under review, the number of holdings was estimated at 11,107 (the average acreage being 3.7 acres per holding), as against 11,095 in 1915-16. The principal agricultural products were cereals (including wheat), barley, and "mischiato" (a mixture of both), forage, potatoes, cumnin-seed, and onions. The total area under cereals was 18,330 acres, as compared with 14,157 in the previous year, the increase being due to the high prices of wheat, barley, etc. The total yield was :—Wheat, 30,160 quarters; barley, 18,856 quarters; and mischiato, 4,982 quarters.

The area under beans and other pulse was 2,005 acres, against 2,231 acres in 1915-16, and the total yield was 3,430 quarters, as compared with 4,386 quarters in the previous year. The area planted with potatoes was 3,190 acres, as against 3,161 acres in 1915-16, and the total yield was 190,900 cwts., as compared with 304,500 cwts. in 1915-16. The quantity of imported potatoes during 1916-17 was 49,836 cwts., of which 47,386 cwts. were used as seed and the rest consumed locally or re-exported.

The area planted with onions was 1,279 acres, as against 1,219 acres in 1915-16. The yield amounted to 6,054 tons, as compared with 6,607 tons in the previous year. Cummin seed was planted on 923 acres, against 2,597 acres in 1915-16. The yield amounted to 3,725 cwts., as against 13,795 in the previous year. The total quantity of oranges, lemons, and mandarines gathered is estimated at 169,500 dozen, as against 181,750 in 1915-16. There was no exportation of oranges during the year.

Cotton was grown on 817 acres, as against 946 acres, and the total yield was 158,420 lbs. (or an average of 193 lbs. per acre), against 183,580 lbs. (an average of 194 lbs. per acre) in 1915-16. The average price per lb. obtained was 9¼d. The quantity exported was 102,434 lbs., as against 22,778 in the previous year. 10,913 acres were under clover, barley green, vetches, etc., as against 11,012 acres in the previous year. The total yield amounted to 323,114 loads of ten bundles each, as compared with 310,415 loads in 1915-16.

GERMAN METHODS IN ROUMANIA.

"Liquidation" of Allied Interests.

(From a Correspondent.)

An order has been issued by the German authorities in the occupied territories of Roumania arranging for the liquidation of undertakings in which the preponderating capital, either directly or indirectly, belongs to British, French, or Belgian citizens, or undertakings which are conducted or supervised from British, French, or Belgian territory. This also applies to British, French, or Belgian shares in an undertaking. The new order is based on the German order concerning the compulsory management of enemy undertakings in Belgium, which was proclaimed on February 17, 1915, and amplified by supplementary provisions on February 18 and December 30 of that year.

British Interests Concerned.

Great Britain, France, and Belgium have mostly invested their capital in the petroleum trade, the capital invested by France amounting to 45, of Great Britain to 115, and of Belgium to 10 million lei. The Italian capital invested in the petroleum trade was estimated in 1914 at ten and the American capital at fifteen million lei. As will be seen from the order, only British, French, and Belgian undertakings are affected at present. Amongst the British undertakings affected by the new order the foremost is the Bank of Roumania, Limited, which was founded in 1865, and is the oldest of the larger Roumanian Banks, besides being the Court bank of the Roumanian Royal Family. Before the entry of Roumania into the war this bank had a capital of about forty-five million lei. In none of the Roumanian banks had France an overwhelming amount of capital invested, nor is the Belgian influence in the Roumanian banks so great that the Belgians hold a controlling position in any particular institution. If one examines the number of British, French, and Belgian undertakings, it will be seen that British interests are, comparatively speaking, more affected than French.

BRITISH COMMERCIAL BANK.

The share interest in the British Commercial Bank, Limited, having been acquired by a well-known financial group, all the directors, namely, Mr. Gerald Walton Williams, Mr. George Grinnell Milne, the Hon Mark Francis Napier, and the Hon. Edmund William Parker, have retired from the board in favour of representatives of the purchasing group. Mr. G. H. Butterfield remains as manager.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

At a meeting of the Commercial Committee of the House of Commons on Wednesday a report from a Sub-Committee was considered and adopted on the Government scheme for a Commercial Intelligence Service. The view is expressed that the present proposals should be given a fair trial, though the committee remain of the opinion that a Ministry of Commerce should be created, and they trust that this development will follow in due course.

FRANCE IN MOROCCO.

The Work of Development.

Lecturing for the African Society at King's College, London, on November 2, on "The Work of France in Morocco," Mr. J. M. McLeod, British Consul at Fez, declared himself to be an enthusiast with regard to France's work in that country during the past five years. Discussing what had been accomplished, he said that the first step had been the establishment of a friendly feeling, and the fostering of local trade and the establishment of a medical service helped most effectively in attaining the desired result. "So complete has been the success," he added, "that, notwithstanding the numerous temptations afforded by the war, and the intrigues of our common enemy, not a single area has tried to secede from French influence." Veterinary, agricultural, and meteorological services had been established, and attention had been paid to forestry, the preservation of ancient monuments, and the administration of justice.

Financial Policy.

As regards the financial policy pursued by France, Mr. McLeod said that £1,450,000 had been spent on roads, £400,000 on hospitals and dispensaries, £400,000 on schools and colleges, £80,000 on irrigation, £40,000 on the preservation of historic monuments, and £2,000,000 on the port of Casablanca. Light railways extended over 250 miles; there were 1,000 miles of mule tracks for wheel traffic in dry weather, and 250 miles of macadamised roads. The new schools numbered about 70, with 6,000 scholars; there were high-class, secondary, and primary schools for Europeans, Franco-Arab schools for girls and boys, technical schools and workshops, and schools for the children of Senegalese soldiers. France, he went on, might not be able to continue her past liberality; she would have to take stock of the natural resources of the country, and the Protectorate would have to adopt the arduous but wholesome method of self-help. In paying tribute to the work in Morocco of Sir John Drummond-Hay, Mr. McLeod said that it was Sir John's great treaty of 1856 which first put foreign relations with Morocco on an indisputable footing, and provided the basis on which foreign influence could be brought to bear on the country.

Sir Harry Johnston, Vice-President of the African Society, who presided at the meeting, said that the admirable work already achieved by France gave promise of still greater development in the opening up of Central Africa. Lord Carnock said that France's energy had been almost American in its "push," and warmly acclaimed the policy of the "open door" and equality in trade. Dr. Churcher and Mr. Travers Buxton also joined in the discussion, and expressed keen appreciation of the work of France in Morocco.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Compressed Gas for Motors.

Allusion was made in last week's Engineering Notes to a compressed goal-gas equipment for motor vehicles. The cylinders, made of metal and specially constructed to meet a pressure of 250 atmospheres (3,750 lb. per square inch), are made in various dimensions, the largest being 48 inches in length by 8 inches in diameter. Such a cylinder at a pressure of 125 atmospheres would carry about 170 cubic feet of gas. We now hear that another equipment has recently been brought out, with cylinders made of a composition of rubber and canvas, and other materials, which is giving very satisfactory results. The cylinder, about 54 inches long by 15 inches diameter, and weighing about 60 lb., will hold, it is said, the equivalent of two gallons of petrol. Therefore, rating 250 cubic feet of coal-gas as being equivalent to one gallon of petrol, the cylinder would carry 500 cubic feet of gas, or, on the assumption of ten miles to the gallon of petrol (= 250 cubic ft. of gas), the cylinder would contain fuel for twenty miles. Thus, two or three of these cylinders coupled up and carried on the roof of the car would represent the equivalent of four or six gallons of petrol, sufficient fuel for forty or fifty miles. The interest which has been aroused by the rubber and fabric cylinder for carrying coal-gas under high compression has, apparently, encouraged a well-known rubber firm to take up and equip further premises to be devoted exclusively to this new branch of industry.

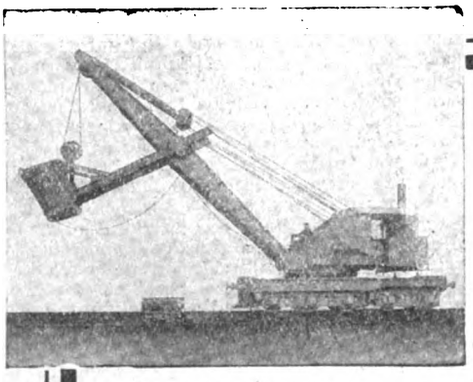
A Motor Street Washer.

A probable disillusion for a traveller in the East is the uncleanliness of the streets. The cause may be traced to the climatic conditions, to the inadequate system of road making, to the lack of modern methods and implements for cleaning the streets, and not infrequently to the Oriental apathy of some municipal authorities who adhere to the old hand-brooms and watering barrels because they have not seen or heard of the modern mechanical means for street cleaning, etc. A motor street-washing-machine which has recently been inspected at work by the municipal authorities of a London district would undoubtedly interest all municipal authorities in the East. The vehicle is fitted with a tank capable of holding 1,100 gallons of water, and the water is sprayed on to the road surface through two spherical nozzles, fitted in front of the chassis, under a pressure varying from 36-60 lb. per square inch, at an angle of 45 degrees, by means of a centrifugal pump driven from the engine. This high pressure water loosens the dirt, and the road surface is cleansed by means of rubber squeegees, made in three sections fitted on to a hinged framework, fixed under the chassis about midway between the front and rear axles, and free to adapt itself to inequalities of the road surface. It is claimed that twenty to twenty-five miles of roadway can be washed in a day, and the machines can also be used, if required, for ordinary street watering. Apart from the obvious merits of the machine in view of the present shortage of labour, and the satisfactory results, such a machine would be a boon to many towns in the East.

Petroleum in Great Britain.

We had occasion in previous engineering notes to refer to the possibility of striking oil in commercial quantities in this country. Since then the Government Bill making provision for oil-searching in the United Kingdom has been brought forward, but in spite of the speed with which the Bill is progressing in the Parliament, and the experts' opinion, there are still many who doubt whether oil in commercial quantities will ever be found here. Yet there are abundant proofs that true oilfields exist in England as well as in Scotland. Probably it is not well known that as early as 1847 a petroleum spring was discovered in Derbyshire, which for two years yielded about 300 gallons daily of a dark, thick oil, and then dried up, but scientists whose advice was asked at the time did not know much about it, and the spring was abandoned. Later in 1859 oil was struck in Scotland, where the Broxburn shale-oil works were established and a regular home supply of paraffin was secured. This was followed by just as satisfactory results in other parts of Scotland, and the success of these Scottish oilfields would have been greater had the source of the American rock oil not been found about the same time. That natural oil, requiring far less treatment, and being in great abundance, had the effect of paralysing the Scottish oil industry. In 1892, after a slight earthquake shock in Somerset, there appeared considerable quantities of petroleum in a water well, but after several barrels had been secured the supply ceased. The results of recent borings at Kelham, near Newark, Norfolk, and other districts also proved the existence of oil. With regard to Heathfield, which we mentioned in previous engineering notes as a promising field, it is perhaps not well known that near the Heathfield railway station the railway company started boring in 1896 to find water, but after going some hundred feet down gas was discovered. This was utilised by the railway for the lighting system of the station, and it was also used in Heathfield itself for a time. A company was formed to exploit the gas, and found it in every way satisfactory, pure, and of exceptional heating quality.

A foreign expert recently expressed to the writer his firm belief that England will soon be found to be one of the important oilfields in Europe.



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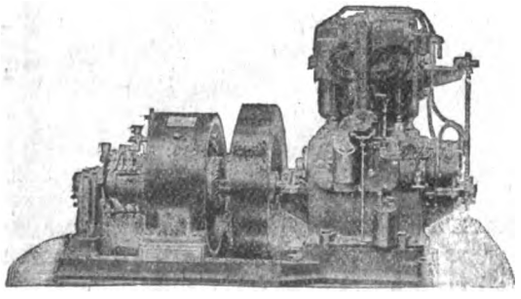

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BULGARIAN BANKING ENTERPRISE.

Anxiety of German Interests.

(From a Correspondent.)

Following the example of the Germans and Young Turks, the Bulgarians have recently contracted a downright mania for reforms. In order to divert the attention of the public from the want existing in all circles owing to the interminable war, reform and reorganisation is being made in all directions with the support of the Government, and banks and limited companies are being formed on all sides for the promotion of trade.

Recently the Bulgarian Trading Bank ("Bulgarische Handelsbank") made a new issue of shares, and now the "Bulgarische Kreditbank Ghirdap" is calling for subscriptions for six million lewa new shares. Both undertakings have a strictly national character, and desire to work without German capital or German "help." A Vintner's Bank ("Losarbka Banka") has just been established with a share capital of four million lewa, to be devoted to the vine-growing and wine trade, whilst the "Rosowa Banka" will concern itself with the development of attar of roses undertakings.

Naturally, the German banks are not allowing themselves to be stifled easily, and therefore a branch of the Deutsche Bank has recently been opened in Sofia, and a branch of the "Diskontogesellschaft" has also been established under the name of "Welika Bulgaria" (Greater Bulgaria), with a capital of 500,000 lewa, in order to promote the mining industry. In order to flatter the Bulgarians and to make them subject to German wishes, the Germans promise Bulgaria on the one hand the annexation of the Roumanian Dobrudja, and on the other hand the restraining of German firms from participation in Bulgarian "national" undertakings.

POST-WAR FINANCE.

The current issue of the *Fortnightly Review* contains an open letter by Mr. Oswald Stoll addressed to Lord Milner, in which the writer advocates his theory of the popularisation of public credit for the benefit of the general industrial community, taking for his text Lord Milner's "England in Egypt." "Our present and future obligations," he says, "are really crushing." I will again quote from your book and say: 'By far the most effectual way of ultimately lightening that and every other burden of the people is to develop still further the productive powers of the country, and perhaps the Empire.' Now, just as the high native authority, whom you quote, once said: 'If your object is the prosperity of Egypt create a reservoir,' I say to you: 'If your object is British prosperity open freely to the British industrial community the existing reservoir of British credit.' You have said: 'Egypt is a country which cries aloud for the application of capital to elicit its great latent wealth.' So the whole field of British industry in its perilous condition of increasing obligations and denudation of resources cries aloud for the application of the equivalent of capital not only to elicit its great latent wealth but also to prevent a terrible impasse. The proposed activities of small groups of financiers will not do. There is much more to be done. Fixed productive capital is the vast reservoir already created which holds a wealth of British credit which can be to the British industrial community what oil sent through pipe lines is to Rockefeller, or water from Assouan to the controllers of the Nile delta. You said of Egypt: 'The question of creating a vast reservoir to collect the river water in the months of abundance, in order to give it out again in the months of drought, is therefore the most interesting problem, which now confronts, not only the engineers, but the financiers of Egypt.' In our case the vast reservoir exists in the form of the credit system and its implications; the engineers and the financiers have long had a monopoly of its productive waters. There is enough for them still, and they are welcome to it. But more must be added in both quantity and quality and liberally distributed among many others who can establish a right to it."

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

The Question of Supplies.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The position of affairs in our industry is getting more abnormal from week to week. There seems to be no end to the upward movement in prices. In this connection fresh records seem to be established from day to day. Considerable interest has been taken especially in fine spinning circles in the official estimate of the Egyptian cotton crop by the Alexandria General Produce Association, the forecast being 6,250,000 to 6,500,000 cantars, as compared with a yield for last year of 5,126,000 cantars. Some merchants here seem to think the estimate rather generous, but the outlook for supplies is undoubtedly encouraging. The question of importance to people here is how to get the cotton to Lancashire on a freer scale. The same thing applies with regard to the American staple. In the Liverpool market at the moment there are more buyers than sellers. A large inquiry has come round in Egyptian yarns, and from day to day a substantial business has been done at hardening rates. The position of producers of fine combed numbers is particularly strong, and undoubtedly many firms are making a lot of money. In cloth for Egypt there have been indications of rather less activity. Many houses are waiting for more promising news relating to shipping facilities. Goods are undoubtedly backing up in the Manchester warehouses waiting for boats. In piece goods for India a considerable inquiry has come round, and a fairly healthy turnover has transpired in light finishing and bleaching fabrics. More sales put through in grey shirtings for Calcutta. There has been no move on the part of exporters to China. Manufacturers continue to derive support from Government contracts, and the home trade has again done well. The position of American spinners is stronger than ever. Some producers have declined to quote owing to the uncertainty as to raw cotton supplies.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department issues a new list of additions to the Statutory List of firms of enemy nationality or enemy association with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade. Copies of this list can be obtained at a trifling cost from the Superintendent of Publications, H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

INDIA'S JUTE CROP.

Final Estimated Output for 1917.

The *Indian Trade Journal* has published the final forecast of the 1917 jute crop in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, and Assam, based on reports received by the respective Departments of Agriculture, as follows:—The area under jute in the three Provinces this year is put at 2,729,699 acres, as compared with 2,702,699 acres in 1916, an increase of 27,000 acres. The final estimated output for the three Provinces is 8,904,364 bales in 1917, as against 8,379,853 bales in 1916, an increase of 524,511 bales. In Bengal (where on an average of the five years ended 1915-16 the area under jute represents 87.7 per cent. of the total area under jute in British India) the weather was favourable for the crop in its early stages. July was generally seasonable, although the crop in some districts suffered from insect and fungus attacks. The crop may be described as a very good one, on the whole, in most of the Eastern Bengal districts, moderate only in Northern Bengal, and good in Western Bengal. The final acreage figure for that Province for 1917 is returned as 2,412,427 acres, as compared with 2,383,562 acres in 1916; and the estimated output this year is 7,948,956 bales, as compared with 7,497,875 bales in 1916, an increase of 451,081 bales.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty makes the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks during the week ended November 4, 3 p.m.:—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft):—

Arrivals	2,384
Sailings	2,379

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine:—

1,600 tons gross or over	*8
Under 1,600 tons gross	†4
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	‡6
British fishing vessels sunk	Nil

* Includes two sunk during week ended October 14.

† Includes one sunk during week ended October 14.

‡ Includes two attacked during week ended October 14, one attacked during week ended October 21, and two attacked during week ended October 28.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The court of directors of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company have resolved to pay out of the profits of the current year an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last, at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum (less income tax) on the preference stock, and an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum (less income tax) on the ordinary stock, being at the same rate as in the last two years. The dividend warrants will be posted to the proprietors on November 16.

Government of Persia Five per Cent. Sterling Loan of 1911.—The coupons due 15th inst. will be paid on and after that date at the Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4, or at their bankers, Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., 67, Lombard Street, E.C.3, and must be left three clear days for verification.

Land Bank of Egypt.—The ordinary general meeting will be held at Alexandria on 4th proximo.

The directors of the Hyderabad (Deccan) Company have declared an interim dividend of 1s. per share, less income-tax, payable 10th proximo to holders registered 6th inst.

The European Oilfields Corporation, Ltd., announce that first debenture stock to the nominal amount of £9,919 5s. has been purchased and cancelled. The original issue of £169,092 10s. is now reduced to £134,417 15s.

At the seventy-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Compny, tao be held on December 12, at 11 a.m., the directors, after providing for the usual dividend at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum on the preferred stock, less income tax, will recommend a dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. for the six months, together with a bonus at the rate of 6 per cent., both free of income tax, making, with the interim dividend of 6 per cent paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 18 per cent. for the year. Dividend warrants will be posted on December 17.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Nov. 2.	1917. Week Nov. 1.
Cattle markets	925	429
General markets	400	455
Receipts (£)	1,325	884
Total for year	44,564	47,634

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Avenue,
Wednesday.

We have again had a fairly active market this week, and there have been some interesting developments in certain directions. On the whole, in spite of the depressing Italian news, prices have held remarkably well; in fact, most changes are again in the upward direction, and, no doubt, this improvement would have been still more accentuated had the news from Italy shown any improvement. The Egyptian demand for certain shares has again been a supporting influence, and all the news from that side continues to be of a very encouraging nature.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds have been in persistent demand, and closed with a rise of ⅜ at 83¼ ex div.; but business has been very restricted owing to the lack of sellers. The same remark applies to Egypt 3½ per cent. prefs. Some small transactions took place in City of Alexandria bonds round 78.

In Bank shares National Banks and Anglo-Egyptians have both been strong features; the former closing ¼ higher at 17⅜, after business as high as 17½, and the latter being half a point up at 14¼. There has also been some demand for Agricultural Bank Prefs., which have firmed up ⅛ to 7⅛.

In land shares the great feature has been the rise in Behéras, which have risen 1 to 13 on buying orders from Egypt. Aboukirs have been in local demand, and are 6d. higher at 20s. 3d.; whilst some transactions have taken place in Union Foncières round 2. Another firm spot has been Sidi Salems, which have jumped up 1s. 6d. to 17s. 6d. on a strong local demand in a market devoid of sellers. Delta Lands and New Egyptians have been rather quieter, some profit-taking having been in progress; but they are both only fractionally easier.

In miscellaneous shares Egyptian Markets are 3d. firmer at 27s. 6d., after some transactions at higher prices; and Alexandria Waters are 1/16 firmer at 12⅛. Khedivial Mails, after their recent neglect, have returned to favour, and have jumped up 2s. 6d. to 35s. 6d. Salts and Sodas have provided another feature, and are closing 2s. 6d. up, at 30s. 6d., on a sustained demand throughout the week both from Egypt and locally.

In Greek securities Monopolies were two points lower at 52, and Rentes one point down at 43½; but otherwise there is no change to report.

Oil Shares.

Anglo Egyptians (B) rose 1s. 6d. on Wednsday to 27s. 6d.-28s. 6d., Bakus declined 3d. to 1s. 9d.-2s. 3d., but Roumanian Consols improved 6d. to 11s.-12s.

GREEK DEBT SERVICE.

The Council of Foreign Bondholders issues the following information compiled from figures published by the International Financial Commission at Athens with regard to the revenues assigned under the Law of Control for the service of the Greek Debt from January 1 to August 31, 1917 (New Style: January 14 to September 13, 1917):—

—		Monopolies, Tobacco, Stamps, Stamped Paper, Naxos Emery.	Piræus Customs.
		Drachmæ.	Drachmæ.
Gross Receipts, Aug. 1917		3,158,506	1,555,000
Do. do. do 1916		2,957,941	1,783,000
Estimated Receipts for 8 months (Law of Control)		19,266,666	7,133,333
Actual do. do., 1917		21,219,236	8,301,000
Do. do. do., 1916		23,116,060	18,185,000
Difference between estimated and actual receipts for 8 months	1917	+ 1,952,569	+ 1,167,666
	1916	+ 3,849,394	+ 11,051,666

Note.—Of the surplus over the estimated receipts from monopolies, tobacco, stamps, stamped paper, and Naxos emery, 49 1-5 per cent. is applied towards increasing the minimum rates of interest and sinking fund of the External Gold Loans of 1881 to 1893. The receipts in gold from both Naxos emery and the Piræus Customs are converted into drachmæ at par when the average rate of exchange for the month is par or below par, but when the average rate for the month is above par the conversion is made at that average rate.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Prices. July 27 1914	Prices. Nov. 2	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84½	83 29/32d
Do. Pref. 5 %, 1890	88	71½	71½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61½	61½
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61½	61½
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	54	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	44½	43¾
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55½	53⅝
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93⅛	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	85	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	80	80
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	69	68½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6½	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	13⅝	14½
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅜	4½	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7⅞	7½
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17⅛	17⅛
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6½	6½
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	—	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	—	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 7/16	19/9	20/3
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	12	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4 7/16	4 7/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9¾	13/-
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	6/10½	6/10
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1⅝	1⅝
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	14/4½	14/
Sidi Salem Co.	⅝	16/-	17/6
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2	2
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	-/10½	-/10½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12 1/16
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 7/16	27/3	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	28/-	30/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	33/-	35/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3⅜	3½

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON OCTOBER 13.
Supplied by G. L. Mortera, Alexandria and Cairo.

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	15⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12⅜
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
,, priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	82
,, Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	87
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	86½
Privilégiée		76
Land Bank of Egypt	£	6⅜
,, Fondateur	£	—
Nungovich Hotels	£	4
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	5 1/16
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
,, Ord.	£	30/6
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		11⅜
Alex. and Ramleh Railway	£	4⅜
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	Frs.	5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	107
,, Jouissance	Frs.	166
Egyptian Markets		—
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.	Frs.	—
,, Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Wadi-Kom Ombo	£	4⅜
Egyptian Salt and Soda		24/-
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	Frs.	720
,, Fondateur	Frs.	—
,, 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	355
,, 1903 ,,	Frs.	276
,, 1911 ,,	Frs.	279
United Lands	P.T.	—
Assoc. Cotton Ginners		3/16–1/4

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended October 10.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Oct. 1-Oct. 10	6,717	9,160
April 1-Oct. 10	95,473	116,036

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
October 30 to November 3	760,000	1,010,000

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NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT

(Established by Khedivial Decree, June, 1898, with the exclusive right to issue Notes payable at sight to Bearer.)

CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(In 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

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THE NEAR EAST

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

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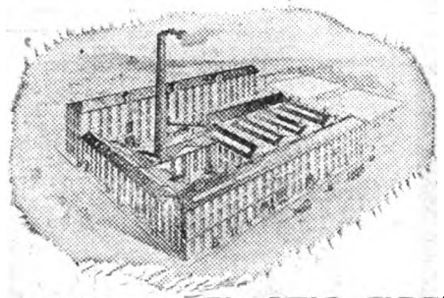
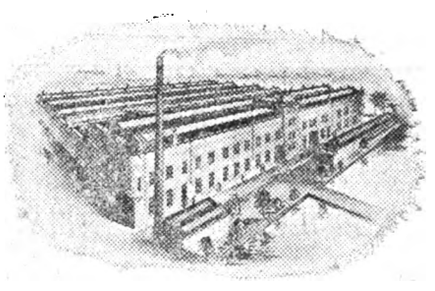
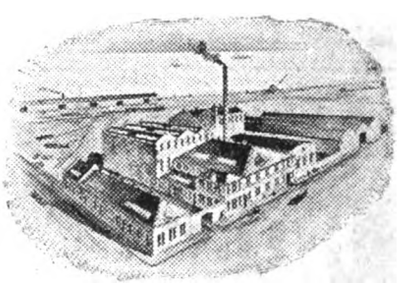

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 341.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The past week has not been a happy one for the Allies. Although the German advance in Italy has been less rapid, it has not been checked yet, and the enemy has been able to claim very considerable captures of men and guns. It is understood that help has been sent by France and Britain to Italy, but it will naturally take time for this to tell, and in this interval an impetuous speech by Mr. Lloyd George in Paris has been seized upon by the critics at home. The small pacifist element and the rather more numerous disgruntled faction will probably seize the opportunity to assault the Government; more sober military opinion is apprehensive that the Prime Minister may have let his heart run away with his head, and in his passion for results has contemplated a dispersion of our military effort.

The week has been quiet in the Balkans, and there appears to have been no recrudescence of activity on the Roumanian front. There have been some signs, however, of political movements. Bulgaria has again stated her war-aims, which are bluntly annexationist, and consist of the Dobrudja, Macedonia, and the "Bulgarian districts of Serbia." The Germans have made some play with the Jewish question in Roumania, but for the moment their interests lie elsewhere, and they are engaged in squabbling over Poland with Austria, and in discussing the future control of Lithuania and Courland. But the whole Balkan situation has been overshadowed by the extraordinary events in Petrograd, where "Lenin," a German agent, ousted M. Kerensky. If Lenin can hold his ground he will carry out his policy, which is a simple one—to make peace and to give the land to the peasants. In that event the end of Russia would be an accomplished fact.

Germany is apparently waiting on events. She cannot make peace with Russia unless Russia has a Government to make peace with, and the Maximalists must have at least a show of stability before she can publicly arrange terms. (Presumably she has already made known to Lenin, in his last trip through Germany, the rough outline of her demands, and he is not the sort of person to raise any objection on the score of honour or patriotism.) There is some indication that the actual terms would be the quasi-independence of Russian Poland, the resignation of Lithuania and Courland, and possibly Finland, by the Russian Government, the forfeiting of any interest in the Balkans, and the free, or at any rate the preferential, admission of German and Austrian goods on to the Russian market. In return Germany would probably arrange to grant loans to Russia, which would bring her immediate relief but permanent slavery. Once Lenin had done his work for Germany, he would be dismissed with an appropriate pension.

The nearer troubles of Italy have no doubt been responsible for driving this sinister prospect into the background. But while the situation in the Venetian plain is undoubtedly grave, that in the East of Europe is certainly worse. Germany hopes that Austria may find compensation for her heavy war losses in the north of Italy, but she proposes to obtain her own compensation elsewhere. With Russia out of the way, as she hopes, she calculates that the Allies would find it impossible to save Serbia, and that Roumania, isolated as she would be by the defection or dissolution of her neighbour, would have to make terms—which would not be generous. The road to the East would then be open.

There are, however, certain clouds on Germany's horizon. Roumania was never more ardent, and her message this week has rung through the world, that if Russia lets her down, her army will not give up the fight, but will get itself transported through Siberia and round the world, and fight Germany again on the Western front. That is the spirit of which victory is bred. Further than that, while all seems secure for the Central Powers in Eastern Europe, the real objective of Germany is Asia Minor, and here the British are steadily eating their way forward.

General Maude has registered another success on the Tigris, and the campaign there goes brilliantly. For the present there is no sign of any counter-attack, although we have learnt not to boast about such things while the war is on with an enemy who has so many uncomfortable surprises up his sleeve. But the British troops, having accomplished their work at Tekrit, have returned to their original positions; the Turkish army has retreated further north. Apparently no further advance was contemplated by us at the time, and in a country of this description it would be imprudent to go forward indefinitely without full arrangements being made. General Maude's army is now a long way from its base, and all supplies have to be transported great distances after they are landed at the head of the Persian Gulf; but that fact would not, of course, pre-

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clude a further advance should it prove desirable at a later period.

On the other side of the Turkish front our armies go from one success to another in Palestine. General Allenby's reports are uniformly favourable, and a rapid advance is now being made. It is only a few days since Gaza and Beersheba fell into our hands, but the capture of Ascalon, which revived memories of Richard I. and the Crusaders, has been followed by a concentration against the Turkish forces near Jaffa. It would be absurd to talk of the Turkish retreat as a rout, since they are still putting up a stiff resistance, and it would be wise not to speculate about the immediate capture of Jerusalem, whose fall would have an effect on public opinion not less pronounced than that caused by the occupation of Baghdad early in the year. But it is evident, from the British Government's assurance to the Jewish community—to which extended reference is made elsewhere in this issue—that we are contemplating the conquest of the whole of Palestine in the present campaign.

It will be remembered, of course, that Palestine has already been conquered once by a Western Power since the Turkish occupation thirteen centuries ago. The French and others took Palestine in the Crusades, and held it for many years, but their dominion was not permanent, partly owing, no doubt, to difficulties of transport through the whole length of the Mediterranean in those days, but also very largely to political divisions and disputes among the Christians in Palestine itself—a foretaste of what might happen under any future scheme of international control.

M. Venizelos is sure of a warm welcome on his present visit to London. A meeting will be held to-day at the Mansion House to give him a public greeting by the City of London; and the statesman who saved Greece in the end for the Allies, in spite of every conceivable obstacle being put in his way, cannot but be greeted with esteem. It is probable that, although the political situation in the Near East will no doubt be re-examined carefully, his visit is mainly concerned with the economic position of Greece, which remains unsatisfactory. The shortage of food, which has been felt for some months past, is by no means overcome, and this fact is, of course, being exploited for all that it is worth, and a good deal more, by the Royalist and pro-German factions, which, if they have lost their power, have still a considerable capacity for making mischief. In view of the general world-shortage of food, however, which grows increasingly serious month by month, it will not be an altogether easy matter to provide Greece with the supplies of which she is in need.

The Salonika despatches have been published at last. They do not contain much information, for the very excellent reason that little has occurred on this front for several months. It appears that an offensive was contemplated, postponed, and, if not actually abandoned, that it remains in abeyance indefinitely. Possibly it may be felt by the authorities that our objects in the Levant may be more easily and quickly achieved through Palestine than at Salonika, where the geographical conditions alone make an advance a very difficult matter.

It may be noted that the despatch speaks very cautiously as to the health of the troops. It cannot say more than that has been "satisfactory on the whole," which is scarcely reassuring. It was admitted months ago that a large part of the Struma line had to be evacuated on account of sickness, and the prevalence of malaria has been a serious problem that has not yet been solved. It is well known that some dissatisfaction has been expressed on this matter in private letters from this front, which has caused much anxiety among relatives at home. It cannot be said that the very restrained statement in General Milne's report will do much to reassure opinion.

The Austrians appear to have learnt a lesson from the Germans in their peace-in-war propaganda in Italy. It will be recalled that the Germans made a practice of bombarding the Roumanian lines with pamphlets in the intervals of the more usual artillery fire; we have not heard that they have done this in Flanders, no doubt because they regard the British as an illiterate and stupid race, but they are liberally scattering the Italian lines with paper. They inform our Allies that the British have come to Italy to enslave them, and to act as police; but the most interesting of their efforts is that in which the Italians are told they are placing their country in the hands of the British "monster," instead of coming to an agreement with Austria. "We will not," says this manifesto, "give away a foot of the land or of the sea, but we are always ready honestly to divide with you the domination of the Adriatic. In this case you will remain free masters of a free sea. But if you do not decide upon this, then good-bye Adriatic, good-bye to your shipping and commerce, and you will inevitably disappear down the insatiable throat of the English lion, like the Russians." This last seems to us, we admit, on the whole the very worst comparison in the world, but the Austrian propagandist presumably thought it would be believed. The theory of a free Adriatic, however, which can be divided between Italy and Austria, is a bold one in view of the past and the consistent anti-Italian policy of Vienna.

President Wilson's latest speech again shows a full grasp of the position in Eastern Europe. He speaks of the Baghdad Railway as a line projected to carry a flank attack into half-a-dozen countries along the line of route, with the intention of dominating those countries by the Central Empires—a fact which constitutes an intolerable menace to the free development of Eastern Europe and Asia Minor; it is a case of the "bulk of German power inserted into the heart of the world"—a phrase that will not be forgotten.

While the President still draws his fine distinction between the German people and their Government—a distinction that now verges on the academic—he is under no illusions as to the source or the aim of their power. He dismisses the peace proposals in which Germany talks of Belgium, Northern France, and Alsace-Lorraine briefly as "shams"—these do not touch "the heart of the matter," which lies in Eastern Europe and the Baghdad Railway. No doubt there is a danger that America, like ourselves, will tend to think too much of territorial questions in the West, while forgetting the still more serious problems of the East, out of which the war took its rise and over whose settlement it will probably draw to an end; but President Wilson's plain statement will tend to correct this attitude, and it is in itself a guarantee that Germany will not be able to end the war by the kind of peace which she desires.

The new law forbidding enemy aliens in the United States from handling explosives in mining operations is significant, in that it is extended to apply to subjects of any nation at war with an ally of the United States. This prohibition, therefore, includes Austrians, Turks, and Bulgars in the category of enemy aliens, although the United States is not actually at war with any Power except Germany. Juridically the position is a curious one, and it is quite possible that the lawyers will make some play with it, for it is a convention that all nations are friendly until they are actually at war, and a Bulgar or a Turk in the United States who has hitherto been legally secure as a neutral will now find himself threatened with possible difficulties. Actually, however, the reason for this action is clear—it is the danger of sabotage and incendiarism. It is not sufficient to take precautions against Germans, inasmuch as they could suborn subjects of their Allies, and the American Government has been wise to recognise the fact. It would not be very surprising if the United States eventually issued a declaration of war against Turkey, Bulgaria, and Austria, to regularise a position which must become more and more difficult as American participation in the war increases.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 19.

The New Sultanate.

The past has been a busy week in official circles, for, in addition to the customary visits after the accession of the new Sovereign, we have had all the ceremonies attendant on the Moslem New Year and the return of the Holy Carpet from Mecca. The net result of all this has been that Government Offices have been closed for five out of the past nine days. That has not, however, meant complete cessation of work. There is, indeed, so much of importance being done at the present moment that it would be quite impossible to suspend work for such a long period, and some of the departments have worked steadily through all the holidays.

H.H. the Sultan has been occupied during the past week with receiving the visits of various notables and calling on such of them as he decided to honour with his presence. Among the latter was Hussein Rushdi Pasha, who was visited at his house. On Monday, his Highness for the first time presided at the ceremony of receiving back the Holy Carpet on its return from Mecca. The proceedings were, as usual, very picturesque. According to the reports given by returning pilgrims the pilgrimage passed off under the best conditions, and everyone appears very satisfied with the arrangements.

On Thursday, on the occasion of the Moslem New Year, the Sultan held a reception at Abdin Palace. There was a very large attendance, and his Highness took the opportunity of addressing each of the groups as they were introduced to him. The next day Sultan Fuad drove up to the Mohamed Ali Mosque at the Citadel in order to perform the usual weekly prayer. He was accompanied by Rushdi Pasha, and was met at the Mosque by the high religious dignitaries and the Ulema. After the service his Highness visited the tomb of Mohamed Ali, the founder of his dynasty. The route from the entrance to the Citadel up to the Mosque was kept by British troops.

The Sultan is still living in his villa, and it is not expected that he will take up his official residence in Abdin Palace for some time yet. The Press and the people appear to be very friendly disposed towards the new Sovereign, who is giving proofs of his intention to follow in the footsteps of his brother. Especially is pleasure expressed at his visit to the Prime Minister at his private house, and at the handsome contributions which he has just made to charitable institutions. Divers other acts of his have evoked warm approval, and there is no doubt that, if Sultan Fuad continues as he has begun, he will attain a high place in the affections of his people.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

"Our Day," which was fixed for the 17th inst. in Egypt has been an unlooked for success. All the lists have not as yet been completed, but the total even now comes to over £E118,000. In 1915 the amount subscribed was £E110,000, and in 1916 £E88,000, so that this year will easily establish a record for this country. Considering that no pressure whatever has been placed on any element to subscribe, the result is undoubtedly satisfactory in the extreme. On the one hand it is an indication of the regard held for the great work done by the British Red Cross, and on the other it is a distinct demonstration on the part of the Egyptians of loyalty to and sympathy with the British cause. I hope next week to be able to give final figures, with some interesting details of the elements which have contributed to make up this substantial amount.

The Meritorious Service Medal.

The first awards of the Medal for Meritorious Service recently created by the Sultan have now been made. These awards were announced about a fortnight ago, but the recent change in the Sultanate prevented me from commenting on them in my last letter. Five silver medals and twenty-three bronze medals have been conferred. All but four have been awarded to men of the Egyptian Camel Transport Corps, and the four exceptions are men of the Egyptian Labour Corps. The explanatory footnotes appended to each award one and all pay a tribute to the gallantry shown by these men when under fire from aeroplanes or during the operations at Gaza and to the great assistance rendered by them. We had already heard from officers and men returning from the front lines what splendid work both these corps, which are recruited direct from the fellahin masses, had done in very trying circumstances, and it is exceedingly satisfactory to find that these accounts are now officially confirmed, and that these deeds of gallantry are being fittingly rewarded.

The Paper Shortage.

The shortage of paper is making itself acutely felt. There appears to be no lack of newspaper, judging by the fact that all the local Press is maintaining its editions, and that some of the journals are even resuming the issue of supplements. But there is certainly a shortage of writing paper, and the situation has become so serious that the Government has had to make very stringent regulations with regard to the use of stationery in its departments. No longer does one receive huge envelopes enclosing letters written on the smallest form of writing paper; no longer are sheets of foolscap used for the mere acknowledgment of letters. To-day even the most important communications are written on sheets from which any unwritten portion is detached before despatch for use for other letters, whilst envelopes are used several times over, and in the majority of cases, in lieu of envelopes, the letters are fastened at each end by a sort of wafer. The state of affairs will certainly become very serious if, as is stated, the stocks at the disposal of the Government are now reduced to only a few days' supply based on normal requirements and if no further imports of any importance arrive. It will probably end in old dossiers being brought out from the archives and all papers having any unwritten portion being extracted from them and taken into use as writing paper. As it is, many departments are utilising forms the backs of which are free from printed or written matter. We shall, of course, survive this crisis as we have done so many others, but there is no doubt that this paper stringency has shown that everyone can get on with far less paper than was supposed to be the case, and that there has in the past been a not inconsiderable overuse of stationery on the part of the individual as well as the State. The present crisis should result in the introduction of more economical methods, in so far as stationery is concerned, than have been followed in the past.

SULTAN FUAD I. OF EGYPT.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 12 (delayed).

The popularity and success enjoyed by the late Sultan make the task of his brother, Prince Ahmed Fuad, who has been called upon to succeed him, far from an easy one, but there is every hope that his training and intelligence will enable him fully to rise to the occasion. Sultan Fuad is the youngest son of the late Khedive Ismail, and is forty-nine years of age, having been born on March 26, 1868. He made all his studies in Europe, spending a considerable time in Switzerland, Austria, and Italy. In the latter country he qualified for a military career and passed through the Military Academy and School of Artillery and Engineering at Turin, finally entering the Italian Army as an officer in one of the crack corps, the 13th Regiment of Artillery. Throughout his sojourn in Europe, and during his frequent subsequent visits there he moved in the highest and most intellectual circles, and he has, as a result, acquired an insight into European politics, a knowledge of the world, and an appreciation of the position held by Great Britain and of the principles she represents, which should stand him in great stead in the exalted position he has now been called upon to fill.

Except for the occasion on which he stood a candidate for the throne of Albania, Sultan Fuad has not taken any active part in politics, and he has for many years now devoted himself to the social and intellectual development of this country. It is no doubt due to his contact in his early years with the great intellects of Europe that he has evinced such a penchant for scientific and similar work, and has become such an active patron of arts and sciences. There are, indeed, few intellectual enterprises in Egypt which do not owe something, often a great deal, of their success

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to the interest of the new Sultan, and he has shown himself ever ready to lend his practical support to any charitable objects and to any attempt to promote local industries. In this he has certainly emulated his brother. An idea of the diversity of his interests can be obtained from the facts that he was the promoter and first president of the Egyptian University, that at the time of his succession he was president of the Sultania Geographical Society, of the Sultania Society of Political Economy, of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, of the Association Internationale d'Association Publique, and that it was entirely due to his initiative that the Hydrobiological Institution was created by the Alexandria Municipality and that the recent very successful exhibition of Egyptian-made lace was held.

The new Sultan may not be as well known to the mass of the people as was his brother Hussein at the time of his accession, but he undoubtedly possesses all the qualifications that go to make a successful Oriental ruler. He has a sympathetic personality and a pleasing manner; he is exceedingly tolerant and broad-minded. Compared with the other candidates, Sultan Fuad is certainly the man most fitted by his intellect and his training to succeed to the Sultanate, and as he has declared his intention to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious brother, there is every reason to expect that his reign, which, in the natural course of events, should be considerably longer, will be equally successful and equally fruitful of benefits to his country and his subjects.

In connection with the succession of Prince Fuad it is interesting to note that on Monday, the 8th, when it was apparent to all that the death of Sultan Hussein was imminent, the latter's son, Prince Kamel Eddine, addressed to him a letter in which, after recalling that, although the succession had not been settled, his father had expressed the desire that he should succeed him, he asked permission to renounce, and actually did renounce, whatever rights or pretensions he might have as his only son to the Sultanate. It should be clearly understood, however, that Prince Kamel Eddine was not the heir apparent, for in the terms of its original offer to Sultan Hussein the British Government was free to place on the throne any member of the family of Mohamed Ali whom it might choose to select. His renunciation of whatever claims he might have been able to bring to bear merely, therefore, removed one candidate from the list, and although the late Sultan is survived by two other brothers senior to Ahmed Fuad, and there are in Egypt other older members of the family of Mohamed Ali, it was Ahmed Fuad who was selected by the British Government as being the man naturally indicated as successor to the Sultanate. Another interesting point is that in the communication to Sultan Hussein appointing him to the Sultanate, the British Government stated that the succession was to be vested hereditarily in the family of Mohamed Ali according to a line to be laid down later on, whereas in the communication to Sultan Fuad the Sultanate is offered to him and his heirs according to such order of succession as shall be established by agreement between H.B.M.'s Government and himself. Sultan Fuad, it should be added, has but one child—a daughter, the Princess Fukia.

Rushdi Pasha's Ministry.

I trust it will not be considered out of place if I add a few words of appreciation of the new Ministry. It is really a new one only in name, for, with the exception of H.E. Ibrahim Fathy Pasha, who about eighteen months ago succeeded H.E. Ismail Sidki Pasha at the Wakfs, its members have all held office throughout the reign of the late Sultan. They have one and all done excellent work during those three years, and the renewal of their mandate is a well-merited recognition of their services. To the Prime Minister, H.E. Hussein Rushdi Pasha, however, the greatest credit is due. On him, since with his presidential office he combines the direction of the Ministry of the Interior, one of the most important administrations in the country, has necessarily fallen the bulk of the work and of the responsibility, and he has acquitted himself of his very difficult task in a manner which evokes on all hands the liveliest admiration. The past three years have been years of acute stress and anxiety. It cannot always have been easy to conciliate the various interests concerned, meet the requirements of the military *régime*, and content all parties, yet under the able direction of its president the Cabinet has always contrived with dignity to strike the happy medium, and at no time has there been any friction or any trouble of any description. Rushdi Pasha has served Egypt and Great Britain so well, and has displayed such unique qualities, that it is sincerely to be hoped that some means will speedily be found of lightening his task, which, under existing conditions, is stupendous for one man, so that he may be enabled as long as possible to devote to the service of the State the unflagging energy, courageous initiative, and sound judgment of which he has given proof.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The Roumanians in Bessarabia.

The new Russian *régime* has resulted in a very satisfactory development concerning the cultural life of the Roumanians in Bessarabia. In the time of the old *régime* the Roumanians were not allowed to establish national schools. Now a number of Roumanian elementary schools have been opened, replacing as many Russian elementary schools. In addition a few Roumanian secondary schools, seminars, and training colleges for teachers were shortly to be opened. Roumanian text-books and prayer-books are being printed, and for the first time a Roumanian printing establishment is to be created in Kishinev. An educational review is also contemplated. Three hundred and fifty men and women teachers have already qualified for the new Roumanian elementary schools. A choir composed of such teachers gave recently a concert, at which Roumanian national songs formed the main item. There is indeed a new spirit in Russia.

Roumanian Refugees in Russia.

The bulk of the Roumanian refugees who have crossed the frontier have found hospitality in Odessa. By arrangement with the military governor of the town, the delegates of the Roumanian Government have been able to secure an adequate amount of necessaries for those in their charge, and they have been, moreover, able to purchase these supplies at the prices ruling for army purchases. A main depôt has been established in Odessa, with branches in Kherson and other towns inhabited by Roumanian refugees, from which the latter can buy food and wearing apparel. In Kherson a communal kitchen is already at work for the benefit of Roumanian refugees.

In Occupied Roumania.

The German authorities are multiplying their devices for making the occupied territory render as much as possible in supplies, money, and labour. A recent proclamation decrees that, on paying for corn supplies from the last crop, a deduction will be made for all sums due by the seller, either as taxes or other debts due to the State, the district, or the communal authorities for the fiscal years 1916-1917 and 1917-1918, as well as for any advances they may have received for the purpose of cultivation.

The landowners who have abandoned their properties have to pay a supplementary imposition, ten times as heavy as the ordinary taxes; and as those concerned are absent, the German authorities proceed to sell their estates.

It is also stated that the Germans have removed all the tramway-rails from Bucharest.

Roumanian Prisoners in Germany.

There had been repeated and insistent rumours suggesting that Roumanian prisoners in Germany were being treated with special severity. There has now come to hand some official German figures, which are almost incredible in the situation they disclose. According to that information, the total number of Roumanian prisoners in German camps has been 53,057, of whom 19,525 have died, while 16,645 were in hospital at the time of the publication of these figures. But, further, the same source of information intimates that from the 19,525 prisoners who died since their capture, 108 died from disease, 406 as the result of wounds received in action, while for the rest—that is, for 19,009 prisoners—the cause of their death is passed over in silence. Not even the most pessimistically inclined dared contemplate such a situation; is it necessary to add anything to the tale these figures tell?

THE NILE FLOOD.

Reference was recently made in our Cairo correspondence to the interest attracting to the Nile flood this year, which promised to beat all records for the last twenty-three years. The following are some of the readings on the dates indicated at Roseires, Khartoum, and Assouan Reservoir:—

	Roseires or Blue Nile.		Khartoum.		Assouan Reservoir.	
	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.	1917.
September 23..	—	21·40 ..	16·28	16·79 ..	98·10	98·19
24..	18·91	20·58 ..	16·26	16·78 ..	97·96	98·15
25..	18·99	20·08 ..	16·16	16·74 ..	97·80	98·11
26..	18·78	19·48 ..	16·22	16·76 ..	97·70	98·13
27..	19·02	19·50 ..	16·17	16·79 ..	97·60	98·23
28..	18·80	19·52 ..	16·14	— ..	97·49	98·20
29..	19·08	19·40 ..	16·14	16·83 ..	97·40	98·9
30..	19·0	19·40 ..	—	16·76 ..	97·45	98·4
October 1..	19·30	19·50 ..	16·08	16·60 ..	97·45	98·10
2..	19·50	19·31 ..	16·01	16·54 ..	97·45	98·08
3..	19·50	19·26 ..	16·09	16·49 ..	97·47	98·07
4..	19·75	19·20 ..	16·23	16·44 ..	97·46	98·03
5..	19·15	19·06 ..	16·26	16·30 ..	97·45	97·99

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 21.

Parliament and the late Cabinets.

The Deputies have had an interesting week in the Chamber, as the two Commissions which were appointed to inquire into the accusations against the Skouloudis and Lambros Cabinets have presented their reports, and these reveal much of what went on behind the scenes during these periods.

The conclusions of the Skouloudis Commission are, succinctly, that the members inculpated did:—(1) Assume office without enjoying the confidence of the people, and signed the decree of dissolution of the Chamber of May which had been constitutionally convened, and that, with the intention of abolishing the Constitution and adopting a personal policy of the King; (2) in violation of the Constitution they exercised legislative power and issued illegal decrees granting various personal favours to officers in the Army and Navy, and thus involved the country in an expense of six million drachmae; (3) they contracted two loans in Germany in a clandestine manner, and granted the National Bank an extension of its privileges for twenty-five years for its intervention in the matter; (4) for Party purposes they restored Ottoman property in Macedonia which the State had been holding as a lien for Greek property seized by the Turks; (5) they violated the treaty with Serbia and carried out a series of acts likely to help their enemies, such as communicating with the Austro-German forces in the Balkans, etc.; (6) they employed violence to terrorize public opinion and adopted aggressive measures against the Liberal newspapers and individuals; (7) they maintained a useless mobilization of the Army during nine months; (8) they systematically provoked in the Army violent demonstrations against the Liberals, and thus lowered the *moral* of the Army; (9) they permitted and encouraged German propaganda; (10) they delivered Rupel and certain towns in Macedonia, an army corps and material of war to the value of several millions, to the Bulgarians. The report concludes by proposing that all the members of the Skouloudis Cabinet, excepting Admiral Condouriotis, be deferred to the High Court. The final discussion took place last night, when M. Ralli made a long speech explaining his association with the Skouloudis Cabinet. The Chamber sat from five o'clock yesterday afternoon until ten this morning, when a vote was taken on each member separately, and resulted in MM. Skouloudis, Dragoumis, Ralli, Gounaris, Yannakitsas, Michelidakis, and Hadjakos being deferred to the High Court.

The report of the Lambros Commission begins by refering to the efforts made by the ex-King, in concert with Dousmanis, Metaxa, Streit, and Gounaris, to involve Greece in a policy inimical to the Allies, and enumerates the various occasions on which King Constantine and the Lambros Cabinet acted contrary to the Constitution. Reference is made to the responsibility of the Lambros Cabinet in connection with the Reservist Leagues, and in allowing arms to be distributed to the Reservists, and its connection with the events of December 1, when the Anglo-French troops were attacked, and to its complicity in the organization of armed bands to attack the Allied troops in Thessaly. The report states that from all the documents and witnesses it is proved that the Lambros Cabinet had other objects in view than the interests of the country, and that there are documents to prove that this Cabinet was in communication with Bulgaria with the view of co-operating with them against the Allies. The report concludes by recommending that all the members of the Lambros Cabinet, with the exception of M. T. Eliopoulos, be deferred to the High Court for high treason. The debate on this report takes place in a day or two.

Whilst Parliament has been occupying itself with the Cabinets, the ecclesiastical tribunal has been trying various members of the clergy for having mixed up in politics and for having taken part in the anathematising of M. Venizelos last year. Many have been punished by seclusion in a convent, and others have been dismissed from the offices they held.

M. Politis, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, took the opportunity of making a statement in the Chamber the other day to the effect that the people should not be under the illusion that peace is near at hand. He explained that all the recent peace talk, especially in Greece, was fostered by the Germanophils with the object of counteracting the efforts of the Government to stimulate the people to the necessity of Greece taking its share in the destruction of German militarism and of recovering her lost territory.

From day to day.

The scarcity of fuel in Athens has become acute, and each day last week it was feared that the city would be in darkness, as sufficient wood, which is the only fuel available, could not be brought in for the electric power station. The tram and train services have had to be curtailed, as well as the lighting. All places of amusement have to close before twelve; most shops must close at six, others of greater usefulness may remain open an hour or two longer. Arrangements are now being made to cut down all the trees in the Tatoi woods which were damaged by last year's fire, and the quantity of timber thus obtained, it is expected, will keep the electricity going for about eight months.

Coffee and sugar, of which very small quantities exist, are being rationed by ticket by the Ministry of Food; in fact, most foodstuffs are now only obtainable by tickets.

Last Monday Lord Granville presented his letters of credence to the King. Three Court carriages conveyed the British Minister and his staff to the King's palace.

"BRITISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY FUND" (Incorporated).

Lady Lowther writes:—

"May we bring to the notice of those who do not realise it the serious situation of many British families, formerly residents in Turkey, who, owing to the war, are stranded in various countries with a mere pittance extended to them in their distress.

"We appeal to their fellow-countrymen to help them to tide over these months of anxiety until they can return to their homes and take up their work again.

"We have assisted many during the last years, thanks to the generous sympathy of friends; the length of the war and the increase of our responsibilities oblige us now to appeal to a wider public.

"We assist with grants, loans, and education.

"Hoping that our prayer will not be in vain, we appeal to Great Britain not to forget her own children among the many calls that come to her."

It is to be hoped Lady Lowther's further appeal will meet with an immediate response. Readers of The Near East will recall the good work already done by the Fund. H.R.H. Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, is Patron of the Fund, Sir Louis Mallet is President, and the Hon. Treasurer is Mr. Geo. P. Baker, 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.1.

WELCOME TO VENIZELOS,

PRIME MINISTER OF
OUR ALLY GREECE.

A

PUBLIC MEETING

Under the auspices of the
ANGLO-HELLENIC LEAGUE,

will be held at

THE MANSION HOUSE,

TO-DAY (FRIDAY), Nov. 16,

at 4.30 p.m.

A LIST OF SPEAKERS WILL
— BE ANNOUNCED —
and

VENIZELOS WILL REPLY.

The Chair will be taken by

THE LORD MAYOR.

ADMISSION FREE.

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THE TRAVAIL OF RUSSIA.

Professor Alexander Belitch, of the University of Belgrade and member of the Serbian Academy of Science, who has spent two years in Russia and has been an eye-witness of the cataclysmic events of the past few months, has just reached the British Isles. He expresses himself with vigour, hopefulness, and insight upon the present condition of Russia.

"You ask me about the present state of Russia," said Professor Belitch. "Well, the Democratic Socialistic party is upholding authority, notwithstanding all the stress and strain of recent events, which means, of course, that the Government contains some positive elements. In all the throes of the Revolution there are evolving elements of stability; under the influence of the perils from without and the gigantic changes from within, this process is completing itself with amazing rapidity. Obviously, it is not altogether easy to find new forms of internal arrangement corresponding to the democratic and socialistic ideas of the directors of the destiny of New Russia, and in pursuit of these ideas a good deal of energy is, of course, being consumed. But surely we must all follow this time of extraordinary effort with more than ordinary sympathy, and the greatest possible help should certainly be extended to this Russian people, who need a power almost Titanic, if they are to rise to the demands of their vast runaway State machine. Not only the help of all the citizens and peoples of the great Russian Empire, but also the help of all her Allies—and that, moreover, in the most diverse directions—is imperative, if the Russian State is to emerge as victor over all obstacles; obstacles which have developed themselves out of the very fundamentals of her existence and under the influence of a liberty now freely bestowed on all, but which was formerly yielded so grudgingly. Just as in the life of individuals there are moments of exceptional strain and effort which determine the direction of their life and achievement in the future, so is it also in the life of the State. It is such moments that Russia is passing through now, and it is to the interest of all her Allies that these efforts should be put forth to the utmost."

"And what about the Russian army?"

"I understand very well that you are interested most of all in the military power and significance of Russia. The army is so great, the country so vast, that it is impossible to take in everything at the first survey. Conditions vary in different localities. Generally speaking, in spite of the Korniloff incident, I think the signs are reassuring. It would be most unjust to judge the Russian army simply by recent defeats. The Russian artillery is without doubt worthy of respect, and worthy of respect in its entirety. Take the Russian cavalry; practically the bulk of Russian cavalry is animated by an admirable military spirit. Mention need hardly be made of the Cossacks, who are soldiers by birth, and with whom fighting is an essential part of their mental make-up. Many infantry regiments are characterised by their excellent fighting spirit, particularly those which are in close connection with the cavalry units, and of the remaining regiments there are many which are in very good fighting condition. I do not know whether it is realised how well the Polish regiments have acquitted themselves on various occasions.

"You may see in different parts of the interior, scattered about in tens and tens of thousands, portions of the great mobilised army, which amounts in all to over 15 million men. In these vastly scattered groups of men one often finds, it is true, a spirit of vacillation, but commanding officers have told me of regiments which, though at first they left their positions without showing fight at all, had afterwards been inspired to put up the toughest resistance and fight like lions.

"No; I do not think that things on the Russian Front will come to a *débâcle*. Rather do I think that, the more furious the German attacks, the sooner will stability be restored to the Russian Front.

"You ask me about Professor Masaryk and his work in Russia. The great Czech patriot is tirelessly working, and has speedily brought order to the Czech ranks in Russia. The Czech brigade has displayed wonderful bravery on the Russian Front, was mentioned in despatches during the July offensive, and this great Czech army will beyond doubt fulfil the hopes of the Bohemian people. Moreover, tens and tens of thousands of first-rate, intelligent and exceedingly well disciplined Czech working men are serving in the Russian military factories.

"The Jugoslav Volunteer Corps is continuing its work on the Roumanian Front. It is true that a portion of it is now being transferred to the Allied Front beyond Russia, but the greater part still remains on the Southern Russian Front. The fact that the Southern Slav Volunteers have been entrusted with the defence of some of the most vulnerable spots of the Southern Russian Front proves how much their services in the earlier combats were appreciated.

"The noble example of the Roumanian Royal Family has evoked the warmest admiration of the Roumanian people. People thought that King Ferdinand of Roumania would probably move deeper into Russia and avail himself of the offer of beautiful quarters near Odessa But he remained with his army, in a modest little house at Jassy, strenuously engaged in the work of military reorganisation. With him stayed, too, the whole of the Royal Family, each of them showing the greatest devotion to the welfare of the soldiers; and indeed that part of the Roumanian army which has been reorganised shows what excellent military material Roumania possesses. The numerous attacks and counter-attacks made by the enemy at Olta and other places proved the truth of the view of the Russian and Roumanian military experts that the Roumanian army of to-day was worthy to stand beside the best of the Allied troops. Evidently the help given by the Allies has here attained the very maximum of efficiency."

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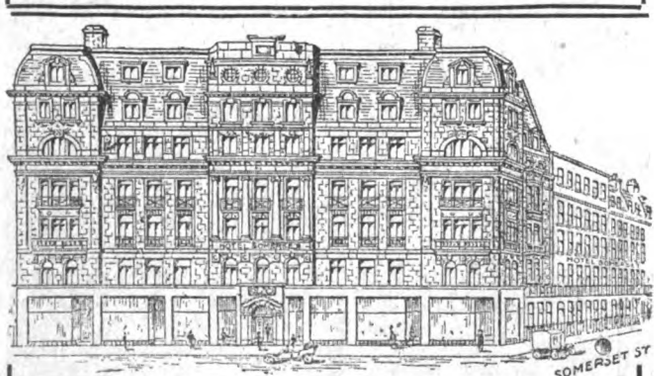

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

WITH THE TURKS IN THE WAR.

Deux ans de Guerre à Constantinople; par Dr. Harry Stuermer. (Paris: Payot et Cie., 3 fr. 5 c.)

Inside Constantinople: A Diplomat's Diary. By Lewis Einstein. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

These two books are written from opposite points of view. Mr. Einstein was a neutral diplomatist with a pro-Ally leaning in Constantinople; Dr. Harry Stuermer is a German who, after taking his share of the fighting in the Eastern front, went to the Dardanelles as correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette.* A Turcophil on his arrival in the Near East, he was utterly revolted by the Turkish massacres of the Armenians and his other experiences at Constantinople, with the result that he threw up his post, abandoned his country, and wrote this heartfelt testimony in Switzerland. The book bears its own witness to his sincerity, for it is written in French, and at some loss to the style, although at a considerable gain to its frankness, he has refused to allow it to be revised by anybody. It is an axiom that nobody but a Frenchman can write good French, but Dr. Stuermer has at least produced a forcible indictment of Prussian arrogance and Turkish brutality.

Mr. Einstein's volume, which is reproduced in the diary form in which it was originally written, would cause even Mr. Winston Churchill some doubts of his omniscience if he should chance to read it. The Allies blundered badly, both in strategy and diplomacy. Had we landed an army at the same time as the naval bombardment the Turks would have been taken by surprise, and Constantinople might have been rushed; as it was, they had six weeks' full warning of what was coming, and made their plans and their defences accordingly. In the landing, or rather landings, there were also grave blunders, and one is left with the conviction that Kitchener and Byng were wise when they determined on evacuation. It was either that or another half-million men to be exposed, not only to a difficult military enterprise but to the certainty of disease.

Our diplomacy was equally at fault. The treachery which Bulgaria contemplated was known in Constantinople long before it was anticipated in London. But we were not the only ones to blunder. Russia's negotiations with Roumania were hopelessly bungled, and one is left with a sense of admiration for Roumania that she did not succumb to the German tempter, whose voice was loudly heard in Bucharest. Germany intrigued as hard in Roumania as in Greece, but she failed as utterly in the one case as she succeeded in the other. It is curious that in both cases there was a Hohenzollern on the throne—for the Queen of the Hellenes was obviously a stronger man than her husband.

Another point Mr. Einstein makes is that the Russian blockade of Constantinople was inefficient. Time after time supplies came in which the Black Sea fleet should have stopped; it is only too evident, and, indeed, M. Claude Anet in *La Révolution Russe* agrees, that slackness and indiscipline were rampant in the Russian Army and Navy even before the revolution.

Mr. Einstein's indictment of the Allies is perfectly unconscious, because he was strongly pro-Ally in his sentiments, and indeed had some little unpleasantness to endure on that account from his German diplomatic colleagues, whose manners were those of Prussia and not of the civilised world. But the indictment is all the more forcible on that account.

One *mot* he quotes that will live: "Deutschland über Allah." It is indeed in the Ottoman Empire to-day.

ROUMANIA'S ORDEAL.*

If anything can bring home to a people who have had nothing approaching the experience, some idea of what the Roumanians went through when their country was overrun by Austro-German forces, it will be the simple, but telling, narrative of "A Roumanian Diary." The diary form is kept throughout, although, as Lady Kennard explains in the preface, the entries are not all her own. At a date unspecified she was obliged to return to England, and the story was taken up by friends whom she had left behind, and she has merely preserved their letters. Diaries are apt to be tedious. There is, however, nothing tedious in this one. A slavish adhesion to dates is avoided. The entries are for the most part jottings at wide intervals. Only in the crowded moments that followed the retreat to Jassy do they cling more closely to the calendar.

It will be well if as many Britons as possible read this book. As a nation we have not given enough attention to the bitter fate of the Roumanians. The omission does not imply lack of heart, or, indeed, lack of appreciation, of their servies. It has simply not been possible to follow the Roumanian story in any detail. Now that it is told, and told so well, the experience of our Allies will be better known. The writers have restricted themselves to recounting just the daily happenings; with the political side of the history of those days they do not concern themselves, although there is sufficient indication in the book to show that they might have amplified their recital in this direction most interestingly. Enough that we have here a glimpse into the misery and sorrows of those black days that followed the evacuation of Bucharest and witnessed the attempt of a capital to house itself without notice in a small town already overfull.

In the earlier part Lady Kennard gives a true, if faintly outlined, picture of Roumania before her entry into the war. To-day it is a different people that is stemming the German advance into Moldavia, and, perhaps, there is no happier passage in the book than that in which the new order is depicted in these few closing lines:—

"Roumania is deserving of notice and appreciation. She has proved herself, and in the greatest manner, which does not savour of ostentation. All that has been lately accomplished spells silent work and no small devotion to what has grown in this our century to be the greatest cause. Strangers who had knowledge and experience, who came to put machinery in motion, remain here, it is true. But they stay to work, and are no longer required to lead. The army trusts its officers, the nation appreciates its King, and we outsiders feel that we want to go home and tell the family of Allies that our little brother Roumania has grown into a man of whom we have reason to be very proud."

* "A Roumanian Diary," 1915, 1916, 1917. By Lady Kennard. (Heinemann London. 5s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Revolt in Arabia. By Dr. C. Snouck Hurgronje. (New York and London: G. Putnam's Sons. 75 cents.)

The Holy Qur-án. By Maulvi Muhammad Ali. (Woking: *The Islamic Review.*)

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Ex-King Constantine. Nov. 13.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British representative at Athens ever informed the Foreign Office of the installation of wireless telegraphy by which ex-King Constantine was kept in continual communication with the German court and the military commanders; whether any of the messages interchanged were ever read and reported to the Foreign Office; and what action, if any, the Allied representatives took in consequence.

Lord R. CECIL informed Mr. Lynch that his Majesty's Government had been well aware that King Constantine was in direct communication with Berlin. It was a fact that certain of his messages were intercepted.

Prince Nicholas's Visit.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to the fact of the disclosures recently made in Greece that the object of the visit of Prince Nicholas to this country was to defeat the war aims of the Alliance by representing to the British Court that the efficient carrying out of the military plans would place the dynasty in danger; whether the mission of Prince Nicholas received encouragement in this country; and, if so, whether the military plans were altered in consequence.

Lord R. CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and that to the second and third parts in the negative.

The Jews and Palestine. Nov. 14.

Mr. BALFOUR, in rely to the question by Mr. King whether, in the event of a national home for the Jews being established in Palestine, it was intended that Jews who were citizens of enemy Powers should, under proper safeguards, be allowed to become citizens of their national home, said: It is too early to make any statement on this subject.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917.	1917.		1336.	5678.
November	November		Saphar	Kisler
16	3	Friday	1	1
	4	Saturday.....	2	2
17				
18	5	Sunday	3	3
19	6	Monday	4	4
20	7	Tuesday	5	5
21	8	Wednesday	6	6
22	9	Thursday	7	7

An advanced stores depot of the Red Cross was opened in Beersheba on the 7th inst.

Mr. Frank Rattigan, First Secretary to the British Legation in Jassy, has arrived in London.

Mr. Montagu, the Secretary of State for India, and the party accompanying him, have arrived safely at Bombay.

It is officially announced that the Swiss Government has undertaken the distribution of supplies to the Serbians in Serbia.

Major-General Gordon Cavanagh, aged 88, of Hove, an Indian Mutiny veteran, left estate of the gross value of £8,741.

The Postmaster-General announces that, until further notice, parcels cannot be accepted for transmission by post to Italy and Greece.

Sir Prabashankar Pattani, accompanied by Lady Pattani, has arrived from India, and on Tuesday took his seat as a member of the Council of India.

The Postmaster-General announces that beginning this week the Indian mails will be despatched fortnightly. No information can be given as regards dates of posting.

M. Michalopoulos, one of the Secretaries to the Greek Cabinet who accompanied M. Venizelos, the Prime Minister, on his departure from Athens, has arrived in London.

M. George Todorovitch, formerly Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has arrived in town from Corfu on his way to Washington, where he will be Secretary to the Legation.

Mr. W. F. Rice, C.S.I., Chief Secretary to the Government of Burma, is acting as Lieutenant-Governor, pending the arrival of Sir Reginald Craddock, the successor to Sir Harcourt Butler.

The anniversary of the fall of Salonika was celebrated in Athens on November 8. The "Te Deum" was sung in the Cathedral, the Diplomatic Corps attending in full uniform. The King was indisposed, and was not present.

It is announced that the term of office of Sir Archdale Earle, Chief Commissioner of Assam, has been extended to the end of March next, when he will be succeeded by Mr. N. D. Beatson-Bell, member of the Bengal Executive Council.

The engagement is announced of Arthur Philip Coote, of the Sudan Civil Service, fifth son of Sir Algernon Coote, Bt., H.M.L., of Ballyfin, Ireland, and Margaretta (Madge), second daughter of Mr. A. Leslie Wright, J.P., of Butterley Hall, Derby.

The engagement is announced between Kaimakam S. C. Peacock Bey, of the Ports and Lights Administration, Alexandria, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Peacock, Eddington, Kent, and Eugénie, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Cantoni, of Ibrahimieh, Ramleh, Alexandria.

HELP to meet the needs of the
SERBIAN ARMY,
and send your Donation for the
SERBIAN RED CROSS
— to the —
SERBIAN LEGATION, 195, Queen's Gate, S.W.

Mr. Herbert Brown, of the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund, has been asked once again to organise a collection from the milling and corn trades for the Y.M.C.A. as a Christmas appeal.

Mr. William Wordsworth, C.I.E., of Villa Wordsworth, Capri, Italy, the eldest surviving grandson of the poet, and formerly principal of Elphinstone College, Bombay, who died on March 7, aged 80, has left property of the value of £9,964.

The Dowager Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 14, when his Majesty invested her with the Insignia of a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

A service in memory of Second-Lieutenant Lord Basil Blackwood, Grenadier Guards, who was killed in action on July 4, was held on November 13 at the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields. The service, which was fully choral, was taken by the Rev. H. R. L. Sheppard, the vicar.

The following Army appointment has been notified in the *London Gazette*:—Memoranda.—Brevet Colonel (temporary Brigadier-General) C. W. G. Richardson, Indian Infantry, to be temporary Major-General whilst employed as Deputy Quartermaster-General, India. October 1.

The King has sent the following telegram to General Allenby:—"I heartily congratulate you and the troops under your command upon the successful results of your ably conceived plans, which have been crowned by the capture of Gaza. I admire the spirit of tenacity and endurance displayed by all ranks.—GEORGE R.I."

Lord Grenfell's important collection of Egyptian and other antiquities was sold at Sotheby's this week. £265 was paid for a very fine head of a King, in black basalt, of the 12th dynasty. The head of the young Rameses, in limestone, from Thebes, of the 18th dynasty, sold for £120, and a cat's head, in bronze, of very fine workmanship, brought £60.

The Serbian Relief Fund and the Serbian Red Cross announce that an exhibition of Serbo-Croatian art will be opened at the Grafton Galleries on Saturday, December 1, when new works by Ivan Mestrovic and other well-known Serbian artists will be shown. Concerts of Slavonic music and lectures on Serbian history, art, and literature will be given.

At a large mass meeting of Jews, held at Alexandria on November 12, a resolution was carried urging the reconstitution of Palestine as a national home for Jews. The resolution also expressed the hope that his Britannic Majesty's Government would use its best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of the object. A demonstration took place subsequently.

The British Refugees from Turkey Fund, Lowndes House, Lowndes Place, Belgrave Square, S.W.1, of which Lady Lowther is chairman, asks for help to alleviate the distress among British residents from Turkey. Many respectable families hitherto carrying on business in these important markets have lost their all. A full statement of the work and a balance-sheet will be forwarded on application to the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Geo. P. Baker, 5, Giltspur Street, E.C.1.

The British Farmers' Red Cross Fund has received in subscriptions, up to the week ended November 9, the sum of £718,419 16s. 5d., of which £357,295 has been devoted to the purpose of hospital work at home and in France, Belgium, Serbia, Dardanelles, the Persian Gulf, East Africa, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. Further assistance is urgently needed, and all offers of help will be gratefully received by the Secretary, Room 5, Tower Bridge Flour Mills, Shad Thames, Bermondsey, S.E.1.

M. Venizelos, who arrived in London on November 13, was met at Charing Cross by the Greek Minister, M. Gennadius, the Greek Consul-General, the Staff of the Legation, and many members of the Greek Colony. The members of the Mission are M. Diomedes, former Minister of Finance, the Governor-General of Salonika, and the President of the Oriental Bank. M. Venizelos is staying at the Ritz Hotel as the guest of the British Government. He visited the Foreign Office and 10, Downing Street, and had a conference with M. Gennadius on the formal arrangements for his visit.

M. Venizelos called at Buckingham Palace and Marlborough House on Wednesday. During the day, accompanied by the Greek Minister, he visited the Allied Embassies and Legations, and in the evening had a conference with Mr. Balfour at the Foreign Office. In the evening M. Venizelos dined with Miss Helena Schilizzi, at 37, Upper Brook Street. The members of the Diplomatic Corps and British Government, and the members of the Greek colony left cards.

A special general meeting of the Greek community in London was held on November 12 in the Merchants' Hall, Baltic Exchange, under the presidency of Mr. Schilizzi to organise a reception for M. Venizelos. The meeting was well attended, among those present being Mr. Gennadius, the Greek Minister. At the instance of Mr. G. Sevastopulo, a committee was formed to deal with the reception, consisting of Mr. Marchetti, as chairman, Miss Helena Schilizzi, Mr. M. Embirios, Mr. Eumorfopulos, and opthers.

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Seven more Serbian students are in residence at Oxford this term, in addition to the eight already maintained by the Serbian Relief Fund, and five theological students maintained by a separate fund, who had been admitted as non-collegiate students. Of the seven one is an "advanced student" for the new degree of Doctor of Philosophy and another a student of music who has already entered for the first examination of Bachelor of Music. The others are forestry students, who have been working for the last year under the direction of Sir William Schlich and are now admitted as guests at different colleges.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, who has been in England since the beginning of this year, has returned to Egypt.

Mr. E. Bonham-Carter, late Judicial Adviser to the Sudan Government, has arrived at Baghdad and taken up his new duties as the Senior Judicial Officer in Mesopotamia.

Bimbashi J. D. Lawrence, of the Bahr el Ghazel district, has been transferred to the Equatorial Battalion, and replaced by Bimbashi F. A. L. Lawrence, of the Upper Nile district.

Kaimakam A. Crawford Bey, Western Arab Corps, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralaj, and Bimbashi L. Danels, Sudan Veterinary Department, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

It is announced in the *London Gazette* that Lieut.-General Sir W. R. Birdwood, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., Indian Army, Aide-de-Camp General to the King, has been appointed to be General.

Judge Larcher, President of the Mixed Court of Appeal, and Mr. Laloe, the Vice-President, have been re-elected to the same positions at the annual meeting of the General Assembly of Judges at the Mixed Tribunal.

The Acting Governor-General of the Sudan has appointed Mr. R. H. Dun, Chief Justice of the Sudan Courts, to succeed W. W. Sherry, appointed Legal Secretary; and Mr. N. J. Davidson, now Judge of the High Court, to be Advocate-General.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Edward Grey, late of the Bengal Civil Service, has died at Woodleigh, Sussex, at the age of eighty-five. He was the sole surviving son of the Right Hon. Sir Charles Edward Grey, and entered the service of the Hon. East India Company on the Bengal Establishment in 1853, retiring in 1879.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alan Bryant, D.S.O., Gloucester Regiment, who was killed on October 17, was the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Bryant, of Boscombe, Hants. He was born in 1869, and educated at Marlborough, Cassel, and Sandhurst. He received his commission in the Gloucester Regiment in 1890, and served with his regiment in Ireland, Malta, Egypt, and India.

Lieutenant Reginald Gordon Hill, M.C., R.A.M.C., who was killed in action on October 11, in his 30th year, was the only surviving son of Mr. George W. Hill, of 21, West Hill, Highgate. During the war between Italy and Turkey, Lieutenant Hill was first surgeon to the field hospital of the Ottoman forces in the hinterland of Tripoli. At the outbreak of the present war he was on a visit to Australia, but immediately returned and obtained a commission in the R.F.A.

Brigadier-General Cecil Godfrey Rawling, C.M.G., C.I.E., who was killed in action on October 28, was born in 1870, and was the son of the late Mr. S. Bartlett Rawling, of Beaumont House, Stoke, and of Mrs. Rawling, of 16, Montagu Street, Portman Square, W. He was educated at Clifton College, and in 1891 entered the Army, obtaining his commission in the Somerset L.I. He saw active service on the North-West Frontier of India in 1897-98. In 1903 he explored and surveyed 40,000 square miles of Western Tibet, and in 1904-5 commanded the Gartok Expedition across Tibet, receiving the thanks of the Government of India, and in 1909 being awarded the Murchison Bequest by the Royal Geographical Society, of which he was elected a Fellow. In June, 1916, he was gazetted temporary brigadier-general.

MAILS FOR GREECE LOST.

A civil mail containing correspondence (except parcels) for Greece, and a mail containing correspondence for the British troops at Corfu, posted approximately between September 23 and September 25, inclusive, and parcels for the British troops at Corfu, posted approximately between August 31 and September 16, inclusive, have been lost at sea through enemy action. Registration with the Post Office does not cover losses due to acts of war, and no claims for compensation arising out of the loss of these mails can accordingly be entertained.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

APOSTOLIDES.—On November 6, 1917, at Calcutta, the wife of Colonel E. Apostolides (née Frances Graham), honorary A.D.C. to the Viceroy of India—a son.

EDWARDS.—On November 12, at 34, The Grove, Ealing, W.5. the wife of Second Lieutenant F. M. Edwards (Egyptian Camel Transport Corps), of a daughter.

MARSH.—On November 10, at Srinagar, Kashmir, the wife of Captain A. C. Marsh (Egyptian Army), of a son.

OULTON.—On November 8, at Cairo, the wife of Ernest Vivian Oulton, M.B., of a daughter.

SIMPSON.—On November 7, at Cairo, the wife of M. F. Simpson, Khartoum, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

WEAKLEY—RUFFER.—On November 6, at H.B.M. Consulate and St. Mark's Church, Alexandria, Arthur Leonard Weakley, Captain, R.A.M.C., only surviving son of Dr. and Mrs. Weakley, of Forest Gate, to Honora Vere, second daughter of the late Sir Armand Ruffer, M.D., C.M.G., etc., and Lady Ruffer, of Ramleh, Egypt.

DEATHS.

DYCE.—On November 8, at Linden Gardens, Hyde Park, W., Capt. Cecil Coles Dyce, retired Indian Army, aged 75.

DAWSON.—On November 11, at Saranac Lake, New York State, U.S.A., Geoffrey William, of the Indian Civil Service (Burma), fourth son of the late James Dawson, of The Avenue, Upper Norwood, aged 45.

GREY.—On Wednesday, November 7, 1917, at Woodleigh, Rutherfield, Sussex, Edward Grey, late of Bengal Civil Service, sole surviving son of the Right Honourable Charles Edward Grey, G.C.H., aged 85.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1917.

THE LAND OF PROMISE.

It is a characteristic of the British nation that it takes its successes calmly and its failures seriously. Possibly no achievement at the present moment would compensate in the public mind entirely for the set-back to the Allied arms in Italy, and if Germany aspired to creating an atmosphere of depression bordering on consternation she has gone a long way towards attaining her end. But the powerful blow that has been dealt at the Italian front is at best only a temporarily successful sortie from the beleaguered fortress, which may add a little to the garrison's slender stock of supplies, but leaves it still further reduced in man-power. With all hope of relief from without cut off, such a sortie, while embarrassing the investing force, brings no practical advantage to the besieged, provided the former does not allow itself to be stampeded. On the other hand, any tightening of the steel ring round the fortress, even at the point farthest from the citadel, serves to remind those inside who are cognisant of the facts of the situation of the increasing hopelessness of their position. For this reason the double pressure now being exercised on the enemy's forces in Palestine and Mesopotamia has a greater value than a cursory glance at the war map may accord to it. Both these fronts are far removed from Constantinople, and still farther from Berlin; but the enemy has no new resources to draw upon with which to make good his losses, and at the lowest estimate the defeats must have their proportionate effect on his *moral*. Viewed as isolated engagements, there could be no comparison between the overwhelming Austro-German success in Northern Italy and the satisfactory but limited progress made by General Allenby and by Sir Stanley Maude. In their bearing on the war as a whole, however, the Allies may yet be justified in regarding the Eastern operations as an offset to the reverse in Europe. With the elimination of Jemal Pasha from Syria, the Germans exercise sole military control over all the fighting in Turkey. It is they and not incompetent Turkish commanders who have been forced to give ground, and this factor will not be lost on the Turks.

However the balance in regard to the military events of the last two weeks may incline, there can be no question that the Allies in general and the British in particular have in the operations in Palestine the most potent stimulus that the nations in arms could desire. Justice is an abstract conception that can hardly ever be dissociated from conflicting arguments; democracy under the inspiring phraseology of President Wilson opened out new millenial ideas that promised to sweep all before them, until the Russian revolution brought them tumbling to earth again; and even liberty has been parodied by Hohenzollern and Maximalist alike, until its genuine votaries shrink from making use of the word. Nothing, however, can affect the associations that cling to the name of Palestine, and no nation could play the part that Great Britain has now been called upon to perform without being thrilled by the thought of being an instrument in the shaping of the destiny of the Promised Land. It was surely the happiest inspiration that prompted the British Government on the threshold of what it is hoped will prove a successful advance through Syria to remove all possibility of misunderstanding by making known the disinterestedness of its attitude towards the country. "His Majesty's Government," the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has assured the head of the Zionist movement, "views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use its best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country." The decision accords at once with the religious and political instinct of the British race. That Palestine would ultimately become once more a national home for the Jewish people has always been a settled conviction among those who have pondered over its future in the light of the past; and a long tradition connects England with the efforts directed towards that end. Politically the solution has much to commend it. The status of a Jewish Palestine has yet to be settled; but we may dismiss from our minds the idea of a minor State that may be tempted to plunge into international politics as an unattached unit on the look-out for a high bidder for its political support. Rather may we hope to find in the New Palestine such an enclave set between East and West as will prove a harmonising medium between the two and a moral buffer against all political aggrandisement in this part of the world.

No little misconception would seem to exist with regard to the precise significance of the so-called Zionist movement. Even in the ranks of Jewry itself differences of opinion have prevailed, and have tended to inspire doubts in non-Jewish circles as to the wisdom of the step to which the British Government has now pledged its support. First of all, let it be said, there is no suggestion of the whole of Jewry flocking back to Palestine; there would be no room for them there, and any incentive to make the change in their domicile would be entirely lacking among the bulk of the people. On the other hand, Palestine is for all true Jews a spiritual centre, and deep down in their being they associate with it, if not their own individual place of residence, at least the home of a sufficient number of Jewish people to make it the focus of Jewish life and Jewish civilization. Such a Jewish commonwealth can only grow up to fulfil its destiny under the protection of a strong and ordered State, which will guarantee it immunity from outside interference, security of life and property, and the impartial administration of justice. For its own material development it must look to itself, and in this connection it will be recalled that Jewish agricultural and urban settlements already exist in Palestine, and are a nucleus ready to hand for the new commonwealth. They point to the probable lines on which the development of the country will take place, expedited or retarded according to the degree of assistance on which Zionism can count. The valley is full of bones, and, lo! they are very dry; many stages have to be passed through before these dry bones stand upon their feet, an exceeding great army. Of Palestine it will then be true that "This land that was desolate is become like the Garden of Eden, and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced and are inhabited." Towards that consummation it would seem that Great Britain in the dispensation of Providence will have played no small part.

CONDITIONS IN SYRIA.

At the "International Board" dinner at the Lyceum Club on November 12, Mr. Holz, of the United States Embassy, spoke of his recent experiences in Syria in connection with the distribution of relief sent from the United States to the war sufferers in Syria. Starvation, typhus, and small-pox had worked havoc among the Druses and the Christians, and in Damascus, Beirout, and other places the population, he said, had diminished by 60 per cent. From the outbreak of hostilities in that part of the war area to last April, when the United States joined the Allies, Mr. Holz and his committee, aided by American missionaries, distributed £2,000,000 and kept many of the sufferers alive. With money in their possession, the people could buy food by a careful administration of "palm oil." Relief work had been cut off since last spring, and Mr. Holz feared that the condition of the people must now be deplorable.

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ROUMANIA'S THREE DAYS.

By M. CORBESCO,
Prefect of Police in Bucharest.

The First Day, August 14, 1916.

War! Mobilisation! That was the secret which the first day revealed. War had raged two years outside. Two years during which the consciousness of our power, anxiety for our interests, and the obligations of our neutrality, for form's sake, made us face with suppressed feelings of revolt the procedure of the corrupt German propaganda in our midst, while both heart and reason had already made their choice.

One must have lived through these two years with us, in the growing development of the national spirit, under the insolence of those who supposed their designs assured; lived with us who believed our good faith abused, under the torture of doubt which at moments almost won over the most patient; one must have elbowed one's way through the demonstrations by day and by night, cleaned up the damage from stone-throwing and pistol shot, replaced the broken windows, given a deaf ear to insult and calumny, have watched over the good, and marked down the wicked; one must have lived through all this to be able to judge of the tension that drove some to desperation and others to depression, to be able to understand at last the beneficial relaxation that melted into one the weariness and the violence, from which evolved an enthusiastic national sentiment.

Our dignity was avenged. The day August 14 gave all this! From early morning the streets were packed with dense crowds watching the Ministers going to the Crown Council, and eagerly discussing the pros and cons of the situation. War! The police were glad to find the public taken up with a spectacle, for it had work to do. It was disconnecting all the electric wires in the houses of the "gentlemen" at Bucharest, at Sinaia, in the valley towns as in the mountains, wherever an indiscreet word could be whispered along a line the telephone suddenly became out of order for those who were likely to be indiscreet on this day. Secret agents in civilian dress quietly entered the houses marked on their little books, and never came out alone. At the Prefecture of Police the big guardroom began to fill up with those "gentlemen" always arriving, always accompanied. By night they must have numbered close on a thousand. A nice little present for Count Czernin!

Time presses. They have brought me 20,000 posters, all wet from the press, declaring a state of siege. It is almost time for the Crown Council to have ended. A feverish public watches the faces of the Councillors. What is the decision? Ah! there they are! They pass in motor-cars, and are gone, but the public, with that marvellous intuition, has grasped the fact.

War! War! The posters are passed from hand to hand; the growl of war surges from the crowd. The German "gentlemen" are assured by plain-clothes men that they need have no fear; they will be safely conducted.

An hour passes, and from all street corners the buglers sound the call: Mobilisation! To arms! Then were street scenes seen; people kissed, shouting aloud for the joy that had been suppressed; crowds made their way to the Palace, raising a mighty shout to acclaim the king who had delivered them. Although I had been two years Prefect, I was amazed at the dignity of this people, who throughout this time had clamoured for war, and had not hidden their feelings from the "gentlemen"; now that the gauntlet had been thrown down, they did not cry insults, but treated them with the silence they deserved.

Thus this day that had begun with the fever of lingering doubt, on which the afternoon brought deliverance for relaxed nerves, came to an end, and the silence of night fell on the 400,000 inhabitants, who in retirement prepared for the morrow of unknown suffering, but also of the realisation of the nation's hope.

At the same hour of the following day the church bells rang the first air-raid warning, and with the new darkness in the silent streets the enemy came, the sky was sprayed with gold, the cannon rent the night, and my telephone kept ticking "Hallo! Department of Police; Street ——; No. ——; 25 dead; 65 wounded!" And for hours the call repeated itself through the night!

The Second Day, November 22, 1916.

It is 10 p.m. My hand is waiting on the telephone, waiting for one more call, as if I could not bear to leave it; and yet the message is finished. The chief group of armies operating near Bucharest has communicated the prearranged secret signal for the retreat and the evacuation of the town.

I dream, but one must act. The day had been heavy, agonising, and yet with rays of hope. One had heard the cannon all day. Enemy patrols had visited the waterworks twenty miles away; refugees from the country had poured in—a constant stream—as if to find protection behind our walls, while the townsfolk were fleeing as if the same walls had lost all friendliness. Now it is over. The town is deserted, the houses are closed, and we must leave, too!

The last orders, the last couriers, a last piercing syren as signal, and in the growing darkness the last convoys were organised, and the thousands of workmen of the Arsenal were drawn up charged to save all they could and destroy the rest. The last sounds I hear are the deafening explosions of the powder factories and the ammunition.

The ever-growing convoys fill the streets. Leaving the town, we are already on the high road, sodden and ruined by the heavy rains. Columns of provisions, munitions for the troops, refugees in carts, in perambulators, in motor lorries, on foot, riding in smart carriages, in taxicabs; all like an ever-moving thick stream. It is horrible. Silence reigns but for the hoarse cries of the drivers in the dark, and the straining of the men and horses at the effort demanded of them. And this stream will move all night and all day. Against the flicker of the lanterns the sillhouettes of the bent backs of the men are darker than the black night.

The men do not speak. Now and then they stifle a curse at a broken trace or a bale that shifts on an overburdened horse. One hears no complaints. I feel that men so silent must have heavy thoughts—thoughts that suffering makes reasonable. But there is no despair, notwithstanding those whom I saw fall by the way.

The Third Day, August 14, 1917.

A year has passed. Those men who were silent in the fantastic night march, steeped in mud and their thoughts, I have seen nearly all since. They are here at Jassy, in the Arsenal, in the Polytechnic, in the workshops, on the railways, reconstructing for the defence of the country that is left them. They are working with all their energy and strength, on the meagre diet that is allotted to us all. Now they speak, they even let themselves go! They acclaim Albert Thomas and Vandervelde, and General Scott, and all those who have come here to us, to bring from so far words of hope, and the comfort of our great Allies.

These men speak at last, and they speak with sense. The day after the Agrarian Reforms were voted I went amongst them. I rejoiced in their joy, and was touched by the depth of their new thoughts. I spoke to them of the King and the Royal Family, for we all love the beauty of the children and their gentle natures. This family have taken such a burthen on them that it seems to us as if they would lighten us of all the load! Not an impure thought has come to these men from the Revolution next door. This says much for our national children. The love of the King has deepened every day. This says much for the King, whom we now call "Ferdinand the Faithful."

This third day, which has begun after our retreat in Moldavia, is a long day, a hard day, a day which will last until after the war: a day of patience, of travail and ever renewed effort. By means of it we have already found ourselves as a nation. We have realised, too, I believe, that the trials that we must still pass through, which make one learn by the heart, as well

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as by the reason, will attach us more and more to the Sovereign and kindle in us a more passionate patriotism. These trials reveal a mystic communion of souls which can even reach to the unknown, and in the brotherhood of right and justice we shall, I believe, touch the great heart of England, to whom these lines are addressed. It is by these trials that we hope for a dignified peace.

BATTLES ON THE PHILISTINE PLAINS.

The turning of the Eastern flank of the Turkish defence at Beersheba has been followed with dramatic suddenness by the collapse of the whole fortified line of the Turks. Gaza has been aptly described as the "outpost of Africa, the door of Asia." Through this door our troops are entering the great rolling fertile downs of Philistia. History is but repeating itself. Nearly 3,600 years ago the great conquering Thothmes III. was held up at Gaza when advancing from Egypt to conquer Canaan, and later Egyptian kings held this city as the outpost of their land. When Assyria held Canaan their kings fortified Gaza against Egypt until some centuries later, when the position was reversed and Pharaoh Necho II. again made this city an Egyptian outpost. Here Cambyses, in 529 B.C., was long delayed on his route to Egypt. Alexander the Great also took it by siege. It was never, except for a very short time under Alexander Jannæus, in Hebrew possession. Under the Romans it flourished as a free city, and maintained its prosperity until it fell to the arms of Abu Bekr in 635 A.D. It never really recovered its prosperity under Crusader or Turk, and it is not remarkable that our soldiers in entering this modern town have experienced some disappointment at what they found. Gaza also outrivalled Damascus and was once the most populous city in Palestine. To-day, in spite of its abiding position of natural advantage—in a veritable oasis—it is but a collection of mud houses with a few mosques. The "Great Mosque" was originally a Christian Church built in the twelfth century and dedicated to St. John. Cities with such favourable advantages as Gaza never perish entirely, and it is probable that from its present low condition it will soon rise to something of its erstwhile importance. It has always been Egyptian in its life and ways, and one hopes that it may become once again, as it has been so often in the past, a frontier outpost town of Egypt itself.

Our troops seem to have passed the deep Wady el Hesy, on the banks of which—some fifteen miles east of the Mediterranean—rises the famous Tell el Hesy, excavated by the Palestine Exploration Fund a quarter of a century ago, and then proved to be the site of Lachish, which "throughout history played second to Gaza, now an outpost of Egypt, and was a frontier fortress of Syria."

Following along the coast, at a spot where the enormous sand dunes, which continue up the coast all the way to Jaffa, become a little thin and allow approach to the sea, lie the ruined walls of Ashkelon. This, the second greatest of the Philistine cities—now known as Askalon—has a great and glorious history, to which its abundant ruins, largely now covered by sand swept up from the beach, bear witness. In the centre of the great semicircle of the Crusading walls—successors, on the same foundations, of those of Roman times—lies a great elongated mound, the site of the Philistine city referred to in the lament over Saul, "Publish it not in the streets of Askelon" (2 Sam. i. 20). The sea has on one side worn away parts of this mound, exposing upon the surface of an almost perpendicular cliff the successive remains of the earlier civilisation. Some day we may hope that from this spot may be recovered the archæological secrets of the mysterious Philistines. The site of Askelon is also one well suited to a renewed civilisation. The Crusaders considered it the most important post in S.W. Palestine, and the contemporary Arabs described it as the "Bride of Syria."

Yet another of the five great cities of the Philistines has been reached in Ashdod—now Esdud—just halfway between Gaza and Jaffa. To-day this once great city is but a large village near the edge of the fertile Wady Sukereir. The ruthless sand, ever drifting eastwards, threatens to cover the "tell," now tree-clad, which hides the remains of the Philistine city and the temple of Dagon.

While progress on the west side of the plain has been rapid—and to seize and hold the coast is for us important—the Turks seem to be making a stand on the road from Gaza to Hebron, not far from Bert Jebrin, and near where in ancient time stood the fortress of Monshah (now Tell Sandahannah) to defend this very route. Another nine miles N.E. of this, gleaming white from afar, stands the remarkable hill Till es Safi, the Blanchegarde of the Crusaders and the probable site of the Philistine Gath. As this guards the entrance into the hills by the Wady es Sunt, the Vale of Elah, we shall probably hear of this spot in the military reports before long.

What a gladdening change it must be to our men from the desert wastes south of Wady el Ghuzzeh to the open downs dotted with villages and trees of the Plains of Philistia!

E. W. G. M.

THE SALONIKA RELIEF FUND.

The following is the list of contributions to the Lord Mayor of London's Fund for the relief of sufferers by the fire at Salonika collected by the Greek Consulate at Newcastle up to October 24:—

N. Polites	£10	0	0
C. Coutsoucos	5	0	0
A. Andreadis	3	0	0
S. Theophilatos	2	10	4
G. Otto, Limited	2	2	0
E. Andreadis	2	0	0
C. Papis	2	0	0
A. Mamoujelos	2	0	0
P. Kafkalakis	2	0	0
S. Lorenjatos	2	0	0
P. Bonifatsos	2	0	0
S. Pavlakis	2	0	0
F. Maroudos	1	10	6
P. Lyras	1	10	6
A. Trobetas	1	10	0
J. Evgenikos	1	10	0
S. Cotolakis	1	5	0
D. Vrettos	1	1	0

£1 each: N. Diasalis, G. Costalas, P. Vlachopoulos, M. Despotakis, P. Mortakis, T. Tiriris, E. Origoriou, N. Pangalos, A. Nicolakis, A. Xanthakis, J. Tsimboulis, S. Bizanis, D. Papis, D. Scarvelis, M. Frangos, J. Coutsoucos, P. Contos, A. Kokinos, V. Demetriou, D. Constantinou.

15s. each: E. Andreanas, E. Theodorakis, P. Saris.

10s. each: N. Agelikakis, F. Darousos, D. Paraschos, J. Scarvelis, J. Mouratis, J. Maroulis, N. Theophilos, M. Menegakis, M. Caraselos, D. Mastropoulous, D. Caracatsanis, K. Tsouchlarakis, C. Alexandropoulos, E. Poulos, A. Eliades, M. Arvanitopoulos, M. Vamvakeris, A. Katechis, C. Stamboulas, C. Courtesis, E. Baildlia, H. Antoniou, D. Mandanis, D. Simons, A. Fotiou, D. Vasiliou, N. Stefanou, E. Caloupakis, A. Theodorou, Z. Panagiotou, J. Petalas, N. Sclaveritis, E. Tranakas, J. Kalafatis, C. Panagiotou, A. Tripolitsiotis, G. Vlasopoulos, F. Papamichael, A. Papalas, S. Scopolitis, S. Caragiannopoulos, C. Bizanis, M. Naar, J. Theolagos, L. Labrinakis, L. Orfanou, A. Cosaris, S. Scoufalos, H. Fendakis, S. Zeskas, P. Termoudes, A. Zsichos, C. Zafiriou, P. Papis, N. Tsimboulis, Z. Caminis, S. Liadakis, A. Matuleas, S. Minas, M. Bourekas, K. Demetriades, N. Kambousis, J. Moutsatsos, J. Courtis, N. Sarris, V. Tassou, G. Maroulis, J. Panagiotou, N. Panagiotou, N. Frangos, C. Constantinides, O. Martinis, A. Derikis, D. Vourliotis, M. Franges, P. Coundeuris, N. Benakis, E. Coutsouvelis, H. Asimis, P. Ippocratous, E. Antippas, J. Parisakis, P. Parisakis, J. Nikiforos, G. Lemos, M. Triantafilakis, M. Chrisafos, A. Alexandris, P. Kinigos, A. Vayanos, A. Giossasis, G. Georgiades, E. Vichos, A. Coutalas, J. Hios, A. Grigos, L. Hanjoglou, P. Brousalos, D. Benetoulias, J. Plakakis, A. Perselis, N. Petropakis, D. Coulis, H. Agorastos, G. Ioannides, E. Atsidatos, J. Balaskas, J. Coutoulas, A. Souracatos, J. Gialenios, A. Maris, D. Filipakis, E. Samarcatis, F. Sclaves, C. Clavaras, L. Papamichael.

7s. 1d.: P. Savas.

5s. each: A. Triantafilou, C. Tjanos, D. Grevas, D. Costalas, P. Laios, N. Vocos, A. Stergiou, N. Axarlis, S. Liosatos, J. Cousoumis.

Total of first list, £128 10s. 11d.

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TANGIER TO TEHERAN

An amusing story about an archæological "find" made by a Colonial Army chaplain has been going the rounds lately. Apparently it found its way home in a letter written to the headmaster of Lewes Grammar School by Sir Samuel Shead. At any rate, that is the authority quoted by the *Morning Post*, in which I had read the tale. The chaplain referred to appears to have been doing a little quiet excavation on his own account in "a temple" regarding which no particulars are given that would enable us to locate it. But the padre is reported to have found "under a beautiful Mosaic floor . . . a body, which he identified as John of Antioch"; and as telegraphing to the Colonial authorities for permission to remove his find. The reply, we are told, was: "He has been reported missing for some time; please send his identity disc."

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It is a pleasing tale; but there are one or two points in it that make me doubt whether it is literally true in every respect. I am ready to assume that the enterprising padre was removing that "beautiful Mosaic floor"—or as much of it as he could conveniently tackle—in the interests of Science, when he, accidentally, made his find, I can hardly imagine his telegraphing for permission to remove the said find. Of course, he may have had the intention of getting the authorities to pay ex's; for he seems to have possessed the born excavator's unlimited cheek. We should like to have been told his reasons for identifying his find as John of Antioch. What makes me more inclined to suspect that someone is indulging in the gentle art of leg-pulling is the fact that stories of this kind have always flourished exceedingly in Turkish soil.

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For many of these stories there is, of course, quite substantial foundation. For instance, Sir Edwin Pears was once consulted in Constantinople about a man who had been arrested for failing to produce one Paulos of Galata, who was suspected of printing a set of rules of a Greek benefit society, of which the police did not approve. The Turkish officials were not to be fooled. The prisoner might say what he chose, but there, on the paper, were the words:—'Επ.....Παύλου πρὸς.....Γαλάτ.....It was all very well to endeavour to make out that they referred to something that preceded them, which was extracted from a letter written long since by Paulos to the Galatians; that Paulos was dead; and that the Galatians were *not* the inhabitants of the Galata quarter. A likely story indeed! . . . And it took some very hard swearing, and some very substantial securities before the Turkish Sherlock Holmeses were satisfied. You can read the details in Sir Edwin's "Turkey and its People."

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The publication of the text of ex-Queen Sophie's now notorious telegram sheds a certain light on the character of its sender. Taken in conjunction with the wording of other telegrams in the series, it shows how entirely of herself and her own interests were the ex-Queen's thoughts; how entirely she failed to identify herself in spirit with Greece and the Greeks. Misled, one supposes, by the courtiers and self-seekers, she speaks of "the sympathy already shown by the Greek people for the cause of Germany," and yet she speaks of herself as "exiled and unhappy" amidst these ardent Germanophils! And how very, very sorry she is for herself and her hard lot. "You can realise my position," she exclaims, self-pitying, and "How I suffer." But the subject that seems to be mentioned most times in these telegraphic masterpieces is—food! It almost looks as if the Royal Lady shared certain characteristics with the Infamous Pig.

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A correspondent who has recently returned from Russia, having had occasion to travel to the north from Odessa, has thrown considerable light on the situation in that country. To take only the question of food supplies. All along the route there was no indication of any shortage; bread, butter, eggs, milk, and fruit could be had at the stations in plenty and cheaply. Then came an abrupt change when the Petrograd zone was reached. The mileage from the capital was not mentioned, but wherever the line happens to be, it is drawn pretty incisively. At the first station within the zone what could be had for forty kopeks at the last station now cost four or five roubles; and from that point this scale of charges was maintained. The question of transport may have something to do with the problem, but the real trouble seems to be that the rest of Russia is, to use a colloquialism, so sick at what is happening in the capital that it refuses to supply it with provisions. My correspondent's view is that the Government which aspires to be Permanent, and not Provisional, will have to rid itself somehow or other of the Petrograd atmosphere, which is far too impregnated with German microbes—male and female—to be healthy.

CORSAIR.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Settlement in the Balkans.

The current number of the *Quarterly Review* is of special "Near Eastern" interest. Reference has already been made in these columns to an article on the Baghdad Railway. Even more significant is an unsigned article, entitled "Settlement in the Balkans," which boldly maps out in detail the territorial arrangements which should follow the war. The writer's conclusions are not likely to pass unchallenged, but they constitute, as far as we are aware, the first attempt outside the pages of THE NEAR EAST to envisage the settlement as a whole. Moreover, the proposed settlement starts from a premise for which we have consistently stipulated: that it was to be "imposed from above"—a phrase which will be familiar to our readers in this connection.

"It is our interest as well as our duty to remedy a state of affairs which has set Europe in flames, and to establish in the Balkans, the gateway of the East, a firm and enduring peace, the only sure guarantee for our own tranquillity in the future. This can only be attained by satisfying the legitimate aspirations of the Balkan nationalities. The settlement must be just and free from any taint of vindictiveness; it must be imposed from above and maintained under penalties, perhaps even *manu militari* for a certain time, until the military and Chauvinistic elements have been brought to reason, which have so often stifled the voice of good sense and overborne the wishes of the majority in these States. With a just delimitation of frontiers the irredentist agitations in the various countries will cease to exist, and with **their disappearance the Chauvinists** and militarists will lose much of the leverage with which they have hitherto worked on the various Courts, Governments, and populations."

Turning to details, the writer gives the following solution in regard to the Dobrudja:—

In any case it is necessary that Roumania should have full access to the sea and that the channels of communication should be entirely Roumanian. This is not the case with regard to her ports on the Danube, Braila and Galatz, inasmuch as the lower course of the river from Reni to the apex of the delta is subject to Russian control. It is, therefore, desirable that Sulina, Constantza and Magnalia should continue to be Roumanian; Roumania has already incurred great expense in providing Constanza with a harbour and with railway access to the interior.

It is otherwise with the southern portion of the Dobrudja, assigned to Bulgaria by the Berlin Treaty, but appropriated by Roumania in 1913. The Bulgarian element in the Dobrudja is divided into two groups, the northern and the southern. The northern group, extending from little north of Constanza to Tulcha, is isolated by Turkish and Tartar strata from the southern, which extends south and south-west in compact masses from near Mangalia to Baltchik and Dobritch, where it again encounters the Moslem element. Baltchik, Dobritch and Kavarna should obviously be returned to Bulgaria, and the best arrangement from every point of view would be a return to the decision of the European Conference at Petrograd in March, 1913, which accorded Silistria (mainly a Turkish town) to Roumania, together with small circumjacent territory, and drew a line thence to the sea coast a little south of Mangalia. This arrangement would give back to Bulgaria a district which is mainly Bulgarian wherever it is not Turkish, and would revive a European decision which ought not to have been set aside by the Treaty of Bucharest.

It is not possible here to deal with all the points raised in the *Quarterly Review* article, which is accompanied by a map illustrating the suggested settlement. It is proposed that the Theiss should be Roumania's western boundary, with a line bearing north-east from a point opposite Zenta, and keeping to the east of Grosswardein and to the south of Czernowitz.

The Macedonian Question.

The proposals in regard to Bulgaria will be anathema to some people, but the writer handles his subject fearlessly, keeping in view, as we believe, the goal of a permanent peace in the Balkans rather than restricting his outlook to the days of heated animosities that will follow the war. The Bulgarians—however unworthy—are given the Enos-Midia line and a part of the Dobrudja taken from them by the Treaty of Bucharest. Their boundary with Greece is to start from the Struma, running north of Nigrita and south of Vodena, to Mount Grammos on the Albanian frontier, close to the source of the Devol.

An important point is made in connection with the Ægean ports and the hinterland.

If Salonika must remain Greek, Kavala will largely take the

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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place of that port as the distributing centre for the Bulgarian populations of central and even western Macedonia. Greece can never possess the back-country of these important ports, and if she is allowed to retain one of them it is the most she can hope for. Furthermore, it should be remembered that British and other foreign trade, which Germany and Austria-Hungary hope to oust from the peninsula, will be excluded from these regions unless the Macedonian seaports are left in the hands of the State which controls the interior. The creation of a Greek Dalmatia on the Ægean coast would be alike injurious to the prospects of Western commerce and to the prosperity of these ports and of the regions which derive their supplies from them.

The writer is not favourably disposed towards a Greek Salonika. In answering the question: Is Salonika to be Greek in which "the principle of nationality is not involved?" he says:—

In this case, as in that of the other seaports, the paramount claims of the back-country take the first place. The Bulgarian peasant element, speaking a dialect which presents the nearest approach to the old Slavonic, the language of SS. Cyril and Methodius, descends to the sea-coast west of the town, but the fact, which was recognised by the Treaty of San Stefano, possesses no significance unless central and western Macedonia accrue to Bulgaria. Greece is already abundantly provided with seaports and can never possess the Macedonian interior, on which Salonika depends for her future prosperity. A Customs barrier must prove a serious drawback to that prosperity, which in any case Greece will hardly be disposed to encourage at the expense of Piræus. In the future, commercial rivalry between the Jews and Greeks will result in the impoverishment of the Hebrew element, hitherto by far the wealthiest in the city. The population was Jewish, Turkish, Greek, Bulgarian, in the order named, before the Balkan wars; to-day, under Greek rule, the Turkish population has diminished, the Greek has increased, and the Bulgarian has been almost exterminated. The Jewish still remains the first in wealth and numbers, but its prosperity has declined; Greeks and Jews, as is well known, do not live happily together. The ideal solution would be a Jewish republic and a free port under the protection of the Powers.

Montenegro, according to our authority, should "receive her legitimate extension" to the north, and he would not allow the Drin to be her southern boundary. The subject of Italian claims to a foothold on the Dalmatian coast is not touched upon. The Serbian-Bulgarian frontier is to follow the course of the Timok and to cut the contested zone roughly in two.

Finally, the writer in the *Quarterly Review* sums up his suggestions in the following words:—

A re-partition of territories effected on the lines above indicated would furnish the basis for an enduring peace in the Balkans. The promulgation of such a scheme would be met with an outcry all round, especially on the part of those who desire to appropriate what is not theirs; but proposals for the dismemberment of any Balkan nation or nations could not be listened to at a moment when the world is meditating the reconstitution of unhappy Poland. Such proposals should be rejected as impolitic, and as contrary to our declared programme, and the Balkan States, exhausted by the war, would soon settle down to the peaceful development of their new possessions. It is not too much to anticipate that consciousness of their mutual interests, aided by experience of the calamities resulting from their quarrels, would soon bring them together in a new Balkan League, defensive in character, and designed to resist encroachment from without. Such an alliance or confederation would form the best and surest barrier against German aggression in the East.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE BALKANS.

Sir Thomas Holdich, President of the Royal Geographical Society, at the first meeting of the session at Burlington Gardens on November 12, read a paper on political adjustments in the Near East as they may be affected by geographical conditions. One great principle of adjustment to be observed, he said, should be to give each country space and opportunity for independent development such as might remove all incentives to discontent. It was not to be effected by any fixed, sentimental basis of affinity of language, religion, or culture. International disputes were not uncommon between people of one race and one language. The first geographical condition required for an environment which would keep a people contented and happy was space. There must be room enough for development on the lines best suited to the character of the people. They might hope that out of the welter and turmoil of war a way might be found for contentment in the Balkans by a recognition of those geographical interests which were essential to the prosperity of each community individually.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

That Mr. McLeod, British Consul at Fez, should declare himself an enthusiast with regard to the work of France in Morocco in his recent lecture on the subject, is not surprising in view of the remarkable constructive work accomplished there by our Ally during the last few years. In Morocco France has probably attained her highest development so far as a colonising power, and the results of her work there are of a kind which will bear comparison with the colonising work of any other Power. The best test of the success of colonisation is to be sought in the people who are the subject of the experiment, and in Morocco such an inquiry could only redound to France's credit. The natives are more than reconciled to her rule; they are satisfied with it, and as Mr. McLeod stated, "notwithstanding the numerous temptations afforded by the war and the intrigues of our common enemy, not a single area has tried to secede from French influence."

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France's rule in Morocco may perhaps be best described if I say that in general it has followed the lines which have been pursued elsewhere by this country with such marked success. Following the establishment of order, the work of developing the country was systematically carried out, and, with this end in view, agricultural, veterinary, and other services were set up. France realised that if the work was to be successful it would be necessary to undertake schemes entailing expenditure on an extensive scale without any prospect of an immediate return. How thoroughly she set herself to this task will be gathered from the fact that £1,450,000 has been spent on roadmaking, £80,000 on irrigation, and £2,000,000 on the development of Casablanca, not to speak of large sums for the construction of railways. Naturally the war will prevent the continuance of this work on the same scale in the near future, but enough has already been done to ensure the prosperity of the country.

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An excellent example of the way in which the Empire has failed to utilise its resources of food and raw materials is provided in the case of rice. India contributes some 40 per cent. of the world's trade in this commodity, and of this amount in 1913-14, 42.6 per cent. was exported to British countries and 57.4 to foreign countries. Holland's share was 13.8 per cent., Germany's 13.1 per cent., and Austria-Hungary's 8.7 per cent., while the share of the United Kingdom was only 6.7 per cent. This is to be attributed to the fact that rice-milling, once a flourishing British industry, was unable to withstand the competition of the Dutch and German mills, so that most of the rice consumed in this country, though grown within the Empire, was supplied through foreign sources. War conditions have happily put an end to this anomalous state of things, but whether the recovered trade will be retained in the future is another matter. In this connection, I may recall the fact that the Indian trade in rice has been enquired into by a special committee of the Imperial Institute. It is understood that this enquiry, now nearly complete, has made it apparent that something can be done to increase the market for rice within the Empire.

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It will be seen from an announcement which appears on another page that the Department of Commercial Intelligence is compiling a list of manufacturers for the use of our trade officials abroad. This action is a commendable indication of the fact that the authorities are now becoming alive to the necessity of leaving nothing undone to further the interests of British trade. Obviously the list, when completed, will be most valuable in helping the establishment of trade relations abroad, and it is to be hoped that manufacturers will not delay in placing whatever information is desired at the disposal of the department. Criticism in connection with such a useful project may seem invidious, but, all the same, I cannot help wondering why such a necessary step has not been undertaken in the past.

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What evidence there is on the subject points unmistakably to the fact that Turkey is feeling the economic pinch more and more every month. The latest indication of this is to be found in a telegram from Constantinople published in the *Cologne Gazette*, according to which three meatless days had been appointed in Constantinople, beginning on November 1, and the slaughtering of cattle had been restricted to eleven slaughter-houses. The fuel question appears from the telegram to be very acute, for the hope is expressed that "the fine woods around the city will not be too extensively drawn upon." When it is remembered that in addition to this general absence of supplies—for shortage would apparently be scarcely the correct term—there is the fact that the best revenue-producing parts of the country are now practically sterile, either because they are in the occupation of the Allies or because the inhabitants have been ruined, Turkey's unfortunate state can well be realised.

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It is a curious commentary on Turkish psychology that her hopeless internal position has not had a restrictive effect on her commercial activities. On the contrary, possibly inspired by Bulgaria's desire to institute reforms to keep the people quiet, she is showing every indication in the day of her trouble of wishing to prepare for the commercial struggle of the future. The situation is distinctly humorous, but there is also something almost pathetic in the vision of the Turk on his last legs keeping up appearances to the end by the establishment of various companies the Alpha and Omega of whose operations will be their winding up.

***

Malta, I hear, has been experiencing an even more severe shortage of matches than that which we had in this country some few weeks ago. Most of the matches used there have been furnished by Sweden, but for obvious reasons supplies from this source have been hard to obtain of late, so that Malta has for some time been dependent on the United Kingdom and Italy for its matches. As both countries have experienced great difficulty in meeting home demands, it will readily be recognised that they could hardly do much to ease the situation.

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German trade methods in Turkey, which enabled her to oust all competitors from the Turkish market, and finally to obtain for herself a position of commanding influence in that country, are the subject of an article on page 576, to which I desire to call my readers' attention. The writer contrasts British and German trade methods, to the manifest disadvantage of ourselves, pointing out that in diplomacy, financial facilities, and also in business acumen this country has not been a match for its rival. I mention this article because, while I know the subject has been dealt with in one form or another time and again, I feel that the subject is one on which it would be impossible to throw too much light. No matter how badly the Teuton is crushed in the war, I am firmly convinced that sooner or later we shall find him using his old commercial methods, always with the ulterior motive in view, and the only way to meet that contingency is to see to it that there is no unnecessary delay in removing whatever weaknesses exist from our own system.

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The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., which appears on another page, makes very satisfactory reading since the results of the past year have been the best in the history of the institution. This year the net profit is £144,347, as against £100,276 in 1915-16, and to this has to be added £52,000 brought forward, making the total £196,347. The dividend paid is 20 per cent., with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, as against 15 per cent. and a bonus of 2½ per cent. in 1915-16, and 15 per cent. for each of the three previous years. This comparison is even better than it appears, for the company reverted recently to the practice of paying dividends free of tax. This only partially affected the 1915-16 figures, but obviously it greatly enhances the value of this year's declaration.

COMMENTATOR.

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GERMANY AND TURKEY.

British and German Commercial Methods.

When the full story of Germany's relations with Turkey is written history will be the richer by a unique chapter, for there is no previous record of a nation obtaining a commanding influence over another in the way in which Germany has done, by means of the adroit use of the arts of peace, and that, too, in so brief a space of time. Only seventeen years ago, as a matter of fact, Germany had barely succeeded in securing a trade footing in Turkey. Her actual exports to that country were then worth just over half a million sterling, as against the figures for Great Britain of £7,364,900; and at the time the idea might well have seemed preposterous that the interests of this country and her Allies could have been vitally affected by Teuton competition. As events were to prove, Turkish soil was destined to afford a most fruitful field for Germany's commercial penetration, and within a few years her exports to Turkey began to approach the British figures, which, instead of maintaining a normal increase, remained more or less stationary from 1900 onwards. Increased trade where Germany is concerned has always meant increased influence, and so it was in this case. Turkish Government contracts and concessions began to fall to her to an increasing extent, and German enterprise, indeed, began to give shape to almost every phase of the country's economic life. Turkey's collapse in the Balkan war marked a break in this process, for German merchants and financiers became nervous as to the country's future, and showed no disposition for a time to increase their liabilities. As a result, a few contracts and concessions fell to Great Britain, but the pause in the penetration was brief, and when the present war broke out Germany's position in Turkey was at least as strong as it had ever been. There is no need to recapitulate the circumstances which led to Turkey's adhesion to the cause of the Central Powers, but we may well ask ourselves whether, in the circumstances, Turkey's intervention was not inevitable, even failing an unfortunate episode like the escape of the Goeben and the Breslau. If it was, then all that has since followed in Mesopotamia, in Gallipoli, and Palestine is part of the price this country has had to pay for its lethargic commercial policy.

"Peaceful Penetration."

The methods by which Germany established her position in Turkey differed from those that marked her economic course in other parts of the world in one important respect only—her Eastern ambitions led her to concentrate on her campaign in Turkey at the expense of enterprises further afield. They are none the less interesting on that account, and an informative article on the subject in the current issue of the *Quarterly Review* deserves special notice from the light it throws on a question which cannot be too often ventilated, if the world is to take proper precautions against Teuton aggression in the future. Commencing by pointing out that the foreigner's trade differs in one particular especially from British overseas trade—namely, that trade follows the bank instead of the flag—the writer shows that the factors which have conduced to Germany's success in Turkey have been diplomacy, commercial influence, and finance. "The capture of commerce in the Near East," he says, "was accomplished by German activity on the one hand and British inactivity on the other. On the one side there was a thorough and continuous effort to capture the Turkish import trade, which was backed by German diplomatic and Consular influence, and furthered by the offer of commercial facilities and financial assistance. To these must be added the careful conduct of the German merchant and his capacity to meet the wishes of his client in regard to the quality of the goods and the form best suited to the necessities of the country and customer. On the other side, we have to note the absence of diplomatic and Consular influence, as well as of commercial and financial aid, while the somewhat crude methods of English commerce and the generally careless 'take-it-or-leave-it' style of the British merchant, together with his reluctance to study the nature of the article wanted, the requirements of the country, and the wants of the client, placed him at a further disadvantage." We have quoted this passage because it is an admirable summary of the reasons why British interests failed to hold their own against Germany in the past. It is also painful reading, since it shows that not in one direction, but in all, changes will be essential if we are to hold our own in the post-war competition. Changes in the usual meaning of the term are, indeed, not what is wanted; it is rather a revolutionary reorganisation of our methods that is required.

The Handicap of Tradition.

The question at issue as far as we are concerned is, "Are we capable of putting our house in order so that we may avoid a repetition of this state of things?" And if we hesitate to answer with a decided affirmative it is only because of the immense influence of tradition in this country. There is no getting away from the fact that Germany scored in Turkey and elsewhere principally because her diplomatists had what may be called a material view of their functions. It was not their duty to ignore commerce or to isolate themselves from their Consular service. On the contrary, their activities were largely centred on furthering their country's trade, and in achieving this aim they and the Consular officials worked, so to speak, hand in hand. Our diplomatic service, on the other hand, acting in accordance with British administrative tradition, has kept itself severely aloof from questions of trade, and this tradition has prevented the intimate relations between it and the Consular service which are essential if national interests are to be safeguarded. Complaints against the system—or absence of system—have been made many times in the past, and as often have led to nothing being done. If there is hope now it is because we are labouring under the spur of stern necessity, with the vision before us of a future in which the hall-mark of efficiency will be utility. We shall not be able to afford to follow tradition in the future, if tradition lays a handicap on our national well-being. In this case it certainly does, and will continue to do so until an altered outlook is brought about, under which every member of the service will consider the furtherance of our trade interests as one of his most important duties.

Banking—Germany's Best Instrument.

We have to thank tradition also for the fact that our banks have never shown the slightest disposition to establish branches in Turkey, so that until 1909, when the Banque Nationale de Turquie was founded, our business men had no alternative but to deal with foreign banking institutions. What this absence of banking facilities meant is aptly illustrated by the writer of the article referred to in showing what the Deutsche Bank and its connections accomplished for their country in Turkey. At every turn the bank was at the disposal of its country's business men. "Did a merchant wish to do business," he points out, "the bank would find him an agent in the country. The agent would be someone, of course, probably a German or Austrian, recommended by the local branch; and, if he was a native agent, he would be promised the bank's financial support, if he would bring over his clientèle or portfolio of customers to the German merchant and throw over his British houses. The parties, that is, merchant and customer, would soon be in communication through the agent. Did the German merchant want to be financed? That would be easy. The bank's idea of the merchant's dealing with the customer would be so much against the invoice and bill of lading, so much by a three months' bill, and the balance in a six months' bill, or some such terms, perhaps of longer date. The bank would even offer to take charge of the whole matter from first to last, and, if the merchant desired, would finance him up to 70 per cent. or 80 per cent. of the amount against the bank's receiving the bills of lading or other securities." This may serve to convey some idea of the way in which the bank furthered Germany's commercial penetration. It is only a small part of the picture, however, for the bank's interests were all-pervading, and were, it may be added, marked by the most unscrupulous disregard for accepted commercial practices. Thus it was not an uncommon thing for the bank to obtain a customer of another institution by the offer of better terms, and when it had learnt everything about his business methods and resources, a German competitor would make his appearance with the usual result. The presence of British banks in Turkey would not only have served to safeguard our countrymen from insidious attacks of this kind, but would also have proved a strong obstacle in the path of German aggression generally.

Attitude of British Merchants.

Lastly, we come to the attitude of the British merchant with regard to foreign trade, and here again we find tradition playing its usual dilatory rôle. Adaptability has always been the predominant characteristic of the German trader, and whatever the peculiar requirements of a market, he might be depended upon to satisfy them if it was humanly possible. Unfortunately, this has been the very antithesis of the attitude of British merchants. First in the field, they may have had the monopoly of a market for many years, and fail to maintain their supremacy solely because of an inability to move with the times and produce an article in keeping with present needs. An excellent instance of this is given in the article. English light ploughs were being used in a district, but they were too heavy for the country, and the English agent for the ploughs devised a lighter plough, and had one constructed locally, which fully satisfied the natives. Firms in England, however, refused to manufacture the plough, though the agent offered to take several thousand within a fixed term. The invention was taken up in America, with the result that the English ploughs were driven out of the market. It is the spirit which makes that kind of thing possible which must be combated if we are to hold our own against increasing foreign competition.

BRITISH GOODS FOR FOREIGN MARKETS.

Compilation of Directory of Manufacturers.

The Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade is compiling an Index or Directory of British and Irish manufacturers which it is proposed to forward to Trade Commissioners, Consular Officers, and other Correspondents of the Board of Trade abroad, for their own use in dealing with enquiries which they may receive, for the supply of British and Irish goods, both now and for delivery after the war. A large number of firms have already supplied information as to their products to the Department, but before transmitting this information abroad it is desired that all manufacturers in the United Kingdom interested in the export trade should have an opportunity of applying for the inclusion of their names in this index. The department is now compiling the sections of the index dealing with the following trades:—(1) China, earthenware and stoneware trades. (2) Glass trade. (3) Basketwares. (4) Woodwares. (5) Brush trade.

Manufacturers in these trades in the United Kingdom are invited to supply in letter form: (a) A detailed list of the articles they manufacture for export; (b) A list of the foreign and colonial markets in which they are more especially interested; (c) The names and addresses of their overseas exports; (d) Terms of business, such as, whether their trade is done direct with buyers or agents abroad, or through merchants or agents established in the United Kingdom; and (e) Any other information likely to be of use in enabling enquiries from persons desirous of purchasing goods in the United Kingdom to be dealt with adequately.

Manufacturers who desire to apply for the inclusion of their names in this index should forward particulars to the Department of Commercial Intelligence, 73, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2. Envelopes should be marked "Index." The Index is not intended for publication, but is for official use only in the Department of Commercial Intelligence and by His Majesty's Trade Commissioners, etc. It is not proposed to insert trade advertisements.

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ADEN'S DATE TRADE.

Influence of the War.

The date trade of Aden, the importance of which may be gauged from the fact that on the average 7,851 tons have been dealt with annually for the past five years, is the subject of some interesting comments by the United States Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard, in a recent report (some extracts from which are given below), in the course of which he expresses the opinion that there are considerable possibilities as regards the development of an export trade.

The Arab is ordinarily assumed to be the principal consumer of dates, but the greater portion of the considerable quantity handled in this market is consumed by Somalis. Aden date merchants make by far the largest exports to Somaliland ports on the neighbouring African coast, and during the past two years increasing quantities of dates have gone there to be used as food because of diminished supplies of rice and other grains which ordinarily are important in the native Somali diet. Some of these people eat little else than dates and meat during the periods when grains are scarce or high in price. The Turkish Yemen takes the next largest supply of dates from Aden. Abyssinia also imports considerable quantities of dates from Aden.

Aden merchants import their greatest supplies of dates from Muscat and Busreh. Muscat dates are of two qualities, the best being known by the trade name of Fard and the second grade being known as Zakal. The Busreh dates imported are classified under the two trade names of Samaran and Hallawi. The Fard date in the Aden market, which is usually in a half-dried state, is considered the best, and is preferred by the Arabs and Indians. The Zakal is a wet date, and is considered as of second quality. The Somalis prefer and consume large quantities of this variety. The wet dates keep much longer and better than the dried or semi-dried kinds.

Prices and Supplies.

Muscat dates sold during the past season in the Aden market at an average price of 12 rupees per bale, and the Busreh dates sold at an average of 2 rupees less per bale. Dates carried over from the preceding year find a ready market at an average reduction of $1.30 from the regular price per bale. This reduced price is effective upon the arrival of new stock. Notwithstanding the large quantities of dates handled in the Aden market, none are exported abroad, the entire quantity being consumed within the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden districts. Although the Aden hinterland is supplied to a considerable extent with imported dates, there are a number of date groves in that country, the fruit from which is largely consumed while fresh. Normally, fresh dates are always obtainable in the Aden market during the season. Although it would seem that owing to disturbed conditions in the Persian Gulf region there would be diminished supplies of dates, local dealers say that they have had no trouble in securing their usual supplies. Moreover, they pay from 10 to 15 per cent. less for the fruit than before the war. This has prevented a greater increase in the native cost of living, as grains and other food items have become much more expensive. Dates are an excellent substitute for the more expensive foods.

Trade Prospects.

Owing to its position as a trade centre with direct connections to foreign markets, local dealers are of the opinion that Aden could and may become a centre for the export of dates abroad. Buggalows must come to Aden for cargoes of grain, kerosene, cotton piece goods, and similar merchandise, which are distributed from here in important quantities to the date-growing districts, and cargoes of dates can be brought to Aden without the otherwise high transportation charges which would add materially to the cost landed here. The possible establishing of direct steamship connections between Aden and the United States would undoubtedly make it profitable to bring dates in this way from Muscat to Aden for export to American importers.

EGYPT'S FINANCES.

Excellent Returns for July.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 14.

The State accounts continue in a flourishing condition, and the figures for July, just published, show that at the end of that month the surplus had grown to £E361,506, as compared with a deficit of £E150,101 a year ago. Revenue during the month amounted to £E1,407,035 and expenditure to £E1,282,943. The principal items under receipts were:—Direct taxes, £E368,365; Customs, £E248,381; tobacco dues, £E139,602; judicial fees, £E98,691; railways, £E338,634; ghaffir cess, £E52,742; and miscellaneous receipts, £E35,405. On the expenditure side the chief items were:—Irrigation, £E125,052; railways, £E322,580; War Office, £E88,399; pensions and indemnities, £E55,949; ghaffirs, £E59,340; and reservoir annuity, £E76,648.

It is interesting to note that, compared with the situation just prior to the outbreak of the war, the returns are much better this year. Thus, at the end of July, 1914, the revenue came to £E5,358,741 and the expenditure to £E6,380,075, whence there was a deficit of £E1,021,334. Land and other direct taxes are up some half million; Customs are £E200,000 better; so also are railway receipts; tobacco dues are, however, down by about £E100,000; port and light dues by £E130,000. Even allowing for the inclusion now of the receipts and expenditure on account of the ghaffir cess, the difference in favour of the current year is exceedingly marked.

Reuter's Cairo correspondent telegraphs that the Egyptian cotton condition is as follows:—Lower Egypt, 86; Upper Egypt, 94. The second picking mostly finished poorer than anticipated, but it was larger than last year. There has been a satisfactory diminution of bollworm in Lower Egypt.

PROMOTION OF BRITISH TRADE.

Next Year's Industries Fair.

Next year's British Industries Fair, for which application forms for exhibiting space are now being issued by the Board of Trade, will be considerably larger than those of previous years. The last two fairs were held in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial Institute, and, though wonderfully successful, the space which was then available was by no means sufficient to meet the demands of the exhibitors. In many cases, in fact, exhibitors' applications for space had to be cut down by as much as 60 per cent., and the fact of the fair being in two buildings caused some inconvenience. The 1918 fair, which will, as usual, open on the last Monday in February (February 25), and remain open for a fortnight, is to be held in premises which the Port of London Authority have been so good as to place at the disposal of the Board of Trade, and it is hoped that the available space will be sufficient to meet exhibitors' requirements, at any rate for this coming year, as the fair will, owing to the war, again be restricted to the following trades:—Earthenware and china trade, glass trade, fancy goods trade, paper, stationery, and printing trades, toy and games trade.

The fact that the building for next year's fair contains about twice as much space as the Board was able to secure at the Victoria and Albert Museum is only one of its advantages. In the first place, it is more conveniently situated for business men, being near the Tower Bridge and only a few minutes' walk from Mark Lane Station on the Metropolitan and District Railways; and, in the second, the building is exceptionally well suited for the purpose of the fair, being a large roof-lighted warehouse on one floor. Some idea of its size can be gained from the fact that its area would be sufficient to accommodate two full-sized Rugby football fields. As in past years, invitations to the fair will be issued by the Board of Trade, and admission will be restricted to *bonâ-fide* buyers in the trades concerned.

As the increased size of the fair and the growing shortage of labour will make the work of preparation exceptionally difficult, it is hoped that firms who are anxious to exhibit will send in their applications for space to the Director, British Industries Fair, 10, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2, at the earliest possible moment.

INDIAN GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

The India Office has issued the following statement, showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on October 31:—In India, nil. In England—Cash placed by the Secretary of State for India in Council at short notice, £6,024,443; British and Colonial Government securities (values as on September 30, 1917), £23,026,578; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £4,529,871.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Petroleum in France.

It is reported that petroleum has been discovered in France by a landowner in the Department of the Aisne, who in sinking a well struck oil deposits which appear to extend over a large area. This is the first time that petroleum has been found in that country, and as it is one of the few natural products in which the country appeared to be entirely deficient, the discovery has awakened a great deal of interest, and is particularly valuable at a time when the petrol supplies of the future have become a matter of such vast importance.

Motor Cars for Persia.

It was early in the year 1913 that a motor car, the first ever seen in that locality, ran from Teheran to Ispahan, viâ Kashan (about 290 miles) in 124 hours, including about 100 hours' stoppages. Its appearance made a powerful appeal to the Persian imagination, and all well-to-do people wanted to know all about it, and if it could be obtained in England. Needless to say, the above-mentioned motor car was of German make, the owner being a German commercial traveller, who combined with his ostensible occupation as agent for a German manufactory or chemical products that of launching German-made motor vehicles in the Persian market. The war, which has upset all German plans and ambitions in that direction, has also upset a considerable trade which German banking houses and energetic commercial travellers managed to establish during the last few years. And now that the market in that region is beyond the reach of the enemy it is doubtful whether any British firm has yet thought of trying to come in touch with it. It is well known that Persians prefer and admire British-made goods, and in the case of motor cars, motor cycles, etc., there is an excellent opportunity for British makers to secure a good footing in that market before it is secured by rivals, among whom may be mentioned Japan, who is now a competitor in motor cars and cycles, and is doing her best to gain the Eastern markets.

Special Requirements.

It may be of interest to motor car makers to mention here some of the special requirements, over and above the general one of extreme solidity, in motor vehicles destined for use in Persia. (a) Owing to the numerous small "camel's-back" bridges considerable extra *clearance* is necessary, otherwise the front wheels are on one side of the bridge and the hind wheels on the other, and the under shield below the fly-wheel catches the top of the culvert. At least 15¾ inches clearance is necessary. (b) The maximum speed attained by the large car above-mentioned in the course of its journey from Resht, viâ Teheran, to Ispahan (about 422 miles), according to official reports, was 62 kiloms. (about 39 miles) per hour. This speed could not, in the present general condition of the roads, be increased with safety or comfort. Portions of the roads are very heavy with sand; other portions, after rain, become like ploughed fields. Hence a comparatively low top-speed gear is necessary. (c) The streets of Persian towns, like those of all towns in the East, being as a rule very narrow and winding, with sharp corners, an extra big lock is required in order to drive round the corners safely.

Electric Hot Water.

To obtain hot water practically as quickly as electric light by turning a button is the purpose of a new device in the electric heating field. It is an electric heating attachment which can be easily and quickly attached in place of the ordinary cold-water spigot, and which, it is claimed, will give water from warm to hot, as desired, within three seconds after the small button or switch is turned. In operation the apparatus is extremely simple, the same motion controlling both water and electricity. The water will continue to run from the heater as long as wanted. The apparatus weighs less than two pounds, and takes its electric power from any convenient electric socket.

Artificial Fuel.

With the fuel question becoming a very serious problem, the provision of artificial substitutes is a matter of pressing concern. Many experiments have already been made to utilise waste products of little value to produce an artificial fuel, and of these one of the most promising has been with regard to the use of rice husks. The idea is not a new one, for, as a matter of fact, rice husks have been used in Spain for years as fuel for the boilers in rice mills; but their use has been open to the objection that the burning process does not consume the whole of the husk. However, the experiment has been made of mixing the husk with tar, and then submitting the mixture to hydraulic pressure, and this appears to have given satisfactory results. The process should be of interest to Egypt, where the fuel shortage is pronounced, and to other rice-producing countries as one means of meeting the scarcity of fuel.

Utility of Straw.

In the Near East, especially in Roumania, Greece (in Thessaly), Southern Russia, Northern Syria and some other districts, the method of disposing of the straw when threshing is taking place is, as a rule, to burn it as fuel in the portable engines which drive the threshing machine on the field, or to cut and bruise it for fodder; but most of it is really wasted in various ways on the farm. This waste is inexcusable now, since straw is much more valuable than was realised hitherto. A consulting chemist to a Scottish agricultural society asserts that farmers themselves can make straw of greater feeding value by treating it with a weak solution of caustic soda and heating it under pressure for about sixty hours. Straw can also be used for making various grades of paper, strawboards and the production of nitrogen for fertilising purposes.

Gas from Straw.

Another profitable use of the straw has been found in Canada, where the ordinary method of disposing of it is to burn it, and at night during the threshing season all the cornfields of Canada are lit up with these enormous bonfires. In Western Canada alone, where the annual average yield of straw is 20,000,000 tons, it has been proved that 10,000 cubic feet of good inflammable gas can be obtained from a ton of straw distilled in closed retorts. The heating value of straw is 400 British thermal units per cubic foot, so Western Canada's annual straw yield might be converted into twenty-two billion horse-power hours, or seven times the power obtained from the Niagara Falls. Thus by the utilisation of the wasted straw in the cornfields of Roumania, Greece, South Russia, and North Syria for the production of gas great power would be obtained which would facilitate not only the cultivation of a much larger area of land, but also the establishment of other industries.

Fuel Research.

The Fuel Research Board established by Parliament is proceeding satisfactorily with its important work. The immediate problem it is attempting to solve is whether an economical and efficient apparatus can be devised for the carbonisation of coal at low temperatures, and whether, by the use of such an apparatus for the carbonisation of properly selected coals, products will be obtained of a collective value greater than that of the original coal, plus the cost of carbonisation and handling. Among the points which the Board is attempting to elucidate are:—(1) Can electric power be obtained more cheaply if the coal used for steam raising is first subjected to processes of carbonisation and gasification? and (2) can the thirty-five to forty million tons of coal which are now used every year for domestic purposes be wholly or partially replaced by smokeless fuel, solid or gasless, prepared by the carbonisation of this coal?

German Banks in Roumania.

Germany's systematic preparations for the coming trade war have often been pointed out in these columns. Her commercial strategy to regain and hold the markets in the Near East is evidently based on the same financial plan which in past years enabled her to predominate in those markets. It was the establishment of a considerable number of German banks and banking agencies in Asia Minor that enabled German manufacturers to have an easy and speedy success in that region. Landowners, masters of industry and users of machinery, notwithstanding the prevailing prejudice against German machinery, found sufficient inducement in these banks to give their orders to German manufacturers. The transactions were safe, and both buyer and seller were satisfied with the mediation of the bank. Some idea of the preparations Germany is making to push trade in Roumania and Southern Russia is furnished by the fact that the Deutsche Bank has just decided to raise new capital to the extent of twenty-five million marks with the intention of opening branch offices and agencies in the countries named. Official sanction for the new scheme has already been sought from the Government.

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COTTON PRODUCTION.

Egyptian and Sudan Prospects.

At the monthly meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association at 15, Cross Street, Manchester, on November 6, at which Mr. J. A. Hutton presided, it was stated that some important information had recently been received with regard to the possibilities of increasing the production of cotton in Egypt and the Sudan. In Egypt the drainage and irrigation schemes, it was stated, should in course of time add another 800,000 bales of 500 lb. each to the Egyptian cotton crop, and in the Sudan the dam and canalisation schemes should produce, within a period of, say, twenty-five years, something like 440,000 bales of 550 lb. each. It was extremely satisfactory to know that there was every reason to anticipate an increase of about 1¼ million bales from Egypt and the Sudan, with possibilities in the future of a further increase if large storage works were constructed on the upper waters of the Blue Nile. With regard to the scheme for irrigating the Gezira Plain, a telegram was read from the Board of Trade stating that Sir Albert Stanley was hopeful of arranging with the Treasury for an advance to enable the preliminary works in connection with the scheme to be proceeded with.

The Roumanian Minister at The Hague, says Reuter's correspondent there, has communicated to the Dutch Government a protest from the National Bank of Bucharest against the action of the German authorities in the occupied territories of Roumania.

PREMIER OIL AND PIPE LINE.

Claim for Damage to Property.

The directors of the Premier Oil and Pipe Line Company state that they have now received an assurance of official assistance in securing the appointment of an authoritative committee to obtain settlement of their claim, already lodged with the proper authorities in Russia, for compensation for the destruction of the Peczenizyn refinery, stocks of oil, and other products, by order of the military authorities during the retreat of the Russian armies. The Peczenizyn refinery and several small wells situated near Kolomea, Eastern Galicia, had previously been handed over to the company's representative, who had been working them subject to military control.

TRADE OPENINGS IN MALTA.

The Collector of Customs at Valetta reports, says the *Board of Trade Journal*, that a firm of importers in that town desires to obtain agencies for the Maltese market, on a commission basis, for United Kingdom manufacturers and exporters of travelling goods (of leather cloth, compressed cane, or vulcanised fibre), including attaché, suit, music and luncheon cases and trunks; also writing pads, etc.; braces, suspenders, men's belts, etc.; and workmen's cheap flannel shirts (grey and other colours). The firm states that the class of goods preferred is of the cheap and popular kind which was formerly supplied in large quantities by Germany and Austria, although some good business can be done in higher-priced leather travelling goods.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

A Disturbed Market.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market this week has almost reached a state of chaos, and, owing to the important developments which have recently occurred relating to the American cotton situation, less business has been done, numerous spinners and manufacturers having refused to quote. The Cotton Control Board has decided that from the beginning of next week all firms using American cotton, except those engaged on Government contracts, must stop 40 per cent. of their machinery. The shipping situation across the Atlantic, so far as raw cotton is concerned, is very serious, and very little of the article is now heading for this country. It is expected that within the next few days it will be decided to impose a severe restriction upon the running of looms. The outlook for supplies of Egyptian cotton remains healthy, but increased difficulties are being experienced in sending the article to Lancashire, and prices remain very stiff. In Egyptian yarns there has been rather less activity, but spinners have been difficult to deal with, especially in the finer counts. There has been plenty of inquiry about in cloth for Egypt, but, owing to the extraordinary conditions which prevail, fewer transactions have been arranged. Exporters who have recently purchased freely are well satisfied with their action, and the problem now is to get the goods into consumption abroad. A large inquiry has been met with in cloth for India, but shippers have not found it an easy matter to secure quotations to wire out. No particular fresh news has come through from China. Strong and heavy materials have again been sold fairly freely for the purposes of the war. The operative spinners have renewed their application for an increase in wages of 30 per cent., and the weavers have made a demand for a rise of 40 per cent. A majority of American spinners have refused to quote. Where business has been done, distinct advances in prices have had to be paid. Although demand for France keeps up well, business in export yarn has been on a comparatively small scale.

WORLD'S CRUDE PETROLEUM OUTPUT.

The following statistics of the world's crude petroleum production for 1916 have been prepared by the United States Geological Survey:—

Country.	Barrels of 42 gallons.	Metric tons.	Per cent. of totals.
United States.....	*300,767,158	40,102,286	65·29
Russia	†72,801.110	9,933,387	15·81
Mexico	39,817,402	5,308,987	8·64
Dutch East Indies..	‡13,174.309	1,820.247	2·86
Roumania	†10,298,208	1,432,296	2·24
India	‡8,228,571	1,097,143	1·97
Galicia	6,451,706	898,670	1·40
Japan and Formosa	2,997.178	399,624	·66
Peru	2,550,645	340,086	·55
Trinidad	‖1,000,000	139,082	·22
Germany	995,764	‖140,400	·22
Argentina.....	870,000	116,000	·19
Egypt.....	411,000	54,800	·09
Canada.....	198.123	26.418	·04
Italy	43,143	‖6,000)	·01
Other countries....	‖15,000	3,333)	
Total	460,639,407	61,818,359	100·00

* Marketed production. † Estimated in part. ‡ Includes British Borneo. ‖ Estimated.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Oriental Gas.

The report of the Oriental Gas Company for the year ended June 30 states that the conduct of business has been attended by restrictions and obstacles in no degree less formidable than the preceding year. The directors have, however, been able to maintain a full supply of standard quality gas, and thus to meet all the requirements of the military and civil authorities and of private consumers. The gas rental realised shows a small reduction, but this is heavily counterbalanced by the increased returns yielded by the sale of the residual products. The balance of revenue account carried to the credit of profit and loss, after allocating £5,000 to a renewals suspense account, is £26,077, or £874 more than last year. Operations in the nature of extensions and other work properly assignable to capital have been limited by the difficulty, and in some cases the impossibility, of obtaining materials. Such expenditure as has been incurred has been defrayed out of the revenue of the year. The rate of exchange has been exceptionally favourable, producing an increment of £665 to the equalisation account. Acting in conformity with the provisions of the Lands Acquisition Act, the directors have sold to the Government of India a parcel of surplus land, realising £4,107. The directors recommend the payment, on the 22nd instant, of a dividend at the rate of 4½ per cent., less income-tax, making 8 per cent., less tax, for the year. Meeting, Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, E.C., 21st instant, noon.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, states that the gross profits for the year to August 31, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts and oil taxation, are £247,617, and, deducting the expenses, amounting to £103,269, there remains £144,347 net profit for the year. To this amount must be added £52,000, the balance carried forward on August 31, 1916, making £196,347 which the directors propose should be dealt with in the following manner:—Contribution to staff provident fund £2,847; interim dividend at 10 per cent. per annum, paid, free of income tax, June 1, £25,000; dividend of 20 per cent. per annum and bonus of 2s. 6d. per share, free of income tax, to be paid on December 1, £62,500; transfer to reserve fund, £20,000; bonus to staff, £9,000; written off premises account, £10,000; balance carried forward, £67,000.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Bank of British West Africa have declared an interim dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. (less income-tax) for the half-year ended September 30 last, payable 1st proximo. Dividend is the same as last year.

The directors of the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, have declared interim dividends of 2½ per cent. on the Preference and 4 per cent. on the Ordinary shares, free of income-tax, payable on the 27th inst.

The directors of the Indian Electric Supply and Traction Company have declared an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., being at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, payable 8th instant.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah.—Production for week, 22 tons (previous week 21 tons); Hurgada, 3,960 tons, against 3,993 tons.

Baku Russian.—Week ended November 3, 72,300 poods.

Bibi Eibat.—Week ended October 21, 44,117 poods (712 tons).

British Maikop.—Week ended November 3, 1,740 poods (28 tons).

European Oilfields.—Week ended November 4, 69,100 poods.

North Caucasian. — Week ended October 17-30, 514,338 poods (8,296 tons).

Russian Petroleum .—Week ended October 27, 40,500 poods.

Spies (week ended November 4, including 1,980 poods from ambars, 242,650 poods (3,914 tons). Total, 7,610,160 poods (122,745 tons), against 7,073,520 poods (114,089 tons)).

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue,
Wednesday.

We have had a very active market this week in many of the Egyptian shares, especially in the Land and Miscellaneous groups. A good deal of buying has come from Egypt as the result of the great prosperity over there and the pressure of available funds seeking investment.

In Government stocks prices have remained quietly firm. As regards banks, there has been some quiet buying of Agriculturals, which are 1-16 firmer at 6¼, but National Banks, on some small sales on an unwilling market, are ¼ down at 17⅛. Land Banks have also receded ⅛ to 7⅛. Anglo-Egyptians have been firm, with some steady absorption of shares going on round 14¼.

In Land shares, Aboukirs are 3d. better at 20s. 6d. on some demand from Egypt. Allotments have jumped up ¼ to 3⅜, but the scarcity of sellers has interfered with business. Behéras have been in persistent demand for Egypt round last week's price, 13; but transactions have been limited, as there are few sellers at the present level, and there are buyers to-night at 13⅛. Delta Lands are ½d. higher at 13s. 10½d., and Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have improved 1-32 to 7s. 6d. New Egyptians have been quite a feature, and large transactions have taken place, with the result that the shares show a rise on the week of 1s. 3d. at 15s. 3d. For the first time for a very considerable period the price of these shares has reached a higher level in Egypt than on this side, and, consequently, a good many thousand shares have been bought here for Egyptian account.

Another feature in our market has been the persistent demand on local account for Sidi Salems, which are 3s. 9d. higher than last week at 21s. 3d. Union Foncières have also been in demand, both on Egyptian and local account, and, after rising to 43s. 6d., closed at 42s. 6d., showing a rise of ⅛. A fractional improvement has taken place in United Lands to 1s., at which price some business has been done.

In Miscellaneous shares the feature of the week has been the advance in Salts and Sodas, which, on rumours of a largely increased dividend, have been bought in big quantities both here and from Egypt. At one time their price reached 36s. to 37s., but on profit taking they have eased off to about 35s., showing a rise of 4s. 6d. on the week. Another interesting movement has been the advance of a further 2s. 6d. in Khedivial Mails to 38s., brought about by local buying.

In Greek bonds there is no change in prices to record, but a firm tone has characterised the market.

Paris Bourse.

Business was restricted. Closing prices included Turkish Unified, 57.50; Credit Foncier Egyptian, 765; Suez Canal shares, 4,502.

Oil Shares.

Closing prices showed a weak tendency. Anglo-Egyptians (B) fell 6d. to 26s.—27s. New Caucasian were 1s. lower at 3s. 6d.—4s. 6d.; while North Caucasian declined 1-32 to 29-32—31,32, and Spies 6d. to 8s. 6d.—9s. 6d. Roumanian Consols were unchanged.

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Correspondence is invited from those interested in SERBIA and the BALKAN STATES, or contemplating business with these countries when communication is restored.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 2 1917 –	Price. Nov. 9	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83½xd	83½xd
Do. Pref. 5% 1890	78	71½	71½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61½	61
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61½	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43½	43½
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55½	55½
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	75
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	85	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	80	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	68½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6⅝	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14¼	14¼
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8½	8½
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	5¼	4¾	4¾
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7½	7⅜
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	17⅜	17⅜
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅛	6⅛
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17½	9⅛	9⅛
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72½	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	20/3	20/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13⅛
Do. Pref.	4½	4 7/16	4 7/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/–	13/	13/10½
Do, and Foreign Trust ..	5/–	6/10	7/6
Gharbieh Land Co.	1½	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	14/9	15/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	17/6	21/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	–/10½	1/–
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12⅝
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1/8	30/6	35/–
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	35/6	38/–
Do. do. Prefs.	3½	3⅜	3⅜

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
November 4, 5, 6	680,000	560,000
November 7	230,000	360,000
November 8, 9, 10, 11	630,000	830,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Nov. 9.	1917. Week Nov. 8.
Cattle markets	945 ..	455
General markets	379 ..	464
Receipts (£)	1,324 ..	919
Total for year	45,888 ..	48,553

TURKISH SUPPLIES TO CENTRAL EMPIRES.

In the House of Commons on Tuesday, Major David Davies asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the urgency of cutting off the sources of supply of the Central Powers, he had yet taken any steps to obtain information as to the quantity of supplies of food, cotton, metals, and other essential products for the manufacture of munitions of war sent during the twelve months ending June 30, 1917, from the Turkish Empire and Bulgaria to the Central Powers; and whether, if such information had not been obtained, he would communicate the desirability of obtaining it to the heads of the Intelligence Department?

Lord R. Cecil: It is obviously not in the public interest to discuss in the form of question and answer in this House the possibility and means of obtaining intelligence from enemy countries. I can only assure the hon. and gallant member that His Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of obtaining information as to the supplies available to and received by the enemy from all sources.

The exports of wolfram ore from Tavoy in July amounted to 221 tons 6 cwt., as against 258 tons 9 cwt. in 1916.

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THE NEAR EAST

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 342.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The past week has been more cheerful for the Allies than its predecessors. There has been a brilliant success on the Somme. In England the political crisis caused by Mr. Lloyd George's hotly-debated Paris speech has been dispelled by the simple process of declaring that no crisis existed; moreover, it became evident that the country was in no mood to get rid of the present Prime Minister "to make Mr. Asquith king." In France M. Clemenceau's presence at the head of a new Ministry is a guarantee of firmness and vigour. In Italy our Allies have begun to recover themselves, and they are putting up a great fight against the invader. Venice may have to go, but there are good hopes that the Austro-Germans will not be able to cross the Adige. It is clear that great battles will again be fought on the historic fields of Verona and Vicenza.

The Germans are naturally elated by their successes, and the Kaiser has been unable to restrain his oratory. But one or two of the more sober German newspapers have expressed misgivings of late; for while they are jubilant over Russia and Italy, they begin to realize that certain military movements are occurring in Palestine and Mesopotamia which scarcely redound to the credit of the Quadruple Alliance. Not only were they unable to save Baghdad, but they have been unable to prevent a further British advance up the Tigris; and in Palestine, which is considerably nearer the German base, they have so far given nothing but good advice to the Turk.

The British advance continues rapidly and irresistibly in the Holy Land: Joppa has fallen, as in the days of Judas Maccabæus, without serious resistance; stern fighting has taken place elsewhere, but the Turks have everywhere been worsted, and our armies, securely based on the coast, now reach from the south to the north-west of Jerusalem. Unless the Turkish armies intend to risk being shut up in the capital, there is now only one practicable way of retreat—the historic road from Jerusalem to Jericho.

The whole ground of this last week's campaign has brought into the newspapers the old familiar names of the Scriptures. Joppa was the city from which Jonah embarked on his perilous adventure, and in later years the home of Simon the Tanner and Dorcas, and the scene of Peter's vision on the housetop; while the British line has now passed that village of the plain, Emmaus, where Judas Maccabæus won a great victory over his enemies.

The whole occupied country, according to the able correspondent with the British Army, has welcomed our advance and the return of law after the recent exactions of the Turks. The sufferings of the people appear to have been very great, the Turkish armies having practically eaten up the country and paid their way with worthless paper money. The British Army is being received as a deliverer from intolerable tyranny by those on the spot, and Jews all over the world have also expressed their sense of gratification at the destiny which the British Government has announced for the Holy Land. The sole exception is the Jewish-German Press, which, however, is probably unable to say what it thinks.

The Government evidently kept back the despatches on the earlier operations before Gaza until it could announce some solid success in the same region. It was very unfortunate that the fighting in April was spoken of as being very successful, when in fact the direct contrary was the case; it would have been better for the Government to have told the truth, since many knew what the newspapers were not allowed to publish. General Murray's attack on Gaza, in fact, failed to achieve its object; we were unable to break through the Turkish lines, and our casualties were very heavy. General Dobell was relieved of his subsidiary command, as being unequal to the strain of further operations, and also, no doubt, because he had not succeeded in the task set him, and General Murray was shortly afterwards recalled.

We are not here concerned to judge the work of these distinguished soldiers, and for the moment it is enough that their failure has been retrieved. The summer has evidently been spent in the refitting of the British Expeditionary Force. Whether it was adequate for the work it was expected to do last spring, or faultily led, are matters which must be left to military experts; but it is well known that it is our almost invariable practice to embark on large undertakings with inade-

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quate forces, to waste men, time and money by this means, and finally to take the job seriously in hand when our prestige has suffered from an unnecessary reverse. *Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose* in England.

Now that we really have put our backs into these two Asiatic campaigns, they must be thinking uncomfortable thoughts in Constantinople. If the Turks take Bethmann-Hollweg's famous advice to "look at the map," they will notice that while every other member of the Quadruple Alliance has conquered additional territory, Turkey alone has lost it, and her losses in Asia are about as great as the German successes in Europe. Moreover, the Germans are much more anxious to get land for themselves than to help the Turks out of the ditch; for every column that appears in the Berlin newspapers about Palestine a thousand appear about Poland, and the Kaiser unkindly omits the Holy Land from his speeches and serenely ignores Mesopotamia. But the Turks may be forgiven, if they are more interested in Antioch than Riga, and if they wonder why Mackensen was sent to Venetia when there was so excellent a field for his abilities in Asia Minor.

M. Venizelos, in an interview in London this week, has suggested that Turkey may consider a separate peace before long. Probably she has considered it long since, but it is doubtful whether she has the power to cut adrift. The dog who is led on a chain by his master may prefer another road, but if his master keeps tight hold of the chain and drags him along the problem becomes rather a difficult one. Turkey has had money as well as troops and munitions from Germany in the past; she has made treaties giving commercial privileges to Germany, and her present rulers have staked everything on a German victory. Like the sword-swallower at the circus, they will find it much more difficult to pull the thing out than it was to get it down.

The sudden death of General Maude in Mesopotamia is a serious loss. He was in the prime of life, and as a member of the "Old Contemptibles" he began the present war as a colonel, taking part in the first battle of Ypres. He was sent East at a time when the surrender of Kut for a time shattered our prestige, and in one short year he has raised our military fame to a higher pinnacle than it has ever before reached in the Middle East. He has had, of course, more adequate forces and munitionment than the gallant but unfortunate Townshend, who was given an impossible task by a Government which was anxious to counterbalance the Dardanelles disaster by a resounding success at Baghdad, but which prepared—the old fault of Downing Street—for a major expedition on a minor scale; but even adequate intervals are useless without good generalship, and Maude's brilliant successes were entirely his own. There may have been greater commanders on the Allied side, but Maude is the only one, except Botha in South-West Africa, who has won an important campaign throughout. He rests with his laurels in the place where he won them, but England will not forget Maude of Mesopotamia.

Serious anxiety has been felt as to the condition of the British prisoners who were taken at Kut. It was known some time ago that the conditions at the officers' camps were comparatively good, but the men's camps are very unsatisfactory. It is now stated that the majority of the able-bodied prisoners of war have been sent to work on the construction of the Baghdad Railway east of Aleppo. They are under the German Construction Company, "who may be supposed," according to the official statement of the British Government, "to have an interest in keeping them in health." We wish we could be convinced of that. The German Government which has deported French and Belgian workers into Germany has shown no such solicitude.

In Austria-Hungary nothing political ever changes. An order has been issued prohibiting the inhabitants of the Slovak, Ruthene, and Roumanian districts of Hungary from acquiring landed property without the consent of the Government. It is clearly intended to forbid Slavs from becoming landowners, since that, according to the proposed scheme of electoral reform, would give them equal rights with Magyars in the suffrage. Hungary is no more likely to reform herself from within than Germany, but this unyielding attitude will undoubtedly strengthen the nationalist determination of the oppressed Roumanians and Jugoslavs to achieve their independence.

On the other hand, it appears that some of the sufferings which Austria has inflicted on the unhappy countries she has overrun have descended on her own head. Even the abbreviated reports of the late debate in the Reichsrath as to the physical condition of the people make terrible reading. Tuberculosis has spared neither Slav nor German, and its ravages become worse and worse week by week. In Vienna particularly it has grown worse, yet Vienna has for years been the most consumptive city in Europe, owing to insanitary houses and the low wages paid to the Slav immigrants from the provinces. But the disease has now spread everywhere from Galicia to Dalmatia, and members of all parties, for once in accord, appear to have agreed that nothing could be done. The war has been the effective ally of tuberculosis in every country, but nowhere is the toll so heavy as in the Empire which was primarily responsible for the war.

The *Manchester Guardian* appears to have involved itself in an unfortunate controversy in its references to Austria and the smaller nationalities within that Empire, and has brought down denunciation upon itself from Lord Hugh Cecil and others. The *Guardian* in its defence remarks that "it has yet to be proved that autonomy would not, in some cases at least, be preferred to separation." That is strictly true, no doubt, in the same sense that the immortality of the soul and many other things have yet to be proved, but for all practical purposes the evidence is accepted by most people as sufficient. The *Guardian* further adds that "there are conflicting claims" among the nationalities; it forgets, or at least does not mention, that these conflicting claims are rapidly being adjusted. A controversialist in a difficulty will do many strange things, but the *Guardian's* continued defence of Austrian autonomy will probably give way in time, like the Hindenburg line. The maintenance of Austria is entirely inconsistent with the Liberal policy of which the *Guardian* is one of the leading exponents.

The forthcoming visit of M. Venizelos to America, which is announced for next spring, evidently argues confidence in the stability of the new regime in Greece, and as such it is encouraging. Although every member of the European Entente has sent distinguished members of its Government to Washington in the present year, none has yet despatched its Prime Minister, and the visit of M. Venizelos will therefore be unique.

The commander of the Third British Army in France, Sir Julian Byng, is well known in Egypt, where he was Commander-in-Chief of the British forces for three years before the war broke out. He was actually in Cairo at the beginning of hostilities, and in the absence in England of Lord Kitchener he had practically to assume the responsibility for the safety of Egypt, on whose frontiers German agents disguised as natives had been extremely active for some months before—no doubt in pursuance of the confessed German policy of stirring up trouble in the territories of possible enemies. The British, however, were not so sleepy as Berlin had anticipated, the activities of these gentry having been carefully observed, and their origin and intentions being known. General Byng was soon recalled to active service, and he reached the Western front in time to take part in the first battle of Ypres. Since then his only visit to the East has been to the Dardanelles, where he advised and carried out the evacuation of Suvla Bay.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, October 28.

Prayers for Rain.

Last Sunday was quite a day of public functions. In the morning there were religious processions, and prayers were said in the churches for rain, as the country was greatly suffering from the continuous drought. It has been an exceptionally dry summer and autumn, and apart from the shortage of water in Athens, the situation was becoming serious for agriculturalists and for vegetation. The weather broke on Tuesday, and copious rains have fallen every day since then.

The Anniversary of Navarino.

In the evening the ninetieth anniversary of the battle of Navarino was commemorated by a gathering at the Municipal Theatre attended by the King, the Premier, and the Cabinet Ministers, the Allied Ministers, and the élite of Athens. The theatre was crowded, and the occasion was marked with enthusiasm. It was, in fact, a patriotic manifestation in favour of the Protecting Powers. The proceedings were opened by a speech from M. Sotiriades, Professor of History at the University. He related the circumstances which brought about the battle of Navarino, and said that the three Great Powers saved Greece, created the Hellenic kingdom, and placed it under their protection. This protection has never failed, and to-day these Powers are not only their protectors, but also their Allies. This discourse was followed by speeches from the French, Russian, and British Ministers. The respective national anthems were played, and at the close of the meeting there was a great demonstration.

The Victims of a Naval Outrage.

There was a funeral service in the Cathedral in memory of the Greek consular officials who met their death through the torpedoing of the "Cita di Bari." The service, which was one of great solemnity, was attended by M. Venizelos and many of the high officials, and the very large gathering testified to the sympathy felt for the loss in such tragic circumstances of these men who had already undergone great hardships in remote places in Turkey. There were about sixty of them, and not one was saved. M. Naoum, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, deposited a wreath on behalf of the Greek Government and made a touching address, which was followed by a discourse from M. Callergis, late Greek Minister at Constantinople. He spoke of the services these men had rendered to Greece in trying and unprecedented circumstances in distant places in Asia Minor, and of the anguish they had suffered in witnessing the terrible persecutions of their fellow-subjects by the Turks. In their tragic death, he added, they have given their lives to their country in the same way as their brothers in arms on the battlefield.

The Week in Parliament.

The Chamber of Deputies, after a week's hard work, adjourned on Friday *sine die*. The sittings were mostly occupied with the discussion on the three Constantinian Cabinets accused of high treason, and in the course of the debates many Deputies related their experiences of the Germanophil policy of these Cabinets, and how every opportunity was taken to thwart the Allied Powers. There was some debate on the report of the Commission on the Lambros Cabinet, and the voting resulted in MM. Lambros, Tsellos, Zalacostas, Damianos, Soullaris, Tsanetouleas, Hadzopoulos, Apostolides, Drakos, and Charilaos being deferred to the High Court. A debate took place on the proposition to defer M. Gounaris and his colleagues to the High Court, and a commission was eventually nominated to inquire into the accusations against this Cabinet. The Chamber also nominated the judges who are to constitute the High Court to try the members of the Skouloudis and Lambros Cabinets.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE PALESTINE ADVANCE.

During General Allenby's victorious advance four important valleys (or wadis) have been successfully passed, at each one of which the Turks appear to have attempted to make a stand. The greatest and deepest was Wady el Ghuzzeh, *i.e.*, the "Valley of Gaza" (Ghuzzeh is the Arabic name, which is much nearer the Hebrew than the Greek form, Gaza). Here we were long held up, and the difficulties were so great that the enemy seems to have thought his position impregnable. After taking Gaza just after midnight on the 7th instant, our troops followed hard after the Turks, and reached the Wady el Hesy the same morning, and by the next day this barrier was successfully negotiated, both at its mouth and in its centre, where our forces arrived north of Tell el Hesy (ancient Lachish). Again the enemy made a stand at Wady es Sukereir—a valley which takes its rise near Beit Jebrin, and has many branches. Here the Turks were driven out before they could complete any strong defences, and we rapidly advanced to the important Wady es Surâr. It is evident they resolved to make a determined stand here, and not without reason, because, with this in our hands, the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway, and almost certainly the Jaffa-Jerusalem road, would be at our mercy. The Wady es Surâr is in many ways the most important valley in Southern Palestine, because of its intimate connection with the "Holy City." It begins with two heads high up in the plateau of Judæa: the northern branch starts near Er Ram, the ancient Ramah of Benjamin, some four miles north of Jerusalem, and, running a rapidly deepening course south-west, is crossed by the Jaffa-Jerusalem road near Kulonieh—the last great dip in the road before it ascends to Jerusalem; the southern branch is now of great importance, as up it runs the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway to the city itself, the upper end being known as the Wady el Wurd, or the Valley of Roses. Both these branches run very deeply between lofty and steep mountains, and the main valley is continued to the foothills under the name of the Wady Ismaen. The narrow gorge passes out of the mountains somewhat abruptly, and expands into an open valley—the Vale of Sorek of the O.T. (Judges xvi., 4), famous for its association with the Story of Samson. On its southern slopes—on a low hill near the railway station of Deir Aban—lies Ain Shems, the site of Behshemesh, famous for the incident of the return of the pestilence-bearing Ark by the panic-stricken Philistines (I. Sam. vi., 9). The site of this ancient city was excavated by the Palestine Exploration Fund shortly before the war, and its ancient walls and gates were uncovered. Within sight of Ain Shems, some three

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miles to the south-west, lies Tibnah, the site of Timnath, the scene of many of Samson's adventures with the Philistines (Judges, Chapters 14 and 15). On the opposite side of the valley lies a dominating hill, rising 800 ft. above the dry torrent bed, which is crowned by the little village of Surah—Zorah, the birthplace of Samson (Jug. 13)—while up a fertile branch valley running north is Eshua, the ancient Eshtaol (Judges xiii., 24). This particular part of the wady also has a geographical importance, because a very important valley, which divides the mountains of Judæa from the fertile district known as the Shephelah, crosses it here at right angles running north and south. The vale is open and fertile, and in the spring is green with corn. Once it was famous for its vineyards, signs of which are still abundant around the little Jewish colony of Artuf. The railway follows the Wady es Surâr till a little beyond the station of Sejed, and then traverses some slightly higher ground to the station at Naameh, where our troops seem to have first seized and cut it. Near Naameh is a high isolated hill, Tell el Jezereh, on whose southern side lies the village of Abu Shusheh. This tell is the site of ancient Gezer—which has been thoroughly excavated by the Palestine Exploration Fund—and the trenches left by the explorers may perhaps have been used by the Turks, who were killed or captured in such numbers there on the 15th inst. As from here both the railway to the south and the high road to the north are dominated for miles, the Turks' failure to hold this spot is a sign of their demoralisation.

The Wady es Surâr from Naameh passes westwards past El Katra and El Mughar, where the Turks put up a most determined opposition—broken by Scottish Territorials after most bloody fights—and some three miles south of Akir, the ancient Ekron, the site of a Jewish colony—now in our hands. A little west of Mughar the valley turns sharply north-west and on the southern edge a few miles on lies Yebnah, now a mere hamlet, but the site of the once-important town of Jamnia, a meeting-place at one time of the Jewish Sanhedrim and in the times of the Crusades occupied by their strong fortress of Ibelin. A church belonging to that period is now one of the village mosques. The ancient city had a seaport more used than Joppa itself, situated at the mouth of the river now known as the Nahr Rubin.

The defences of the Wady es Surâr being overcome, our Army has swept northward to Ramleh, the Turkish headquarters, and on to Lydda, which were both captured by Anzac cavalry on the 15th. Ramleh, now but a townlet of from seven to eight thousand inhabitants, of whom two-thirds are Moslems, is very picturesque, its old buildings lying amid groups of palms. It and the adjoining Lydda lie in a perfect oasis of fertility—or did before the war—there being thousands of olives and fruit trees and well-cultivated fields for miles around. The two towns are connected both by the railway and by a sandy road amidst high hedges of prickly pear. In the eighth century A.D. Ramleh became an Arab town of importance—there are no earlier traditions—it was very prosperous in the Middle Ages, and in the days of the Crusaders was the seat of a Bishopric. The large mosque there was then a newly-built Christian church. Near the town is a handsome and conspicuous tower, which was once attached to a large mosque, of which only the outlines of the foundations are to-day visible. The adjoining and slightly smaller town, Ludd, is the Lod of Ezra ii., 33, Neh. vii., 37, and the Lydda of Acts ix., 32. It was an important town in the early Christian centuries, and has been famous since the sixth century for the church built over the tomb of St. George. The buildings over the tomb have been several times destroyed and rebuilt. The site of the old church is now occupied by a mosque, but there is a Greek church in the near vicinity.

Here our forces have reached a fertile and beautiful district with large groves of olives—a splendid outlook on all sides—and many towns and villages within sight of interesting historical association. Most important of all, direct communication with Jerusalem by rail and by western road is now cut off, and the position of the garrison there—if such there be—may well be becoming precarious. Jaffa has now been captured and the route to Jerusalem through the Valley of Ajalon by way of Bethoron (Beit Ur) has already been invaded. General Allenby's successful sweep along the Maritime Plain has completed the conquest of the ancient domain of the Philistines, and all their five great cities—Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, Ashdod, and Ekron—are in British hands. We therefore now have a great stretch of corn-growing land of splendid fertility, which it is to be hoped will be ploughed and sown—for this is the season—without delay, besides orchards of olives, oranges, lemons, and other fruit trees and abundant gardens.

E. W. G. M.

SYRIANS AND TURKS.

DISCIPLINE IN THE TURKISH ARMY.

The following statement gives the experiences of a fugitive from Syria. It reaches us from a trustworthy source, to whom the informant was personally known:—

"At the end of last year, on the strength of a false accusation, I was exiled to Anatolia, and what struck me as being most significant was the complete change of attitude on the part of the Turkish Government towards the Syrians—a change which, by no mere coincidence, followed the Arab movement of independence. Neither I nor any of my fellow deportees were the object of that cruel and contemptuous treatment to which our predecessors were subjected. I was allowed to stop at every large town on the way and as long as I reasonably wished, and received an adequate allowance for my daily needs. Indeed, I learned that the Government issued orders to the local authorities in Asia Minor to the effect that the Syrians should be well treated, and that any breach of these orders would incur the severest penalty. In these orders Jemal Pasha is said to have taken care to explain that the deportees were temporarily removed for military reasons, and that the Syrians were not traitors or Ententophil.

"Throughout the period of our exile my comrades and I lived in comparative comfort, and received every ten days our allowances, which varied from five to twenty piastres per day, according to the social status of the person. Indeed, we were allowed to choose from among the well-furnished Armenian houses the one we wished, and to take any additional household article from the churches, which apparently were being used, since the massacres, as stores. After some time I was called to the colours, and as I had already paid the exemption tax it went against the grain for me to pay a second tax, especially as it would have meant merely the postponement of the call; so I resolved to try to escape to Syria in order to join the Arab forces and contribute my small share to the deliverance of my country. There was an officer on whose friendship I could rely and to whom I confided my plan; but he disapproved of it, saying that travelling in those regions in civilian dress would expose me to the gravest dangers. He therefore suggested my joining the troops bound for Constantinople, where I should find my plan of travelling to Syria much more susceptible of execution. The noteworthy fact should here be mentioned that the High Command had ordered that no Syrians were to serve in the 4th and 8th Army, both of which are still kept in Syria.

"On arriving at the capital, I found that the inhabitants were in greater distress there than anywhere else in the Empire. I providentially met there an Armenian non-commissioned officer charged with the distribution of privates among the different units, and when I asked him to send me to the army in Syria he was greatly surprised, as he believed that the inhabitants there tear the skin off the Turkish soldiers and eat up their flesh. I smiled inwardly at this naïve remark and invented a plausible excuse; then, after no little trouble, got round him. Presently I boarded, with 650 troops, the train bound for stricken Syria. At Byzanti there is a gap on the line up to a place called Kilk Boghassi, which we covered on foot in five days. When the troops were counted it was found that out of the 650 men only 150 remained. The others had fled back to their homes with their arms. This does away with the false assertion of the Turks that there are no cases of desertion among the Anatolians. The fact is that the Turks themselves are as sick of the war as the Arabs. The few, indeed, that did not desert expected to save themselves later by going over to the Arab forces or to the British. This secret intention was confided to me by more than one

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of this remnant, who thought I was one of them. as I had mastered Turkish in the Government school. In this connection the following fact may be mentioned, illustrating as it does the economic straits to which the Ottoman Army has come. The stock of uniforms having been exhausted, the supply depots at Constantinople have been issuing Austrian second-hand uniforms, even with the very buttons on them bearing the sign of the Cross and the Austrian crown below. This gave the occasion to many of my comrades, each time they passed a village or town, to pass the ironical remark, 'We are going to the Holy War (Jehad). Behold the Cross on our breast as proof.' Hatred of the Germans is becoming increasingly fierce, but it is not given open expression. Germans are cursed and spat upon, but at a safe distance.

"From Kilk Boghassi we proceeded again on foot to Osmaniyeh, where we received orders to change our route to Marash, thence in a north-westerly direction to Diarbekir. We, however, took no heed of these orders, and continued our march until we met on the way an officer with a company of thirty men, who, on learning that we were going to Aleppo, kindly asked us to accompany him thither. We soon learned that his duties were to present lists of the men that were with him at each of the military messes we passed by, so as to get the necessary ration issues. This good officer used to gather the old crusts and give to each of us a handful or two, and sell the fresh stuff to the inhabitants at two piastres the handful. These so-called military feeding houses are built of wood, and have been set up by the Ministry of War for feeding the troops on march.

"We continued our journey on foot until we reached Aleppo, where I forthwith started working for a permit to travel by rail to Damascus, but the last order we received was that we should proceed to Diarbekir viâ Marash, as already mentioned. The anarchy, however, that reigned was such that such orders received but scanty attention, and the actual authority lay in the hands of the corporals and the lower gendarmerie officers. Mine is a case in point. I went to a corporal in the recrüiting depot, and put in his hand a silver dollar, which seemed to work instantaneous magic. He handed me at once a new teskeré, mentioning that I belonged to Division —— and Battalion ——, stationed at Gaza (here the narrator showed the paper to his interlocutor), then had me shut up in one of the places of worship pending the date of my departure. Among the crowd of men I met there was a young Damascene, who told me that he had been living there for the last eight months in comfort and ease, and that each time his turn came he used to tip the corporal with a quarter of a dollar, and he expected by this simple means to continue this life of ease in the " temple of God " until the end of the war.

On the way to Damascus the train stopped at Riak, where the military doctors sorted out the unfit, who were allowed to continue the journey by rail, while the rest, among whom I unfortunately was, performed it on foot. Immediately on my arrival I went clandestinely to see my parents, who could hardly believe their eyes. What struck me above all things was the absence of all respect for the Government. The people openly criticised and abused it, and this complete change seems in great part to have been determined by the echo of the continued successes of the Arab forces and the extension of their military operations to the very gates of Eastern Syria. The growing gravity of the situation did not escape Jemal Pasha, who, further to insure his personal safety, took up for residence the palace of a notable at Salhie, outside the city, and removed the military headquarters to the house of Nazim Pasha near by; additional precautions were taken by posting more sentinels and guards along the roads leading to and the gardens surrounding these quarters, to such an extent that a passer-by is forcibly reminded of the days of Abdul Hamid and Yildiz. Despite all these precautions, Jemal dare no more venture out of his house except in a motor-car, which dashes at high speed escorted by three others."

The fugitive concluded his narrative by saying: "As soon as I heard at Damascus of the fine feats of the Arab forces I became impatient to join them, and, having managed to secure a horse, rode away across the desert. It filled my heart with delight to see all the Bedouins I met on the way, awaiting with impatience the arrival of their brethren from Arabia."

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PORT SAID IN WAR TIME.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

PORT SAID, October 22.

After Three Years.

The fourth year of war sees vast changes in the conditions of life at Port Said. With commodities essential to bare existence extremely high in price and lamentably low in quality one cannot help recalling pre-war days, when such luxuries as Australian beef and New Zealand mutton could be obtained in any quantity and at reasonable prices. Nowadays all the Colonial output that comes this way is (very rightly) reserved for the Forces. Butter has disappeared, and in its place we have a mixture tasting of coconut oil, with perhaps a slight flavour of gamoose milk. Potatoes have not been seen in Port Said market for many months past, but there is the sweet yam to remind us of what has been. One may dream of ham, bacon, cheese, English sauces, etc., but only to awake to their bitter absence, save, perhaps, in the case of a white Greek cheese, which is salt to the taste and apt to be gritty. Coal is ever rising in price and difficult to obtain. Paraffin oil, greatly used here for cooking purposes, has a way of drying up periodically, and there have been times when it could not be bought at all. There is, however, no shortage of foodstuffs, and the populace exists mainly on Sudanese meat, such local vegetables and fruit as are obtainable, and bread, which, although still white, is not particularly appetising.

One "carries on," however—in fact, most residents here have been "carrying on" without a break since the summer of 1913 or 1914. Port Said in normal times is not an easy place to leave for a short rest, and in these days of doubled rail fares, greatly increased hotel expenses, and the trouble of obtaining permits to leave the Canal zone—not to mention the pressing claims of business—a change from the daily routine cannot be lightly undertaken.

The business houses here, consisting mainly of coaling and shipping firms, are finding some difficulty at the present time in coping with the increasing demands on their floating plant. A number of lighters, tugs, etc., have been hired or taken over by the authorities, and it has been found necessary to pool resources with a view to obtaining the best results from such plant as remains.

Coal for bunkering purposes now costs over £12 a ton, but the quantities of bunkers supplied have fallen off considerably with the diversion of shipping into other channels.

A striking feature of the past summer has been the variety of the troops seen in the port from time to time, including British and French Colonials and the soldiers and sailors of other Allied Powers from the five continents. In this respect Port Said has well maintained its reputation as a cosmopolitan port, and the meeting-place of the East and West.

The Sultan's Accession.

The accession of H.H. Sultan Fuad was greeted with a salute from Allied warships in port, and the event was celebrated in the town by a general holiday, all Government offices, banks, and commercial houses being closed.

"Our Day."

A concert was held at the "El Dorado" Hall on the 19th in aid of "Our Day," the proceeds of which are to be devoted to the British Red Cross funds. An influential committee, under the presidency of H.E. Heddaya Bey, the Governor of the Suez Canal Zone, was responsible for the general arrangements, an exceedingly entertaining programme being given before a crowded house, composed almost entirely of British soldiers, sailors, and residents.

The performers, who were principally from the Services, included several pre-war professional artists, the outstanding features being a Shakespearean recital by Captain Morrell and a ventriloquial entertainment by Mr. Tom B. Wheatley.

The subscriptions in Port Said, in response to the High Commissioner's appeal, including the proceeds of the concert, exceed £1,400.

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutra countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 16-17, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2,

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M. VENIZELOS IN LONDON.

Reception in the City.

The Mansion House has rarely been the scene of such enthusiasm as was shown on Friday on the occasion of a meeting arranged at short notice by the Anglo-Hellenic League, and presided over by the Lord Mayor, to welcome M. Venizelos, the Prime Minister of Greece, who had come to the meeting to ask aid in some of the difficulties with which his country is faced. The great hall of the Mansion House was filled from end to end when the time for the meeting arrived, and large numbers of people had to be refused admission. On the platform with the Lord Mayor were some of the most prominent members of the Government—Mr. Balfour, Earl Curzon, and Mr. Churchill—and leading representatives of important interests in the City. The meeting was held in circumstances which hardly lent themselves to optimism, but the tone of the gathering was one of unalloyed hope, and M. Venizelos had no reason to complain of his reception, for the vast audience, which showed the utmost enthusiasm throughout, literally rose at him when he stood up to deliver his address.

Speeches of warm welcome were delivered by the three Cabinet Ministers who were present. Mr. Balfour referred to Mr. Venizelos as, by common consent, the most distinguished living representative of the great historic Greek race. He was an illustrious member of an illustrious race, but he was also one of the great contemporary statesmen of the world, struggling in alliance with other statesmen to further the interests not merely of his country, but of mankind at large. Referring to Greece's difficulties during the war, he said there were circumstances that would tax the statesmanship, temper, and endurance of any man. M. Venizelos had triumphantly steered the fortunes of Greece through all these perils, and his country was now entering waters which, whether rough or smooth, would not, he hoped, be disturbed by those cross-currents which had made steering so difficult in the last three years

Mr. Balfour's tribute was echoed by Lord Curzon, who said that, faced with intrigue, disloyalty, and treachery in the highest quarters, persecuted, with his followers, by those who held the reins of power, M. Venizelos never swerved for a moment, but held by his own and by the people who were faithful to him. He was sure, he added, that M. Venizelos would state his case to their statesmen with prudence and with moderation. He was sure that they would meet him to the fullest extent that lay in their power. He was a man who had stood by them through three difficult and critical years. They would stand by him to the end.

Mr. Churchill, after joining in welcoming M. Venizelos, who, he said, had friends here as loyal and as true as he could find in any part of the world, briefly commented on the outlook. "The voyage," he said, "is perilous; it is reaching its most perilous period. But we know that the barque of British fortunes has weathered gales and tempests as fierce as these, and we see through the darkness those lights shining which spell for Britain, for Greece, and for civilisation, a broad and assured future of safety and of freedom."

M. Venizelos, who, as stated, was received with tumultuous applause, which was renewed on the conclusion of his address, which was delivered in English, gave a candid and frank survey of Greece's position during the war. He showed how his policy of joining the Allies had been thwarted by the Crown, and how, if he had been able to pursue his chosen course, the struggle might have ended by now with complete victory for the Allies. The right moment for intervention was that of the Dardanelles expedition, and had his policy not been frustrated he could assert that the occupation of the Peninsula, which was then unprepared for defence, would have been the work of a week, and the moral effect on Constantinople would have been such that a separate peace with Turkey would have been the most probable result. The Narrows would have been open to the Allies, the otherwise difficult equipment of Russia would have been effected by way of the Black Sea, the Russian retreat of 1915 would have been prevented, Bulgaria would not have dared to move against the Entente Powers, and peace might have been secured in the course of the year 1916. The King, M. Venizelos said, treated the Constitution as the Kaiser did treaties—as scraps of paper. He prevented all this, and declared his intention of keeping neutral, unless Bulgaria attacked Serbia, when the treaty with Serbia would necessitate their interference. Yet six months later he repudiated the treaty with Serbia, and he acted all through as the German Emperor's agent in Greece. He asked them not to judge the Greek nation as responsible for the personal policy of the dethroned King, nor to consider the violation of the treaty with Serbia as reflecting upon them. He could assure them that during that protracted and painful crisis the great majority of the Greek people never approved of that treacherous policy. The good opinion of their great Empire was a precious asset for the Greek people. Ever since their resuscitation to a free political existence the Greeks had looked for guidance to the great and splendid lessons which British political life offered. In it they had found harmoniously blended personal liberty with that order which ensured progress. All the Greek statesmen, all worthy of that name, had been unanimous in their belief that the edifice which had been reared by the genius of the British people and which was known as the British Empire, or the British Commonwealth, was the grandest political creation in the life of man. It was only, he went on, by such a victory that would abolish brutal force and would establish justice, that real peace could be secured—a peace that must not be a mere truce, during which the world would continue to be crushed with military expenditure, and after a few years find itself, out of breath, faced with the horrors of a fresh war; but a peace that would establish the community of nations and would create a new world, a better world than that in which the will of a single man was sufficient to plunge humanity into this unprecedented catastrophe. Toward the new edifice which had thus to be raised, Greece could contribute but a few minor blocks of stone. Yet she would be proud to know that, in the midst of dire difficulties and in spite of the disastrous consequences of the absolutism of her King, she remained to the end faithful to her obligations and refused to accept the dogma of "scraps of paper."

M. Gennadius, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and the speakers, said the meeting was a fresh earnest of Englishmen's sympathy for and secular attachment to Greek ideals. After years of internal struggle as trying as actual war, Greece had joined the Allies without making any conditions, exacting any promises, or bargaining for any advantages. She had come in to do her duty

On Saturday M. Venizelos was welcomed by the Greek community at a reception given in his honour at the Grafton Galleries. M. G. Marchetti, of the Greek Legation, presided, and the Greek Minister, M. Gennadius, was among those present. On Monday he was the guest of the Inter-Allied Parliamentary Committee at luncheon in the Harcourt Room of the House of Commons. Lord Bryce presided at the luncheon, when those present included Lord Milner, Sir George Cave, Mr. John Hodge, Mr. George Barnes, Mr. Herbert Samuel, the Greek Minister, M. Argyropoulo, Lord Newton, Lord Peel, Lord Burnham, Lord Southwark, Lord Salisbury, Lord Sanderson, Lord Edmund Talbot, Lord Stuart of Wortley, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Sir H. Dalziel, M. Diomedes, M. Caropanos, and the Duke of Mondragone. On that occasion M. Venizelos made a short speech, in the course of which he expressed a belief that one of the most important and beneficial results of the final victory of the Allies would be the organisation of a community of democratic nations.

PERSIAN EPICS.

Dr. P. S. G. Dubash gave an address on Sunday evening at the Sufi headquarters, 86, Ladbroke Road, W., on the ancient epics of Persia. He said the Persian or Iranian epics were probably the oldest in the world, for the very word Aryan was but a corruption of Iranian. One of the oldest related to Kaosmun, the first monarch and, indeed, the first man according to Persian mythology. He was said to have been so popular among men and beasts that when he came down from the hills, where he lived as a hermit, not only human beings, but also birds and beasts, flocked round him and sought his advice. The story of Orpheus offered a parallel, but the Persian hero did not need a lute. His son was killed by a dragon, and the story of his grandson Husheng was the Persian legend as to the origin of fire and fire worship. Husheng sought to avenge the death of his father. He attacked the dragon, throwing an enormous stone at it. This struck another stone, causing sparks, which ignited the dry grass near. Husheng's followers were alarmed at the phenomenon and ran away, but the hero had the courage to remain and investigate. Thus man discovered a most useful servant, and fire worship was begun. Another poem told of the four questions put to Zal, and his answers to them. Said the questioner: "I see twelve trees, each with thirty branches, and in the kingdom of Persia they neither grow very short nor very long. What are they?" Zal at once answered that these were the twelve months of the year. The reference to the branches being neither very short nor very long, Dr. Dubash explained, meant that in Persia the days are not greatly different in length throughout the year. The second question was: "I see two horses running one after another, one black, the other white. They run eternally towards a goal they never reach. What are they?" Zal answered that these were day and night. "I see," again said the questioner, "a strong man reaping green and dry mercilessly throughout time. What is that?" Zal replied that it was death, taking young and old. The fourth question was: "Built on a rock a town was set, but man preferred to live in the plain below. Then came a mighty flood, and man longed for the rock-built town. What is it?" Zal replied that the rock-built town was Eternity. Man's living in the plain signified his love of ease and pleasure; but, when great trouble overwhelmed him, he realised that eternal peace and rest was best after all.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

INDIA AND THE FUTURE.*

Let it be said at the outset, and with all due gratitude, that this book is not "globe-trotting," though a preliminary glance at the illustrations might raise suspicion in the reader's mind. Mr. Archer visited India, and "its problems became an obsession," but instead of solving them on the homeward voyage he set to work to study them, and his book contains ample evidence of wide and judicious reading as well as hard thought; it is, therefore, a serious and important contribution to a discussion which cannot be neglected by any citizen of the Empire. In one respect the book is *infelix opportunitate*. Completed in 1914, it was laid aside for the time, and was prepared for publication last May by the addition of footnotes and a "postscript-proem"; much water has flowed down the Ganges since May, and the main contention of the book is already *chose jugée*, for the declaration that India is eventually to govern herself grants by anticipation the conclusion to which Mr. Archer's arguments lead. But to say this is not to pronounce the book out of date; to our mind its real value lies not in the conclusion, but in the examination of the varied and complex problems by which the Administration is confronted, problems which have still to be solved, though we may hope that their solution will be facilitated by the declaration in question. This examination has been conducted with insight and judgment, and can be recommended with confidence to all serious students.

Mr. Archer hits hard, but by no means indiscriminately. Peasants and politicians, bureaucrats and "Hinduizers," are all faithfully dealt with, and, human nature being what it is, most of them doubtless deserve most of what they get. Occasionally, perhaps, the punishment is excessive, and Mr. Archer mimght have made momre allowances, if he had been more intimate with the objects of his censure; if so, the fault is in the right direction, for India just now needs plain speaking more than anything else, and she has been hearing so many smooth things that signs of surfeit are becoming apparent. We welcome in particular the outspoken denunciation of the "Hinduizers"—an extensive class who have been poisoning the minds of the rising generation with mythical tales of the glories of the Indian past. That past is supremely interesting, and is worthy of the closest critical study, as Mr. Archer insists; but the wanton imagining of triumphs in politics, art, religion, and social organisation constitutes not merely an insult to the India of to-day, but the gravest practical danger to the India of to-morrow. There will probably be a howl of indignant protest when Mr. Archer's book reaches India, but we imagine he will not mind that; he has said many things which were wanted, and it is unnecessary to add that he has said them incisively and so clearly that no room is left for misunderstanding.

THE LATE LORD KITCHENER. †

In his well-considered foreword Lord Reay summarises the purport of this little book in a few happy words as "a touching tribute to the memory of the late Field-Marshal Earl Kitchener," whose "fine character appealed to the King's Indian as well as British subjects," and as "an expression of sympathy which shows how India shares in the joy and sorrows of the British Empire." In the preface which follows the Maharani illustrates that love of hero-worship which is so common amongst the warlike nations of the East. Earl Kitchener, with his devotion to duty and his thoroughness of execution, appealed to the Maharani and her friends as worthy of a place amongst the traditional heroes of her race, and it is from this point of view that the book is written.

But there is more. It is a very interesting account of Lord Kitchener's life, in which the leading events of a truly great career are summarized and commented on. It begins with an account of his early days at Woolwich, and afterwards in the Sudan, followed by South Africa, army reform in India, and, lastly, the great task where his energy and ability in a few months "transformed a nation trained for generations in the arts of peace into a military people." The book is well printed, and contains many interesting photographs. Those who are so fortunate as to read it will not only gather much information about a splendid career, but will also see that the days of chivalry, with all their attendant hero worship, have by no means passed away.

* "India and the Future." By William Archer. (Hutchinson and Co. 16s. net).

†"Field Marshall Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G." A Tribute to Hi Memory. By Nandkuverba, C.I. Maharani of Bhavnagar.

THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

M. Claude Anet, the correspondent of the *Petit Parisien* at Petrograd, is a journalist with the historic vein. In his book, *La Révolution Russe* (Payot et Cie., Paris, 4 fcs.) he covers the whole ground of those amazing months from March to May in the Russian capital and at the front; and, with a brilliant style that carries the reader along from page to page, he sketches one episode after another from the brilliant hope which arose with the dawn of the new liberty to the utter impotence of "no indemnities or annexations." The Russian soldiers, it appears, thought that indemnities and annexations were two foreign cities, like Constantinople, which they had no desire to take. The full story of the notorious "Order No. 1," which ruined the Russian army, is given, and the frenzied attempts to restore discipline and a fighting spirit against the German fraternising and alcohol; and there is a pleasant picture, which gains by the sombre contrast in which it is placed, of the Roumanian army ready to fight while the Russian troops hung back or deserted. The point is made that desertions began long before the actual revolution.

It has been the misfortune of the present reviewer to read many books on the Russian revolution. The best have been indifferent, and the worst very bad indeed; it is a relief to come across one which can be honestly praised as a record at once vivid and truthful.

SERBIAN SONGS AND POEMS.*

During the war we all have been learning much of the Serbian people. Our sympathies have been roused by their misfortunes, our admiration by their fortitude. This little volume of songs and poems will help us to enter into a deeper appreciation of this wonderful race. It will be a revelation to many that these rough mountain fighters delight so in poetry. Here, "With undisguised voice and in many moods we hear Serbia speaking for herself. Human strength and weakness, love and hate, nobility and baseness are set forth with primitive simplicity." The translator is qualified for his task by intimate knowledge of Serbia and the Serbians, and by a passionate admiration of and sympathy with the people.

* "Serbian Songs and Poems." Translated by J. W. Wiles, M.A. (London Geo. Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. November	1917. November		1336. Saphar	5678. Kisler
23	10	Friday	8	8
24	11	Saturday.....	9	9
25	12	Sunday	10	10
26	13	Monday	11	11
27	14	Tuesday	12	12
28	15	Wednesday	13	13
29	16	Thursday	14	14

M. Pashitch, the Serbian Prime Minister, arrived in Paris on November 18.

The Serbian Minister called at the Foreign Office on November 20.

Mr. A. Van Millingen, of Alexandria, is returning to Egypt early next month.

The Government Commission has reported against a daylight saving scheme for Egypt.

M. George Todorovitch, Secretary to the Serbian Legation, has left London for Washington.

Dr. Varnava, Bishop of Skoplje and Metropolitan of Goruja Misia, has arrived in London from Petrograd.

M. Popovitch, the Premier of Montenegro, has returned to Paris to take part in the forthcoming Allies' Conference.

An offer from the town of Halesowen, Worcestershire, to provide a Y.M.C.A. Hut for Palestine has been accepted.

The Lord Chancellor has appointed the Rev. J. R. Fellows, late chaplain, Srinagar, India, to the vicarage of East Tilbury.

M. Milsrad Voujitchitch, Under Secretary to the Serbian Minister of the Interior, has arrived in London from the Continent.

To-morrow afternoon the Union of the East and West will perform "Savitri" in King George's Hall, Y.M.C.A., Tottenham Court Road.

We regret to announce that Second Lieutenant W. Cumming, of the Egyptian Education Department, was wounded on the 8th instant in Palestine.

At Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, the Brotherton Sanskrit Prize has been awarded to Mr. C. D. Deshmukh, B.A., designate, of Jesus College.

Dr. Voukitchévitch Némanya, who has been appointed Secretary to the Serbian Legation in London, has arrived in England and entered on his duties.

Sir Lucas Ralli called upon M. Venizelos on November 16 and handed him £5,000 for the Greek War Fund, leaving the disposal of it entirely to the Greek Premier.

The Council of the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, on the occasion of his visit to London, elected M. Venizelos an honorary member of the society.

Lieut. C. Wilkinson, formerly sub-editor of the *Egyptian Gazette*, and now attached to the Commission Internationale de Ravitaillement, has been promoted to the rank of captain.

M. Venizelos breakfasted with Mr. Lloyd George at No. 10, Downing Street on November 15. In the evening M. Venizelos was entertained to dinner by M. Gennadius at the Greek Legation. M. Venizelos had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on November 18, and of being invited to luncheon with their Majesties. On November 21 M. Venizelos was entertained at luncheon by Admiral Sir John Jellicoe.

Mr. Harold Thomas Beresford-Hope, of 11, Courtfield Road, South Kensington, Third Secretary at the British Legation at Athens, who died on July 17, aged 33, left estate of the value of £67,167. The testator left a quantity of George III. silver plate to the First Commissioner of Works for the use of any Embassy, Legation, or Mission established in Poland within five years of his death, or for such other Embassy, Legation, or Mission to be selected by the First Commissioner, and the executors are empowered to make up with other silver a complete service, with ornaments, for twenty-five persons.

LADY, WISHING to go to INDIA, would like to meet lady or party, with view to companionship in travelling through India. Willing to contribute half expenses in return for escort.—Reply to Box 501, care of THE NEAR EAST Offices, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2

Mr. P. S. Taylor, formerly manager of THE NEAR EAST, has been granted a commission as lieutenant in the Egyptian Labour Corps, and is shortly proceeding on service.

Dr. Kramarzh's organ, the *Narodni Listy*, of Prague, declares that "the Czechs have only one programme—namely, to have an absolutely independent State of their own."

At a mass meeting of Jews held at Johannesburg, presided over by the Chief Rabbi, a resolution was carried in favour of the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine, and thanking the Imperial Government for the sympathy and support which it has given to the proposal.

Brigadier-General A. Carton de Wiart, V.C., D.S.O., son of the late well-known Cairo barrister, Maitre Carton de Wiart, whose name has again appeared in the official casualty list, has now been wounded five times in the present war—in May, 1915, July and October, 1916, and April and November, 1917.

It is officially announced that his Highness the Sultan of Egypt has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile on General Sir Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, K.C.B., Colonel 5th Lancers, and Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, in recognition of his distinguished services to Egypt during recent operations.

The King has given permission to Mr. James Berry, B.S., F.R.C.S., to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Star of Roumania, and of the Third Class of the Order of St. Sava, the latter conferred by the King of Serbia; also to Mr. C. H. Lyddon to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred by the late Sultan of Egypt.

Any Indian Army officers who served in France and Belgium with the first seven divisions who desire to attend the Choral Commemoration at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday, December 15, at half past two o'clock, are invited to send their names to the Military Secretary, India Office. A box is to be placed at their disposal by the executive committee for the commemoration.

The Cairo correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Major Evelyn Rothschild, who died on November 17 in that city of wounds in the head received in the great Yeomanry charge, was buried there on November 19. The funeral was a very imposing one, in which representatives of all the local Jewish societies took part. There were several thousands of spectators. Lord Dalmeny was present.

The Sufi Order is holding its autumn and winter meetings at 86, Ladbroke Road, Holland Park, W., on Sunday mornings and evenings, and on Tuesday evenings. Last Tuesday's address was by Inyat Khan, his subject being the spirit of Islam. He said that Islam was considered in the West to be the religion taught by Mahomet, but it was properly the religion that had been taught since the creation of the world by various inspired messengers. It was a message of peace on earth, and all who brought that message—Zoroaster, Moses, Christ, Mahomet, and others—were messengers of Islam. The spirit of all religion was one; but differences with regard to teachers, differences of commercial or other interests, aspirations after family, national, racial, or other predominance, together with the mere desire to be different from other people, had split mankind into a number of religious camps. Not all Moslems had known the spirit of Islam; the Sufis had done so. Sufism had survived persecution, when its adherents had been driven to hide in forests, caves and jungles. It sought not to divide mankind, but to unite Moslem, Zoroastrian, Christian, and all others in one essential truth, and in the spirit of peace.

11th K.E.O. LANCERS.

A COMFORTS FUND, which will co-operate with THE INDIAN COMFORTS FUND, has been started for the Regiment.

Will those interested please communicate with Mrs. HARTLEY, 33, Wilton Place, S.W.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

The following appointments are announced in the *Sudan Government Gazette* :—

El Kaimakam E. W. Viscount Hawarden Bey, Senior Inspector, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, to be Governor, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province.

El Kaimakam C. S. Northcote Bey, 1st Inspector, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province, to be Senior Inspector, Bahr-el-Ghazal Province.

OBITUARY.

SIR STANLEY MAUDE.

The news of the death after a short illness of General Sir Stanley Maude, Commander-in-Chief in Mesopotamia, has been received with widespread regret. The late officer was born in 1864, and twenty years later received his commission in the Coldstream Guards. He saw active service in the Sudan in 1885, when he was present at the actions of Hasheen and Tamai, and subsequently in the South African War, where he greatly distinguished himself. He afterwards held a number of important appointments, including those of Military Secretary to the Governor-General of Canada and Assistant Director of the Territorial Force at the War Office. When war broke out Maude was on the General Staff of the 5th Division, and he went with that division to France, and was severely wounded while in command of the 14th Infantry Brigade. In 1915 he was promoted major-general, and appointed to the command of the 13th Infantry Division, with which he presently proceeded to Mesopotamia. It was, as it happened, in that scene of the war that he received the opportunity of his career, for he was chosen in August, 1916, to succeed Sir Percy Lake as Commander-in-Chief. That his selection was more than justified became evident from the first, for he devoted himself assiduously to the task of reorganising his forces and improving his lines of communication, and this he carried out in conjunction with the authorities at home and in India to such good effect that when the time came to advance he had made success as certain as it was within human attainment to do.

It is not for his contemporaries to attempt to appraise the precise value of his masterly tactics, which resulted in his advance to and beyond Kut and onwards to Baghdad; that is a matter for history to decide; but this much is clear, however, that if success unmitigated by any failure whatsoever—success complete and rapid in its development, and apparently flawless in its conception—counts for anything, then General Maude's fame is safe in the hands of posterity. From the moment of its initiation, the achievement of his aims was never for a moment in doubt. Starting in December, he occupied the line of the Hai River, cleared the banks of that river as far as Kut, and then, by determined tactics, drove the Turks out of their positions there back into Kut. A brilliant stroke followed, for, feinting in one direction, he succeeded in misleading the enemy, and continued to cross the river at Shumran. The crossing marked the end of the Turkish resistance in that neighbourhood; they turned in retreat, which rapidly developed into a rout. Maude was not the man to fail to seize such an opportunity; he followed hard after the Turks, and on March 11 entered Baghdad.

Having seized certain advanced positions, Maude again devoted himself to the task of preparing for further developments, among the measures he took being the development of local resources, so that his army would not be so dependent on communications. Nothing of note happened until well on into September, when the Turks, possibly misunderstanding his apparent inactivity, ventured to approach somewhat closer. Maude waited his time, and when a Turkish division reached Ramadieh he marched out by night, completely surprised the enemy on the following day (September 28), and by an encircling movement compelled his surrender. Subsequently the Turks on the Tigris became aggressive, and they also were dealt a sharp lesson, for they were attacked and driven from their entrenched position at Tekrit on November 5. Then, when the Turks had retired some fifty miles, Maude brought his men back to their original positions.

His death, which came as a great shock to the people of this country, deprives the Empire of one of its most brilliant members, and the Army of one of its most capable leaders. The Prime Minister, in announcing his death in the House of Commons, referred to him as "one of the most distinguished soldiers in command of the British Forces in the field." In the hour of his triumph, added Mr. Lloyd George, he had been stricken down by a fell disease, and the country mourned the loss of one of its most valued sons.

COLONEL E. G. SKINNER, C.B.

The death took place at 52, Kimbolton Road, Bedford, on November 18, of Colonel Edmund Grey Skinner, C.B. The son of Russell Morland Skinner, sometime Judge of Kishnagur, he was born in 1850, and joined the Army Ordnance Department in 1867. He saw service in the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being present at the battle of Kassassin, and was mentioned in the despatches. In the Sudan operations three years later he was C.O.O. of the expedition, and took part in the battle of Suakin. He was made C.B. in 1891, and retired from the service in 1901.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

CLARKE.—At Simla, the wife of Major G. A. Clarke, Indian Army, of a son.

FORSTER.—On Nov. 17, 1917, at Cairo, to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold J. Forster, Sudan Civil Service—a son.

MARRIAGE.

LYLE—LEEK.—On November 15,, at St. Mark's Church, Wolverhampton, by the Rev. G. Swindells, Archibald Lyle, late of Busreh, Persian Gulf, to Edith, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leek, Woodsetton Farm, Dudley.

DEATHS.

GUNNING.—On November 14, 1917, at Cape Town, Brigadier-General Orlando George Gunning, C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army. aged 50.

HARVEY.—On Nov. 13, of enteric, at Poona, Ernst Anthon Harvey, of the Indian (Madras) Civil Service and Indian Army Reserve, formerly of Haileybury, and St. John's College, Oxford, eldest son of Robert and Anna M. C. Harvey, of Rothley, near Leicester, aged 32 years.

KAYE.—On November 17, at 17, Lincoln House, Basil Street, Knightsbridge, Lieut.-Colonel James Levett Kaye, late Political Department of the Government of India, aged 55.

PERROTT.—On November 13, in Cairo, the most dearly-loved wife of Charles Harold Perrott, Barrister-at-Law.

TATE.—On November 13, 1917, at Slieve-na-failte, Whiteabbey, Co. Antrim, Alexander Chambers Tate (late Madras Civil Service), aged 61.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

SCRUTTON.—Now reported by the War Office to have died as prisoner in a Bulgarian hospital, shortly after Sept. 10, 1916, of wounds received in fighting on the Struma on Sept. 10, 1916, Hugh Urquhart Scrutton, Captain, Northumberland Fusiliers, Military Cross, and three times mentioned in despatches, youngest son of Lord Justice and Lady Scrutton, aged 21.

WHERE TO STAY.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1917.

THE VISIT OF M. VENIZELOS.

As a people, Britons are not given to the use of superlatives. When, therefore, the rule is broken in favour of a foreigner, we may feel certain that the tribute is both genuine and deserved. Public opinion in this country has unanimously endorsed all that has been said in honour of M. Venizelos on the occasion of his present visit to London. Neither Mr. Balfour, in describing him as one of the great contemporary statesmen of the world, nor Lord Bryce, in speaking of him as one of the foremost men, not only in Europe but among all the nations of the world, was straining after oratorical effect; both did no more than justice to perhaps the most striking career among public men of recent times. It is well, moreover, at a moment when the Allies are championing the cause of small nations, that it should be recognised that statesmanship is not necessarily confined to the Great Powers. If M. Venizelos has been all that is claimed for him, then an additional argument has been found for the claim of small nationalities to work out their own salvation, and thus to contribute their quota by precept or example to the progress of civilization. It is the more remarkable that a small country such as Greece should have produced the man who by common consent has stood out in his generation as one who united pre-eminently in his own person capacity for action with breadth of vision. M. Venizelos has won the position he now holds among his contemporaries entirely on his own merits, at a period when his country, through no fault of her own, counted as the most negligible in Europe. His record shows that he grasped as soon as anybody the meaning of the world-crisis, and saw the moral principle at issue in the war. Quick of decision, he was ready at once to throw the whole weight of Greece's support into the scale. When he found himself thwarted in his purpose, he was prepared to stake all on his conviction. Amid the stress of graver preoccupations, it has perhaps not been fully realized how greatly he dared in setting up his Provisional Government at Salonika in defiance of constituted authority. The step, however, was characteristic of the man, who from the time of his first appearance in Greek public life has disdained that trimming and compromise with principle that come so easily to the average politician.

Three occasions stand out in the life of M. Venizelos when he has set himself to attain a remote, if not seemingly inaccessible, goal, and has reached it in the face of almost overwhelming odds. When he first took to the hills in Crete, his challenge to Turkish rule in the island showed little chance of success; but the same masterfulness of purpose, which was to stand him in good stead later in life enabled him to win through, and in the end the long-cherished aim of union with Greece was acomplished. He was summoned to the mainland at a grave crisis in the history of Greece, when the task of re-establishing administrative order out of chaos, and of cleansing the Augean stables of Greek politics had to be performed virtually single-handed. On the very day of his arrival in Athens he found himself in sharp disagreement with the people of the capital, and the reforms that he had to introduce could not fail to antagonise those who had battened on the corrupt political system of the past. Within a few years discipline and efficiency had been restored within the army, and Greek administrative methods were no longer a by-word in Europe. The patent honesty of M. Venizelos's intentions had won him the support of the majority of the nation, and the success of his regime was sealed by the Greek victories in the Balkan Wars. The outbreak of the present struggle followed. Once again M. Venizelos was confronted with what promised to be an insuperable obstacle between him and his cherished goal. King Constantine refused to allow Greece's support to be given to the Allies, and prepared to make common cause with the Central Powers. The measures adopted by M. Venizelos to cope with this situation were novel and bold. Many of his best friends doubted the wisdom of the course he chose to pursue; but he held to his own line of policy, which in the end was shown to be justified. The Royalist Government in Athens made way for the Provisional Government at Salonika, and in due course Greece was able to undertake her preparations for ranging herself officially and whole-heartedly on the side of the Allies. Thus, if greatness consists in having worthy aims and in persevering until they are attained, then M. Venizelos is great. Selfish considerations or a desire for self-aggrandisement have been conspicuously absent from his career. At each stage of his public life he has stood forth as the champion of high ideas, whose disinterestedness has been above suspicion.

His third and last great struggle is over. Constitutionalism has been restored to Greece, but M. Venizelos finds that his duty to his country in this connection is not yet liquidated. He has restored to the Greeks their self-respect, but he has not yet secured for all the people of the country the wherewithal to live. Amid a general world shortage of foodstuffs Greece has fared particularly ill. The fault lies mainly with King Constantine's regime. To check its intrigues with the Central Powers an economic blockade had to be enforced. Greece exhausted all her stocks, and when the time came for the removal of the blockade, she found herself with no reserve to tide over the time until supplies could reach her, if not normally, at least regularly. M. Venizelos, it may be taken for granted, is not visiting the Allied countries merely to receive eulogies upon his achievements. The object of his mission is to make such arrangements as will enable him to finish the task that he has undertaken. Until Greece has placed the whole of her available military strength in the field by the side of the Allies she will not have played her part. But with the civilian population on the shortest of rations and the army without adequate supplies there can be no question of the Greeks taking the field in force. The country must be provisioned before M. Venizelos can rest content with what he has done. In urging upon the Allied Governments the need for practical steps in this direction, the Greek Prime Minister has a doubly strong case. Apart from the moral obligation to come to the assistance of a regenerated Greece, there is the potential value of the support that the Greek army may yet render to the Allied cause. The Central Powers can never evade the necessity of seeking easy triumphs in the field with a view to heartening their respective peoples. When the thrust against Italy has exhausted itself, the German higher command may decide that the Salonika front offers the most reasonable prospect of a successful attack. The presence of two hundred thousand Greeks in the fighting line or in reserve would more than balance the reinforcements the enemy are likely to be able to spare for this theatre. But this force must be fed and adequately equipped, a task beyond the capacity of the Greek military authorities without the Allies' help. M. Venizelos's visit, we may be sure, had a practical object, and it is to be hoped that the Allies will enable him to make the fullest use of Greek man-power in the common cause.

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GERMAN BUILDINGS AT JERUSALEM.

The rise of German influence in Palestine, which owed its remarkable expansion to the Kaiser's visit in 1898, has expressed itself in the outward and visible form of large, costly, and exceedingly ugly buildings erected throughout the country. Those at Jerusalem are all on cleverly chosen sites which dominate the city completely, whether situated within the walls or without.

The German church, the Erlöserkirche, which the Kaiser ostensibly came out to open, stands on the site of the old Hospice of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. Various remnants of the old building are incorporated in the church, and the unsightly tower designed by the Kaiser, which is exactly like an elongated candle-snuffer, commands the entire city at a glance. At the opening of this church the Kaiser preached a little sermon, in which he explained that the cause of Germany's greatness was the open Bible in her land; and he closed his peroration most impressively with the words, "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord!"

The very large Hospice of St. Paul (apportioned to the German Lazarists) stands exactly opposite the city walls outside the Damascus Gate. Only half of it was completed in 1914, though why such an enormous building was required could never be explained satisfactorily. Probably the explanation volunteered by one of the fathers there was a true one, though rather puzzling at the time. "It is too large for us now, but we shall want all the room afterwards, and then we must make it also larger." No doubt all these German places were built in view of that good time "afterwards," when Germany was to possess, or at least to dominate, the Holy Land. The Hospice contained many bedrooms, large and small, one of which could accommodate fifteen persons; it was rather quaintly described as being intended for "poor professors, who could not pay much, and did not mind sleeping together." A small but interesting museum, including birds, beasts, and reptiles of Palestine and other countries, attracted many visitors. From the windows of the Hospice some of the loveliest views of the city were obtained.

A sister-house of this institution, at one of the sites of Emmaus, was a favourite place with residents at Jerusalem, who went out sometimes for a day, sometimes for several weeks, and everyone found the fathers most genial and kind. I am tempted to this digression by the recollection of a story told by some English people who were spending a few days there in August, 1914. They had retired to their rooms after dinner, and were thinking of bed, when an extraordinary tumult broke out in the usually quiet quarters of the fathers. They could hear loud, excited voices, healths being drunk, and an increasing clamour as if newcomers were arriving and being told some very wonderful news. The next morning one of the visitors asked a father if they had been celebrating a special or local festival. "No," he answered, "but our Consul at Jerusalem sent us out the news that England and Germany are at war."

The English visitor was appalled, and exclaimed, "But you were all *rejoicing* over something! Surely you are not glad that we are at war?"

He answered, quite soberly, "For years we in Germany have gone on making our army and navy larger and larger, and the country has been taxed for them. If we do not use them, what excuse have we for keeping them so large? And if our people at home are taxed like this, and still the army and navy are not used, they will rise, and there will be war in Germany. It will be war either at home or abroad, therefore we rejoice because it is war abroad."

The establishment of the German Benedictines just outside the Zion Gate and next to Nebi Daoud (the tomb of David), is another of Germany's large and dominating buildings. The church has swallowed a great deal of money, but has not grown beautiful on it; it is, however, beautifully kept. There is a large crypt under the church, which gives back a loud hollow echo when people are walking about the church. Before the church was finished this echo was most disturbing, and magnified the sound till three or four persons walking about seemed like a crowd; but now that matting and carpets have been laid down the echo has been modified, though not conquered. The Moslems of Nebi Daoud are a fanatical and turbulent set, and the very thought of a Christian church so close to their sacred shrines was hateful to them. They raised a good deal of opposition from the first, but the ex-Sultan had given his word to the Kaiser, and of course the matter had to go forward. The Moslems then fiercely stipulated that no bells should be rung, nor even hung, in the church on that spot, and the promise was given. When, later on, some large bells arrived from Germany, presented, I think, by the Kaiser, the Moslems of Nebi Daoud were agitated afresh, and again urged their protest. They were assured that the bells were only for show; that, as the Kaiser himself had sent them, they could not well be refused, and the promise was repeated that they should not even be hung, far less rung. Just before Prince Eitel Fritz arrived in Jerusalem to attend the opening service (April, 1910), the bells were secretly hoisted into place; and as he entered the church they burst out into a triumphant peal. The Nebi Daoudis' anger and protests were impotent. The bells have been rung regularly ever since.

The most imposing of all the German establishments at Jerusalem is the Kaiserin Victoria Augusta Stiftung on the Mount of Olives. It belongs to the Empress, and the site was given to her by the ex-Sultan, because she expressed the wish that she could build up there a house of rest for missionaries. A very large tract of ground was included in this "concession," and the Kaiser and Kaiserin interested themselves keenly in the erection of the remarkable and solid group of buildings, now known as the Stiftung. The German Court contributed largely to it, and the coats-of-arms of the donors are perpetuated (I had almost said perpetrated) in glaring stained-glass windows in the church. The Stiftung is built with an inner quadrangle and a sunk court. It is an immensely strong building and very ornate, the entrance doorway and all the side doors are carved in a bewildering mixture of styles and periods. The dining-hall and reception rooms are of splendid proportions, with high-raftered ceilings and mediæval fireplaces, and a gallery. The bedrooms open on one side into a closed-in cloister, commanding the quadrangle, and on the other into balconies, which belong to the room or suite of rooms, and overlook the lands east of Jordan. Electric light, and the only real bathroom in Jerusalem, add to the comfort of the Stiftung, which is by far the most luxurious house in Palestine. The large grounds were still in process of being laid out in 1914; a broad carriage drive sweeps up to the front; and seats and summer-houses are placed here and there in the garden, where the views over Moab are loveliest. A great tower (also of the extinguisher pattern) rises from the centre of the building, and is fitted with loud-voiced bells, presented (with due regard to their respective sizes), by the Kaiser, Kaiserin, and Crown Prince; while a very powerful searchlight sweeps the country for miles around, lights up every stone in the city, and, it is said, is visible some twenty miles out to sea. We never quite understood why a philanthropic guest-house for missionaries required a searchlight. The place was managed by some Kaiserwerth deaconesses, towards whom everyone who has stayed there can feel only gratitude and respect. There is a large vineyard on the other side of the road which belongs to the Stiftung from which one can look down upon Jerusalem, the Beloved City of every age and of every nation, which lies in all her beauty and dignity completely at the mercy of the Stiftung. From the windows and garden at the back there are wonderful views of the Jordan and the Dead Sea, with the Mountains of Moab beyond; and to watch the sun rise day after day over those enchanted regions, to see the little silver mists of dawn, the ever-changing play of colour and the sweep of light and shade across the hills, is to behold beauty itself—a wonder indescribable.

The church in the Stiftung is richly but inartistically adorned with portraits of monarchs and heroes who have played a part in the history of the land—David, Judas Maccabæus, Richard I., Louis the Crusader, and so on, the largest and most important being the Kaiser and Kaiserin in Byzantine costumes, holding a model of the Stiftung, and encircled by the "rainbow round about the Throne." Scenes from the Book of the Revelation are also portrayed, in a fashion startling rather than beautiful. There is a fine organ—rather loud, perhaps, for the size of the building.

The Kaiser's keen interest in the Stiftung always struck us as being rather out of proportion. He insisted on being informed of everything that took place, even to the names and number of people who stayed there. One winter, when

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

KING GEORGE.

KING OF SPAIN

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a succession of bad storms had made it impossible for the mails to leave Jaffa, he telegraphed for news, as the usual weekly report had not reached him. As early as 1912 guns were being taken up to the Stiftung, concealed in packing-cases and described as "furniture." A broken case revealed the contents of one and explained the remarkable heaviness of the consignment. Throughout 1914 the royal suite of rooms was being decorated in a scheme of scarlet and gold, though apparently no royal visit was impending. Even more remarkable was the steady work on concrete emplacements, the explanation being that the building had been finished in such a hurry that the walls were not safe, and so these "supports" were necessary.

One wing of the Stiftung was set apart for the use of a scientific expedition sent out by the Kaiser to study malaria, with a view to freeing the country from this great trouble. It did not seem to be altogether the Kaiser's business, but, as a German said, "Our Kaiser does love Jerusalem so much—he is always thinking of it!" No doubt. Jerusalem was keenly interested in these investigations, and when the professor in charge politely requested leave to test the water in all the cisterns, so as to discover which were the infected areas, everyone was extremely pleasant about it and allowed him to do so. In this way accurate information was obtained of the depth and capacity of every cistern in Jerusalem, in all the foreign institutions, the only one that refused being a Latin monastery, and the Germans loudly condemned such "unfriendliness." I am afraid the rest of Jerusalem was more easily hoodwinked. This took place early in 1914, as far as I remember.

About the same time everyone was commenting on the sudden withdrawal from circulation of all German gold; it was impossible to get it anywhere, though it had been fairly plentiful before. There was a German bank in Jerusalem, and a post office, also a large colony near the station, many German shops, an hotel, and several schools round about. When one of these, known as Pastor Schneller's Orphanage, was burnt down one year, the Kaiser ordered a collection to be made in every church throughout Germany on a certain Sunday, the result being such an overflowing of wealth that the wages paid to the men rebuilding the school were the talk of the place. The German Hospital was a very good one, where the surgery, it is said, was well up to date and the nursing somewhat behind it.

There is no doubt that Germany was preparing long beforehand to seize Palestine, whether Turkey came in on her side or not.

ESTELLE BLYTH.

TANGIER TO TEHERAN.

Few people can remain insensible to the thrill that the progress of British troops northward through Palestine evokes to-day. But the country was the scene of battles and sieges before the time of the Children of Israel, and it is not without interest to recall that we have records of the capture of Joppa in the reign of the Egyptian Pharaoh Thotmes III., between three and four thousand years ago. There is a papyrus entitled "How Thoutii captured the town of Joppa," and I am indebted to a correspondent for a summary of it. There is probably, he writes, some historical foundation for the event, because we know from other Egyptian records that there was a general named Thoutii who held commands in Syria and Phœnicia. Possibly we have something that was once a valued possession of his in the shape of a bronze dagger inscribed with his name, now in the museum at Darmstadt.

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The story, reminiscent of Troy, with a touch of Ali Baba, runs as follows:—Joppa had been placed, as was often the case in Egyptian foreign policy, again in the possession of its chief after he had been conquered. But he had revolted and massacred the few Egyptian soldiers left to watch over the city. Thotmes, on receipt of this news, was greatly enraged and consulted his staff and the magicians. They were both loth to advise, and thereupon Thoutii asked Pharaoh to intrust him with his royal baton and troops, both foot and chariots, in order that he might chastise "the vile once-vanquished Prince of Joppa." The papyrus is in rather bad condition, but sufficiently legible for us to understand Thoutii's *modus operandi*. He provided four hundred large jars, and having arrived near Joppa sent word to the chief that Pharaoh, being jealous of his, Thoutii's, prowess, had attempted to assassinate him, and so he and the troops under his command had deserted the Egyptian service and wished to become the followers of him of Joppa.

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The prince was delighted, and came out from his walled city to meet Thoutii, and, forming a camp, invited the Egyptian and his men to come to him. At an opportune moment Thoutii asked permission for the remainder of his little force, with their pack horses bearing the jars of forage, to enter the town, where they could find stabling and storing room for the provender. The story contains some mystical allusion to the Joppa chief's desire to see the baton of power of the Pharaoh, which Thoutii had hidden in a forage basket. Thoutii fetched it, but only to strike the chief with it and render him insensible. Thoutii then concealed two hundred of his smaller-sized soldiers in as many of the large jars and sent them, accompanied by three hundred more, into the city. The plot succeeded. The gates were opened to them, the cavalcade entered the town. The soldiers in the jars leapt forth to aid their three hundred comrades and took the garrison prisoners, binding them, after the Egyptian fashion, with cords and yokes, articles which Thoutii had thoughtfully placed in the jars and forage panniers, instead of the forage these were supposed to contain.

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I have been interested in a discussion that has been raised on the subject of the languages required for the Entrance Examination for Class I. of the Civil Service. It appears that no papers are to be set in Spanish, Russian, or Italian, unless one year before the examination it can be proved to the satisfaction of the Civil Service Commissioners that at least one candidate will enter who may be reasonably expected to attain the standard required from candidates in French and German. Of course, this stipulation has been cited as an instance of the unprogressive tendency of the powers that be and as the negation of all commercial expansion after the war. That is probably an unnecessarily extreme view to hold. Certainly the Civil Service Commissioners have gone out of their way to save themselves a modicum of trouble. Very likely they would have found themselves arranging for papers for which for a few years no candidates would present themselves; but neither the labour nor the expense entailed would be enough to offset the encouragement given to candidates to take one or other of the three languages in question. The elaborate conditions now imposed will deter a few people from doing so at first. In the long run, however, some one will have the courage of his convictions, and in practice it will be found that papers in Spanish, Russian, and Italian are a regular feature of the examination.

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It is satisfactory to see that the value of Spanish is being insisted upon. Of its commercial usefulness there can be no doubt. It probably ranks second—*longo intervallo*—to English as the *lingua franca* of commerce. The point is arguable, I know, for I have often heard it argued; but on the whole the potentialities of Latin America are a considerable weight in its favour. Whether this point—the commercial utility of Spanish—will appeal to candidates for Class I. of the Civil Service is another matter. The war has given an impetus to the learning of languages among Britons; but the first tendency will naturally be towards those of the more prominent of our Allies. Then there are the linguistic needs of the Empire itself, and we shall certainly require a large percentage of students to make themselves proficient in Arabic. In these circumstances the learning of Spanish will want all the encouragement it can get, and for this reason it is to be hoped that the Civil Commissioners will set a good example by removing at the first opportunity even the shadow of an obstacle that they have placed in its way.

CORSAIR.

"OUR DAY" IN INDIA.

Stimulated by the successful results of the collections made in the United Kingdom and the Dominions, Lady Chelmsford's "Our Day" preparations for December 12, supported by the provincial Governors, Lieutenant-Governors, and Commissioners, with powerful committees, are proceeding apace throughout India and Burma, says Reuter's Delhi correspondent, in a message dated November 13. Efforts in aid will be made throughout the entire country, as the Viceroy has declared December 12 a public holiday. Her Majesty Queen Mary has sent out a number of gifts through the Secretary of State, for lucky bags. In the provinces H.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad has already given the Vicereine one lakh of rupees, the Maharaja Holkar of Indore half a lakh, the Maharaja of Jaipur a quarter of a lakh. Mr. Seth Sakhlall Karnani, a banker, of Calcutta, has defrayed the cost of ten million Union Jack button-hole flags from England, and another Calcutta citizen, Mr. B. Borooah, has paid for the cost of three million. A postal seal is now being sold by the post offices. The Army is taking an active part, and is arranging military displays. The Calcutta and Bombay Turf Clubs are giving the proceeds of special race days, and flag days have been arranged everywhere. "Our Day" special posters are displayed in public places. Arrangements, including elephant and motor-car processions, have been organised at numerous centres. The Indian States are joining keenly in the schemes, and remarkable public interest is aroused in the towns and rural districts

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Indian Income Tax Levied in Persia. Nov. 14.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would state under what circumstances the re-imposition of Indian income-tax on the pay of officers of the Indian Army serving in Persia had been sanctioned; and whether, considering that the levy of Indian income-tax from the pay of civil officers serving in Persia was abandoned in 1910 as being illegal, he would take steps to put a stop to the imposition of income-tax on the pay of officers of the Indian Army now serving in Persia.

Mr. FISHER: I am not aware that Indian income-tax is being recovered from officers of the Indian Army serving in Persia. Such a course would be contrary to the practice of the Government of India in recent years. If the hon. and gallant member will furnish me with any instances in which tax is being recovered I will have inquiry made.

Colonel YATE: May I ask the right hon. gentleman to inquire from the Government of India if it is so?

Sir J. JARDINE: Can the right hon. gentleman point out whether this is imposed by virtue of powers of the Indian Legislature, or whether it is a mere executive order of some sort?

Mr. FISHER: I am not aware that this tax has been imposed.

Indian Pay and Allowances.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would say why the new rules, issued in August last, regarding the pay and allowances to sick and wounded officers of the Indian Army should be dependent upon the War Office or the Treasury as to the date of their application, which was fixed for February 17, 1917; and whether, considering that it is the duty of the India Office and the Government of India to provide for the sick and wounded officers of the Indian Army, he would now arrange to pay the increased charges on account of these allowances from Indian revenues with effect from the date of the commencement of the war?

Mr. FISHER: The consent of the War Office and the Treasury was necessitated by the fact that under the Parliamentary resolutions of September 16 and November 26, 1914, which determined the liability of Indian revenues in respect of the charges of expeditionary forces despatched from India, the additional allowances sanctioned under the new rules fall to be borne by Imperial revenues.

Colonel YATE: May I ask whether the right hon. gentleman will not take into consideration the fact that the Indian Army are under the care of the India Office and the Government of India, and will he do anything to put those officers, sick and wounded officers, on a proper footing?

Mr. FISHER: Under the arrangement made between the Secretary of State for India and the Army Council, it was settled that the net cost to be borne by the War Office should equal the actual cost incurred by us—the cost that would have been incurred if the troops had remained in England. It follows from that, as the hon. and gallant member will appreciate, that the full cost of all officers and men on sick leave falls upon the War Office.

Colonel YATE: I am sorry to say I do not appreciate that at all. I ask if he will give this allowance from the India Office dating from the commencement of the war?

Gen. Sir IVOR PHILIPPS: Will the right hon. gentleman see that British officers in the Indian Army and British men in the Indian Army do not suffer owing to some red-tape procedure between the War Office and the India Office?

Malta and the War. Nov. 15.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, considering that in the Report on Malta for 1916-17 (No. 935) there was no mention of the war or of the part Malta had taken in the prosecution of the war or in the provision of men and material for either combatant or non-combatant service, he would have the omission rectified in the ensuing Report.

Mr. HEWINS: I will suggest to Lord Methuen that, so far as publication is desirable, mention of the part taken by Malta in the war might be included in the next Report.

British Prisoners in Turkey.

In a written reply to questions concerning the fate of the officers and men of the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry taken prisoner at Kut, Mr. JAMES HOPE states:—

According to our last definite information, nine officer prisoners of war in this regiment were distributed as follows:—In Yozgad five, Kastamun three, Constantinople one. The conditions at officers' camps are comparatively good. We also heard that there were 86 non-commissioned officers and privates of this regiment distributed at eighteen camps, and that there were five others whose camps were not known. A certain number of these men were orderlies to officer prisoners, and relatively well off, but the conditions at all the men's camps were unsatisfactory.

Since, however, we received the above information, it has been reported that the majority of all able-bodied prisoners of war have been moved to work on the Baghdad railway, east of Aleppo. Complete lists of those working there are being obtained, pending which, it is not possible to say what men have been so transferred, or from what camps. The men working on the railway are under the German Construction Company, who may be supposed to have an interest in keeping them in health, and with whom the Netherlands Minister at Constantinople has made arrangements for their benefit.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Future of Italy.

"The Gates of the Mediterranean" is the title of an interesting, if discursive, article in the November issue of the *Fortnightly Review*. The writer, Mr. Cecil Battine, would have us keep our eyes on Italy. She is a rising State, with the consciousness of her destiny and of the unity of the Italian people. His suggestion that Great Britain's diplomatic action in this direction is at present fettered by obligations to certain Allies is likely to be challenged by those who hold that an equitable settlement in part of the Balkans is likely to be prevented by premature pledges to Italy. The article continues:—

"The reality which we have got to face is that Italy is no more willing to see the Slav dominate the eastern shore of the Adriatic than the German or Austrian. Italians have a keen eye on all the territory which adjoins their own, and certainly have more than an academic interest in the future of the Balkan Peninsula. Italian soil does not support even the present population of Italy, which overflows into America, North and South, besides emigrating into neighbouring European and African territory. Italian Governments in the future have no choice whatever; they must seek to guide the flow of Italian people into States which can confederate with the kingdom and which can range themselves with Italian interests and objectives in the near future. The population of the Balkans, as of the Trentino, is largely tinged with Italian blood; so are the people of the Levant. The Italian attack on Turkey in 1911 was caused by the need to find elbow room, the fear of being shut in which oppresses every expanding nationality on the European Continent in these days. Finally, Italy has by no means forgotten that she inherits the traditions, if not the Empire, of Rome. To rule in the Balkan Peninsula is not a defined ambition as yet, but it would be a natural development in Italian opinion if the nation continues on its path of progress, while its neighbours continue to decay. After all, the Romans may have as good a right to the Dardanelles as the Turks have to the Bosphorus."

Later on the writer returns to the charge:—

"It will be of great importance to us in the future as in the past that Constantinople, with the adjoining Straits, should be within the domain of a friendly Power. The past proves that we cannot be sure which State will be hostile or friendly in the future, though some are more likely to be friendly to us than others. It would certainly be more to our interest that the Italians should reign at Stamboul than the Russians, Germans, or Turks, with all of whom we have been at war to prevent this very contingency. Much depends on our diplomacy in the future in selecting and supporting our friends, because prestige will count for less in future world politics than the actual power to make good a promise. Vague treaty engagements such as we had with Belgium, unsupported by the armed forces required to make them good, is like the backing of a bill in commerce without the cash to meet it. Perhaps our interests would be served even better if the Balkan people could rule and defend their own Peninsula, together with the Asiatic coast of the narrow straits connecting the Black Sea with the Ægean. At the present moment such a solution seems impossible to those who have no intimate knowledge of the Near East and who judge of recent events by what they have been able to read in the London Press. But vast changes have taken place in the Balkans as elsewhere, nor will the course of history follow the former channel in those stormy regions, for the relative value of all the States and their potentialities for future expansion have been vitally affected. Serbia, Greece, Bulgaria, and Roumania have all changed their relative importance *vis-à-vis* to one another.

Mr. Battine's remedy is that Great Britain should carefully foster the friendship of Italy and favour an understanding between her and Bulgaria on the basis of the most permanent obstacle to Germany's *Drang nach Osten*.

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Sultan Mulai Hafid of Morocco.

The *Strand Magazine* has a most entertaining article from the pen of Mr. Walter B. Harris on the idiosyncracies (and worse) of Sultan Mulai Hafid of Morocco. The article to be properly enjoyed must be read from beginning to end, but the story of the dentist's claim against the Sultan lends itself to quotation:—

In the first flush of his success at the beginning of his reign, Mulai Hafid was setting himself up as an orthodox Sovereign by Divine Right—and this necessitated a menagerie. It is one of the attributes of Royalty, which has almost disappeared except in the East, though at one time universal. It is, perhaps, fortunate. The hurried entrance of an excited rhinoceros amongst the guests at a garden-party at Windsor Castle would prove embarrassing, and so, to a lesser degree, would be the presence of a hyena at the evening service at St. George's Chapel; but at Morocco similar incidents would have attracted little or no attention. The father of Mulai Hafid, Mulai Hassein, allowed his tame leopards to roam about his reception-rooms, but his son, more timid by nature, confined the leopards in cages and replaced them in his drawing-room by guinea-pigs. The effect lost in majesty, but the afternoon callers were less nervous.

So the dentist was sent to Hamburg to buy wild beasts from Hagenbeck. But he erred. He should have returned with the menagerie and shared its glory. He delayed, and when he arrived in Fez a few months later the novelty and glamour of the wild beasts was passed, and the reception that he and the belated and unpaid-for lion—the last of the series of lions—met with was by no means enthusiastic. Mulai Hafid had discovered that the upkeep of so many sheep-eating beasts was expensive, as the tribes, on the eve of revolt, refused to supply the sheep, and insultingly demanded payment.

So far, the claim presented no insurmountable difficulties, but there were complications, for the Sultan, immensely attracted by the mechanism of the dentist's operating-chair, had some time previously ordered from the dentist, and paid for, a throne to be constructed on the same mechanical principles. This throne had never been supplied, so there was a counterclaim. The Sultan stated that he had paid for the lion, or, if he hadn't, then it was a State debt, for which he was not responsible, and demanded the delivery of his mechanical throne. The question was still under discussion when the term of the dentist's contract expired, and the ex-Sultan notified him that it would not be renewed. But the dentist held a trump card, for the ex-Sultan had lodged him, rent free, in a little villa situated on one of his Majesty's Tangier properties. The dentist refused to quit, and the Spanish authorities upheld him, for by the capitulations each Power protects the interests of its respective subjects. A body of slaves were sent to eject him. They found the villa barricaded, and were met with pistol-shots. The complications were becoming serious and international in character. The Sultan, the French authorities, the Spanish dentist, the black slaves, the writer, a British subject, and the German lion threatened to cause annoyance to the Governments of Europe if recourse was made to firearms. The writer made an impassioned prayer for conciliation on everyone's part. After much delay and no little difficulty, an interview was arranged between the ex-Sultan and the dentist, at which as mediator the writer was to be present. Each was studiously coached in the part he was to play. The dentist's plaintive appeals to the generosity of the ex-Sovereign were carefully rehearsed, as was also the Sovereign's "gracious reply," while the writer's little speech on the blessing of brotherly love was a gem of the first quality.

Mulai Hafid was seated on a divan studiously reading a book, when the dentist entered and made his obeisance; this obeisance, polite but intentionally curtailed, did not meet with his Majesty's approval. Instead of, as arranged, smilingly acknowledging the dentist's salutation, the ex-Sultan continued reading half aloud in a sing-song drawl.

A long period ensued, broken by one of the suite, who said: "My lord the king, the dentist is here."

Without raising his eyes from his book the ex-Sultan asked in the softest of voices:—

"Has he brought my mechanical throne?"

Now, that wasn't on the programme at all. There was to have been no mention of such distressing objects as dentist-chair thrones or lions. There was to have been purely and simply a reconciliation, a sum of money promised to the dentist if he would quit the villa, and a general abandonment of claim and counter-claim. But, alas! before anyone could intervene, the dentist had shouted out:—

"Pay me for my lion!"

And then the fat was in the fire. For some moments the atmosphere boiled with vituperative allusions to lions and dentist-chair thrones, until, while the writer restrained the infuriated potentate, the dentist was, struggling and shouting, removed from the presence chamber.

By dint of great persuasion, the writer eventually brought about a settlement. The Sultan did not get his throne, nor did he pay for the lion, which the Protectorate Government took over, not having been informed that it had meanwhile died. The dentist received a sum of money in payment of all his claims. The writer, whose solution it was, got the thanks of none of them, all three parties concerned expressing themselves as dissatisfied with the settlement reached.

Articles to Note.

"Some Reviews of the War," by E. C. Palmer in *The Treasury*.

"Saved from the Martyrdom of Armenia," by Hélène Valantin in *The World's Work*.

THE GORDON MEMORIAL COLLEGE.

In transmitting the fifteenth annual report of the Gordon Memorial College at Khartoum, the High Commissioner in Egypt refers as follows to the loss sustained by the college in the deaths of Earl Kitchener and the Earl of Cromer:—"In the persons of Lord Kitchener and Lord Cromer we have lost two great servants of the Empire who were intimately connected with the foundation of the Gordon College and had its interests very near to heart. It would, I feel, be appropriate and desirable that the name of the late Lord Cromer should be associated with that of Lord Kitchener in the projected Memorial to the latter—a Medical School for the Sudan—a project which not only had Lord Cromer's hearty approval, but also for which, as Mr. Crowfoot states, he made a powerful appeal for funds."

The principal of the college, Mr. John W. Crowfoot, also pays a tribute in his report to the deep interest taken in the college by Lord Kitchener and Lord Cromer. "Lord Kitchener," he says, "was the founder of the Gordon Memorial College, but, more than this, he laid down the lines which it should follow, and the measure of success which has come to his foundation is largely due to the policy he prescribed." Then, referring to Sir Reginald Wingate's departure from the Sudan to take up the High Commissionership, he says:—"It was very appropriate, therefore, in every way that one of the last acts of Sir Reginald Wingate in the Sudan should be the issue of an appeal on behalf of a worthy medical school building to serve as a Sudan Memorial to Lord Kitchener, an appeal which was powerfully supported in England by Lord Cromer. Lord Kitchener himself had foreseen the need which would arise for this school, and had himself suggested that it should work in conjunction with the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories. The present war has forced this question before the Sudan Government in an unexpected way by shutting off absolutely the supply of doctors from the Syrian Schools of Medicine and compelling the Government to take steps to replace them from native sources. The Gordon College cannot provide suitable candidates for another two years at least, nor is it proposed to begin the necessary buildings until the price of building materials reaches a reasonable level, but, thanks to the Kitchener Memorial, within a measurable time such steps will be taken as should place the future recruiting of the medical service on a satisfactory basis."

The work of the college has been carried on under some difficulty in the past year owing to an insufficient staff, and this, too, at a time when the numbers attending the various sections have increased considerably. This increase will, it is thought, be maintained because of the future medical requirements of the country, and because a new field of employment has been opened to graduates by the appointment of a number of former students as sub-mamurs in the administrative service. As regards the research department, it is stated that the conditions which led to a serious reduction in the work in 1915 operated even more seriously in the past year, and many branches will have been brought to a complete standstill. Much good work was, however, accomplished at the Central Research Hall, and progress has been made in the Entomological Section for an extension in the immediate future.

Punch's Almanack for 1918 is a cheerful reminder that Christmas is coming and that the war is still on. As a large part of it is devoted to what may or may not happen when the war is over, we can but hope that in this particular *Punch's* optimism will prove prophetic in principle, if not in detail. The Almanack is an admirable sixpenny investment.

"The Treasure of the Tigris: A Tale of Mesopotamia," by Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Mockler-Ferryman, will be published shortly by Messrs. Black.

Mr. Heinemann will publish this month "My Round of the War," by Mr. Basil Clarke. The author's travels as a war correspondent took him to Serbia, Roumania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia, and his adventures are set down in this personal record.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

After falling completely out of favour, the idea of an economic union of the Central Powers and their Allies after the war has had a brief but uneventful resurrection. Probably the main reason why the idea again appears to have been dropped is the fear of retaliatory measures on the part of the Allies, since, as I have pointed out already, there is no misapprehension in certain circles in Germany as to the effect of a definite economic cleavage between the two groups of Powers. It is, indeed, quite well realised that we control the most important raw materials of the world, and that Germany and her Allies would be helpless if denied access to them, so that any suggestion of an economic union would be futile. Still, it was an interesting conception while it lasted, and its ventilation has been far from useless, for the abandonment of the scheme must open the eyes of quite a number of enemy subjects who had come to regard Germany as practically omnipotent.

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Some interesting comments were made on this subject recently in a leading article in *Die Zeit*, which was prefaced by the frank statement that the idea of the proposed politico-economic union of the Central Powers is defunct. "The whole scheme," it declares, "arose from a mistaken enthusiasm excited by the military alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and Turkey, which led many to advocate that the alliance should be converted into a close economic commercial union to be continued after the war. The plans of the Paris Economic Congress of 1916 first showed the perils that the Central States would encounter through their proposed union, which could only further the aims of the enemy. Neither Bulgaria nor Turkey ever showed any enthusiasm for the project, while the Hungarians absolutely refused to entertain the idea of a twenty years' 'Ausgleich,' which was regarded as indispensable for the success of the new union. The necessity of keeping a free hand for a period after the war was at last recognised, and the whole Central Europe idea vanished like a dream."

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In commenting on the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government I called attention to the valuable work of the Imperial Institute in furthering the work of finding a larger field for Sudan products. As will be seen from the report recently presented to the Executive Council of the Institute, a summary of which appears elsewhere in this issue, this side of the Institute's work has attained great importance during the war. Indeed, the Institute has now come to act as a kind of central bureau of information for the Empire overseas, and the increasing scope of its work can be gathered from the fact that in recent investigations it has dealt with such widely different products as maize grown in Nigeria, Nyasaland tobacco, and British East African minerals. Naturally the Institute has principally been of assistance in indicating the suitability or otherwise of various products for consumption in the United Kingdom; but it has also given advice on such subjects as the cultivation of foodstuffs overseas.

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Nothing has been more impressive during the war than the rapidity with which the British authorities in Mesopotamia and elsewhere have taken steps to promote the welfare of the inhabitants and the development of the country in the rear of our advancing armies. An interesting sidelight is thrown on this work by the United States Consul at Baghdad, Mr. Oscar S. Heizer, in a recent report. "The British authorities at Baghdad," he writes, "are endeavouring to introduce modern farming implements, such as motor-drawn gang ploughs, reapers, threshing machines, etc., into this region; also windmills for the purpose of drawing water from the river for irrigation purposes. The country about here is flat, and windmills could do great service if once introduced." To say that war can ever have a constructive side seems an absurd paradox, but it is one which our work in Mesopotamia has proved to be a profound truth, and the reason why our development of that country is so significant is that it is a work which its rulers would have accomplished generations ago if they had had the least title to be considered a ruling race.

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The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., which has just been issued, makes, on the whole, disappointing reading. The profits, after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, stand at £11,599 16s. 11d., figures which represent a substantial decline on the 1916 figures of £29,000. This profit is further reduced by the deduction of London and Cairo charges to £9,800. The sum of £4,300 was brought forward from the previous year, and the addition of this amount and the deduction of other charges leaves a balance of £3,900, which is to be carried forward. Last year a year's interest was paid on the preference shares, and £10,000 placed to reserve, but this year there are no such distributions. In war time hotel-keeping must be fraught with such ups and downs, and in this connection it may be noted that since the close of the company's financial year Shepheard's Hotel has enjoyed a considerable increase of business.

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On another page will be found a recent report on the Greek currant crop by the United States Consul at Patras. The crop, it appears, was harvested without damage by rain, while it also escaped injury through peronospora, though in the absence of sulphur some damage was caused by oidium. It was estimated at about 140,000 tons, a very fair yield in the circumstances, and composed of fruit of medium good quality. At the time the Consul made his report there was little or no anxiety as to the disposal of the crop, as it was regarded as certain that at least half the yield could be disposed of locally for the purposes of wine and alcohol manufacture.

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There are two main schools of thought on the question of reorganisation after the war: the one maintaining that it will be fraught with innumerable difficulties, and that in the best circumstances the warring nations are faced with a most critical economic position when peace is concluded; the other holding that the process of readjustment will be as easy as was the mobilisation of industry for war purposes. One of the latest contributions to this controversy—if controversy it be—is to be found in a recent circular of the National City Bank of New York, and may be said to be of special interest as representing the view of American business interests. The writer asks the question whether there may not be "a period of hesitation, confusion, unemployment, and depression," and answers it by saying that "the best assurance that this danger will be averted is the fact that it is everywhere recognised, and that steps are being planned to deal with it." He then proceeds to refer to the position in various countries, and arrives at the conclusion that normal progress which has everywhere been interrupted "will be resumed with a rush as soon as general confidence in the situation is established and there is assurance that capital and credit will be available."

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As regards this provision, he points out that credit for peace purposes will certainly outlast credit for war purposes. "Whatever the war debts may be," he adds, "it is apparent that their payment is dependent upon the rehabilitation of industry. There can be but one opinion among statesmen, financiers, and all classes as to the immediate necessity for the resumption of industry. The shops, mills, mines, laboratories and fields will be waiting, and the goods when produced will pay for themselves in the exchanges. The resumption of industry and trade has little need of Government credit in the sense of requiring resort to the taxing power, but it will need co-ordinating, stabilising support through the period of reorganisation, and it is quite certain that this will be provided in Europe." There is certainly material for comfort in this American view; but it is to be hoped that the feeling that matters will readjust themselves will not be permitted to conduce to a *laisser faire* policy, and that everything possible will be done to assist the process. And the time for completing plans for this purpose is the present; it will be too late when it becomes clear that peace is at hand.

COMMENTATOR.

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ROUMANIA'S FUEL SUPPLIES.

Development of Resources of Moldavia.

One of the greatest drawbacks with which the Allies have had to contend during the war has been the fact that the course of the struggle has made it necessary on more than one occasion to face the temporary occupation by Germany of lands of great economic value. The most notable instances, of course, are the invasion of Northern France and the occupation of Belgium. Then followed the invasion of Serbia, which gave the enemy possession of copper mines that now form, no doubt, the Central Powers' main source of supply of that commodity, while the occupation of Galicia gave them immense oil resources. Finally, the Roumanian retirement placed at the disposal of the Central Powers further oil-bearing areas of incalculable use in the event of it being possible to bore new wells and otherwise carry out, within a comparatively short space of time, the reconstruction rendered necessary by the thorough nature of the destructive work of the British Military Mission.

Of the two results of these enemy successes, the possession by them of new stores of raw material and the reduction in the Allied resources, the latter has been in some respects the more serious. But, as we have seen in the case of France, the handicap, difficult though it has been, has only served to further the better utilisation of her remaining raw materials. That the process has been much the same as regards Roumania will be gathered from the optimistic reports that have been recently forthcoming with respect to that country's military and economic position; and her success will be appraised at its correct value when it is borne in mind that the country suffered far more severely even than France, inasmuch as the greater part of Roumania was occupied, and that not the least valuable portion.

What the retirement meant to Roumania can best be illustrated in the light of its effect on her production of fuel. The normal fuel consumption of the country was 1,330,047 metric tons, made up of 600,000 metric tons of petrol, 30,000 of benzine, 30,000 of motorine, 443,647 of imported coal, 226,400 of lignite, 50,000 of lamp petrol, 12,000 of lubricating oils, and 2,000 of paraffin. After the retreat Roumania no longer had her vast oil supplies to draw upon, while the difficulties attending the importation of coal were, of course, practically insuperable. She had, therefore, to fall back upon the scanty mineral resources which remained, and trust to increased output to meet her needs. The fuel required was now very much less than before, but, even so, it was much above what was ordinarily produced from these sources. Of petroleum alone, 14,384 metric tons monthly were, as a matter of fact, required to meet the needs of the army and of industry, and for other purposes of prime necessity. The following table shows the various kinds of oil fuel required monthly and the amount available after the loss of the Province of Wallachia:—

	Required metric tons.		Available metric tons.
Petrol	9,000	..	3,700
Motorine	1,300	..	—
Benzine	1,940	..	190
Lamp Petrol	1,214	..	600
Various mineral oils	870	..	—
Paraffin	60	..	—
	14,384	..	4,490

To make good the deficit of 9,894 tons, Roumania had to rely on increasing the production of the mineral resources of the district of Bacau. These are:—

1. The petroliferous regions of Moinesti, Tazlau, Zemes, Solout, Stanesti.
2. The brown coal of the valley of Comanesti.
3. The salt mine of Targu-Ocna.

Unfortunately, the production of petroleum in Moldavia had always been on a small scale; the yearly output amounted to no more than 29,000 tons, or 80-90 tons a day. The coal mines had been partially abandoned, and their production had at the best period scarcely reached 12,000 tons a year, or 30-35 a day. The Targu-Ocna mine, worked by the State, the output of which was 52,000 tons a year, or 145 a day, alone offered possibilities of increased production, on account of the nature of the mine, and in view of the excellent plant. Besides the fact that these resources were inadequate, there was the handicap of a lack of boring materials and of machinery of all kinds, and there was no possibility of importing these things. In the circumstances, it is not a little remarkable that it was found possible to accelerate production, and that, as will be seen from the following table, on an extensive scale:—

PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM AND COAL IN MOLDAVIA.

	Oil. Metric tons.	Monthly.	Coal. Metric tons.	Monthly.
1915	28,931	2,411	12,000	1,000
1916	18,312	2,616	7,000	1,000
(Jan.-July) 1917	25,800	3,686	40,600	5,800
(Jan.-July)				

On the basis of the 1915 figures this means that the production of oil for the current year will have been increased by 15,300 tons (50 per cent.), and that of coal by 55,600 tons (480 per cent.). The monthly increase as regards oil is, however, only 1,285 tons compared with 1915, and 1,080 tons as against 1916. Taking the latter figure as the basis for calculation, it is evident that the increase, good though it has been, does not go far to meet the monthly shortage of 9,894 tons. The shortage has, however, no doubt been to some extent met by the increased coal output, the remarkable figures for which constitute the best possible proof that the country has done everything that could be done with the means at her disposal.

OIL WELLS OF ROUMANIA.

At the annual meeting of the British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate last week the chairman, Mr. W. Maclachlan, stated that they had invested £7,500 in a one-half interest in the British Borneo Extension Syndicate, which owned oil lands and producing oil wells in Roumania. They were very valuable, but last year they were destroyed when it was likely they would fall into the hands of the enemy, and a claim for the cost of reinstating the wells, plant and property had been lodged with the British Foreign Office. He had little doubt it would receive reasonable and fair treatment from the Government.

The offices of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, have been removed from Gresham House, 24, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, to Britannic House, 23, Great Winchester Street, E.C.2.

GREEK CURRANT CROP.

The Export Question.

We give below some further details regarding this year's Greek currant crop, for which we are indebted to a report of the United States Consul at Patras, Mr. A. B. Cooke, dated September 15:—

The Greek currant crop has now been entirely harvested and stored without damage from rains in any province. The weather has been unusually favourable to currant growers. Growers were fearful in the spring that the crop would suffer from the ravages of peronospora and oidium, the two great enemies to the vineyards. Fortunately, the weather was unfavourable to the development of the former, and so the crop suffered but little from that source. Oidium, however, caused considerable damage in the absence of sulphur with which to combat it; and reports from all currant-growing districts indicate that the fruit shows the effect of this disease both in quality and quantity.

Estimate of the Crop.

The crop of 1917-18 is now conservatively estimated at about 140,000 tons. There are also available at this writing 10,000 to 15,000 tons of old crop. The fruit of all districts is reported to be of medium good quality. The local market is just now very unstable, owing to great uncertainty as to how the export crop will be handled. Ocean freights are above all record. Quotations current to-day to Liverpool are 650s. per ton exclusive of insurance and war risk. Quotations current to New York are now 600s. per ton, exclusive of insurance and war risk. In the face of these freight rates and the great lack of tonnage to handle fruit even at these prices, local shippers are uncertain about negotiating for sales abroad. A report on the local market says that the British Government is negotiating for purchases of fruit up to 40,000 tons. It is stated that the Government will send here representatives to purchase fruit, which will be shipped under control of the Government and at its risk. This will leave something more than 100,000 tons of fruit to be disposed of. Shippers hope to make at least fair sales to the American market, though they are frank to say that high cost of fruit here and higher freight rates will put the Greek fruit at a great disadvantage on the American market as compared with prices of California fruit.

Local interests, however, are far from discouraged at the prospect. They state that if the foreign markets take even approximately half the crop the remainder can be disposed of on domestic markets, where there is a good demand at fair prices for wine and alcohol manufacture. The market, however, is very sluggish just now.

The privileged company has issued a printed statement of currants exported during the years 1914-15, 1915-16, and 1916-17. According to this statement, the total exports of currants from Greece for these three years were, respectively 221,859,409, 209,023,018, and 107,567,801 Venetian lbs. (1.05 English lb.).

The elected members of the Port of London Authority have co-opted Sir Charles Campbell McLeod, of the firm of McLeod, Russell and Co., to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. George Theodore Crosfield.

TUCKEY'S

PURE MALT POT STILL

"SPECIAL" YEARS 10 OLD.

SCOTCH WHISKY

"LIQUEUR" YEARS 12 OLD.

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EMPIRE RESOURCES.

A report recently presented to the Executive Council of the Imperial Institute summarises numerous investigations by the Institute relating to the development of Empire industry and trade.

The Department of Agriculture in Burma, which is devoting much attention to the improvement of Rangoon rice, forwarded a series of twelve varieties of rice for examination, with a view to the selection of those best suited for the British market. A report on the subject has been furnished giving the opinions of British rice millers and others as to the types of rice required in this country, and further inquiries are in progress as to the value of these various rices for brewing, manufacture of rice starch, and other industrial purposes. In continuation of efforts to encourage the production in Egypt of potatoes, recommendations have been made to the Egyptian Government as to the best variety for the purpose, and arrangements have been completed for sowing. Among other materials dealt with in the report are Egyptian drugs.

Sudan Products.

In this connection it may be mentioned that the following account of the work of the Technical Information Bureau of the Institute, as far as its activities related to the Sudan, is given in the recent report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government:—

A number of inquiries on the subject of dura were received during the year, and information was supplied as to its composition, food value, and use as a poultry food. The question of the utilisation of the grain for brewing purposes was also further considered, in consultation with brewers and brewing technologists in the United Kingdom. The previous reports from brewers regarding dura were not very favourable, but the matter is considered to be worthy of further attention. A firm of brewing experts has expressed a desire to carry out large scale trials in co-operation with the Imperial Institute, and arrangements had been made at the end of the year for the shipment of a consignment from the Sudan for this purpose.

A firm of importers of tanning materials consulted the Imperial Institute on the subject of the fermentation of tanning liquors prepared from sant pods, and asked whether the difficulty could be overcome. In reply the use of the ground pods freed from seeds was suggested, and the firm were informed of the results of the examination at the Imperial Institute of a sample of this ground material from the Sudan. A sample of the powder and a small specimen of leather tanned therewith were also sent to them. The firm expressed the opinion that this ground material might command a good sale in the United Kingdom, but that the price would depend on the existing state of the market for tanning materials. They valued it at the time at about 10s. per unit per cent. of tannin, which would bring the price to about £27 per ton.

Other Sudan products regarding which information was supplied to inquirers, included senna, gum arabic and other gums and resins, colocynth seeds, dom palm seeds, beeswax, dates, lime fruit products, the cultivation of various economic plants, and Nile "sudd."

Lord Glenconner has joined the Empire Resources Development Committee.

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For Breakfast & after Dinner.
Wholesale, of Hanson's, London, England.

ALGERIAN VINE INDUSTRY.

Demand for Sulphate of Copper.

Owing to the present scarcity and active demand, there is an excellent market in Algeria for sulphate of copper says the United States Consul at Algiers, Mr. A. C. Frost, in a recent report. This commodity, which is extensively employed in viniculture, is normally supplied by France, and to a limited extent by Great Britain. These countries, by reason of lower transportation costs, have enjoyed a natural monopoly. The British Government last year prohibited the exportation of copper sulphate, but the Algerian authorities succeeded in securing permits for exports to Algeria. An effort has also been made, with official encouragement, to stimulate production in this country, and there is one plant now producing a certain quantity, but meeting only a very small part of the demand. Orders are now being placed, and one local dealer told this consulate that 3,000 tons could be sold here if suitable terms were obtainable.

The total imports into Algeria for the last three years for which statistics are available follow: For 1913, 3,608 metric tons; for 1914, 3,925 metric tons; and for 1915, 4,217 metric tons. The price of copper sulphate on the market of Algiers increased from 250 francs per metric ton in January, 1914, to 1,250 francs in January, 1917. Since then the market has steadily advanced, and present quotations are well over 2,000 francs per metric ton. The tariff on sulphate of copper from the United States is 3 francs per quintal or $0.26 per 100 pounds. Owing to the rapid development of wine growing in Algeria in recent years the market for copper sulphate has been constantly expanding and is likely to have a steady increase.

MOTOR SERVICE FOR MAILS IN INDIA.

The experiment was made in Madras in February of using three motor vans instead of horse vans for the conveyance of mail bags. This was the first time anything of the kind had been attempted in India, and it was so successful that it was decided to discontinue the entire horse service. Three lorries converted into vans were added to the first three, and four other vans have been brought into use. The substitution of motor vehicles for the old horse vans has, it is stated, resulted in a considerable saving to the Government, which can readily be understood as the Postal Department in Madras had to maintain a stable of forty-seven horses. The cars have also reduced the time of transit between the several offices.

GREEK TOBACCO CROP.

Early Forecasts Unfulfilled.

In view of the fact that little has so far been heard regarding the Greek tobacco crop, it may be of interest to quote a recent report of the United States Consul at Athens, Mr. Alexander W. Weddell, dealing with the outlook at the beginning of August.

"Although earlier forecasts on this year's tobacco crop were optimistic, owing to the great area planted as a direct result of the high prices prevailing last year," he says, "lack of rain during the past two months has caused a serious falling off in the probable amount of the crop, as far as an excess production was anticipated. The quality of the plants remains excellent, and very high prices are anticipated, both on account of the high level set in prices during last year and because of the fact that it is reported that several large combinations are in the field endeavouring to secure a larger proportion of the crop, and competition is expected to be keen. A rough estimate of the probable yield and prices of tobacco in the various provinces is given below:—

District.	Probable yield.	Expected prices.
	Pounds.	Per pound.
Argos	11,286,000	$0.34-$0.41
Agrinion	4,232,250	.68- .75
Domestic consumption	7,053,750	.48- .55
Thessaly-Lamia	25,393,500	.62- .68
Islands	11,286,000	.55- .68
Other sources	2,821,150	.68- 1.03

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

Since the outbreak of the war applications have been received at the Department of Commercial Intelligence from a large number of firms in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad who wish to get into communication with British manufacturers or producers of various classes of goods which have previously been obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Applications have been recorded during the past week for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (among other) articles. British manufacturers or producers of these articles now in a position to supply are invited to make application for the names of the inquirers:—Chemicals—Bicarbonate of soda, borate of soda, boric acid, calcium silicide, London purple, Paris green; imitation greaseproof paper: machinery for making felt wads for use with sporting rifle cartridges; machinery for the production of clocks and parts thereof.

RANKEN COMPANY
CIVIL & MILITARY TAILORS,
13a, GEORGE STREET,
AND HANOVER SQUARE,
LONDON, W.
Telegrams—"Mentally."
'Phone—Gerrard 597.
Spécialité—INDIAN ARMY OUTFITS.
And at CALCUTTA, DELHI, SIMLA, LAHORE, and RAWAL PINDI.

For BUILDING UP your HEALTH take ("The best PICK-ME-UP")
WILKINSON'S
(ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
"We cannot speak too highly of it." *Lancet*
Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD
IMPORTANT EVIDENCE.
"We recommend your **Red Jamaica Sarsaparilla**."—MEDICAL REVIEW.
"The only preparation for removing what may be called the sequelæ of a mercurial course."—SIR R. MARTIN.
The late LORD CLYDE said:—"I am never without it, for when feeling depressed or out of sorts from anxiety or fatigue, a dose or two animates me."
"It cured me of Torpid Liver after all other remedies failed."—EARL OF ALDBOROUGH.
N.B.—Indispensable to all who value Health.
A WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION FOR OVER THREE-QUARTERS OF A CENTURY

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

The Utilisation of Peat.

War conditions have brought forward again the question of the utilisation of peat as fuel. The question is one that has received considerable attention in recent years from engineers, scientists and others. Two years ago we had occasion to deal in these columns with the subject, and to point out the wealth that is in the peat-bog. Peat bogs exist in the British Isles, and many large ones are found in several parts of Europe and the Near East, where their existence is often considered a scourge to the surrounding district. The efforts to establish peat as fuel on a commercial basis have not always been successful. That may be attributed more to the methods employed, both financial and industrial, than to anything else. However, whether for this or other reasons, all recent efforts for this purpose have been, more or less, of a sporadic nature and on a small scale; and had it not been for the war compelling every nation to consider all possible sources of home produced fuel, it is improbable that any attention would now be drawn towards the possibilities of peat bogs. Thus, we find that the Government Fuel Research Board, with the sanction of the Privy Council Committee for Scientific and Industrial Research, has appointed a committee of inquiry into the utilisation of the Irish peat deposits. The committee will investigate the experience already gained in Ireland in respect of the winning, preparation and use of peat for fuel and other purposes. It will also suggest the means to be taken to ascertain the conditions under which, in the most favourably situated localities, it can be profitably won, prepared, and used, having regard to the economic conditions of Ireland. It will specially devote itself to finding out any practical means of compressing and drying the peat. That is just the point in which many promising processes have failed; for if costly compressing and drying plant have to be erected, this, added to the labour charges for winning the peat, and the cost of transporting it after treatment, may render impossible the sale of peat fuel at a price to compete with that at which coal is sold.

Peat Fuel in Other Countries.

Some successful processes for compressing and drying peat until its specific gravity is nearly equal to that of coal are now in use in Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Hungary and America. In Holland the scarcity of coal at the present time has led to the extensive development of the peat beds, and the Dutch Government has fixed a maximum price on peat. In Canada the Government has made a very thorough investigation into the possibilities of its peat bogs, and a bog which is at present being operated produced from 700 to 1,000 tons of peat in 1914, whilst in America, according to the *Journal of the American Peat Society*, a promising plant has been experimented with in the way of a dewaterer (hydro-extractor). Its capacity is approximately 11 short tons of wet peat per hour. It operates in a wet bog, and is carried on a lighter together with a dredge and a dryer. Wet material is brought up by the dredge and placed in the hopper of the dewaterer when it passes along a conveyor into the dryer and from the dryer into a storage barge, one complete operation with 11 short tons of wet peat taking something less than half an hour. In 1 short ton of wet peat there are 200 lbs. of peat and 1,800 lbs. of water. The dewaterer extracts 1,350 lbs. of water, leaving the material in a mealy condition when it passes to the dryer, where again, of the 450 lbs. of water left, 415 lbs. of water are dried off, leaving 200 lbs. of peat with 35 lbs. of water; that is, a 15 per cent. peat. Outside the power needed for operating the entire plant will not exceed 40 horse-power, and the dryer requires 400 lbs. of coal per ton of finished product.

An Electric Plant.

Although the total cost of the finished product is not given, we think that this new American plant is more costly and complicated than the plant which utilises electricity for the purpose of releasing the water, and which, we believe, was used with success in Ireland some years ago. By this process the raw peat in a broken state is put into a large vertical cylinder perforated with an enormous number of small holes. This cylinder is set in rapid motion, and a large percentage of the water is expelled by centrifugal force. When the water has been driven out, electrodotes are inserted in the peat, which is made the medium of completing the circuit between the positive and negative points. The resistance offered by the soft peat to the passage of the electric current leads to the generation of heat, which pulverises the material into minute particles. The current breaks up the cells of the peat and reduces them to fine powder, but the powder still retains all the oils in the original peat, the electric current in no way injuring the properties of the peat. The powdered peat is passed on to a kneading apparatus, where a teasing manipulator is used to bring the mass into a plaster condition, when it can be readily concentrated in any form desired. It is next passed on to the moulder, and the material is then formed into briquettes or any other shape required. The whole operation occupies about two hours, and it was said at the time that a ton of this peat-fuel could be produced by this process for five shillings.

Motor Trade with Russia.

The Russo-British Chambers of Commerce held a preliminary meeting of members interested in the engineering trades recently, Sir Francis Baker, Chairman of the Executive Committee, presiding. The meeting proceeded to classify the engineering interests, and under the classification "G" motor-car and accessory makers were included, amongst these being the names of well-known firms of London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Oldham, Manchester, Coventry, Luton, Wolverhampton, etc.

New Automatic Inflator.

There are various forms of automatic tyre inflators, but usually these have a connection with the engine. A new inflator which has recently been brought out is designed so that it operates by frictional contact with the thread of a back tyre. To use the device a wheel is jacked up and the engine is started. This causes the jacked wheel to rotate at high speed. The friction wheel of the inflator is then pressed against the tyre. The inflator is secured to a bracket at the rear end of one of the running boards.

Agricultural Machinery in Palestine.

With the approaching liberation of Palestine and Northern Syria, the attention of British engineers manufacturers, and machinery exporters should be directed towards that fertile land of promise. Apart from their individual interest, it is their duty to do their best to secure that important market for the benefit of British industry. The liberation of the country by the efforts and great sacrifices of the British Army must be completed by the development of its resources with the help of British industry. It is generally admitted that it is very doubtful if there is a field in any part of the world offering such brilliant prospects for the exploitation of agricultural machinery and implements as does Palestine and Northern Syria. Ploughing is done with a yoke of oxen or buffaloes hitched to a wooden plough with a straight point, which merely scratches the surface of the earth to a depth of 4 or 5 ins. The harrowing is done by drawing a heavy piece of timber crossways over the ground; reaping is accomplished by hand sickling, after which the grain is threshed out by stacking the straw in a low circular pile, and driving an ox over it hitched to a flat sled with sharp stones driven into the bottom. After the straw is cut fine it is pitched in the air, permitting the wind to blow the chaff away, when the grain is gathered from the ground, always with a greater or less quantity of stones and other foreign substances. Modern methods have been introduced in some districts in recent years, but the old methods outlined above, still prevail.

Ploughs Needed.

The more important farmers, not content with their surface-scratching, native-made ploughs, are casting them aside for British, American, German, and Austrian makes of light draught, and it is a common sight to see European ploughs working side by side with the old native-made monstrosities. Before the war most of the business was in the hands of Austrian and Hungarian plough-makers, though American goods were going in fast, both through Adana and Constantinople agencies, while English ploughs were occasionally sent through Egypt or Beyrout. The English-made ploughs, when they suit the soil of that or any other Oriental district, are highly esteemed, and seldom fail to give complete satisfaction. It should be borne in mind that practically the whole of Syria consists of stony, cloggy soil, very uneven, and has only weak, inferior cattle for ploughing purposes.

Agricultural Machinery in India.

There has been remarkable progress in mechanical cultivation in the Bombay Presidency this year, and the demand for agricultural machinery, it is asserted, has never been so large as now. Attempts to utilise agricultural motor-tractors have proved beyond dispute that there will be a good market for these machines. The Agricultural Department started recently the operation of steam ploughs to work virgin land, and we learn that several concerns have lately been formed to import tractors to work on a co-operative basis. As the soil is heavy, the demand will be chiefly for powerful tractors. On all farms belonging to the Department of Agriculture improved implements can be bought or hired, and it has now a large number of depots at which implements are kept for sale or hire, and spare parts are stocked. Each year the number of such depots is increased. So many implements are now bought direct from dealers by agricultural associations, co-operative societies, and by individuals, that it is not possible to compute the number sold annually, but taking only a few of the places in the Bombay Presidency at which such implements are available, it is found that sales amounted to 69,100 rupees, and charges for hiring to 2,750 rupees in 1916. Instruction in engine driving is being given at the workshop of the College Farm of the Department of Agriculture, and everything possible is being done to overcome the initial difficulties which must occur when inexperienced people take to the use of machinery.

GRANT & CHINN.
The British Sanitary Engineers
:: of Egypt and the Sudan, ::
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

OAKEY'S
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. each.
WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH.
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, &c. Tablets, 6d.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d., and 4d. each, and 1s. Boxes.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers.
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1.

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RECONSTRUCTION.

Control of Imports and Exports.

The text has been issued of a Bill, introduced by Sir Albert Stanley, dealing with the temporary control of imports and exports after the war. It is stated in a memorandum that the effect of the measure will be to simplify and continue for a period of three years after the termination of the war the powers exercised during the war as regards the control of imports and exports. Otherwise, these powers would to a great extent lapse as soon as a state of war ceases to exist. It is pointed out that the restriction of imports and exports is in practice, subject in all cases to any licence which may be granted.

SUBMARINE WARFARE.

The Admiralty has issued the following return of arrivals, sailings, war losses, and unsuccessful attacks for the week ended November 18, 3 p.m. :—

Arrivals and sailings of merchant vessels of all nationalities (over 100 tons net) at and from United Kingdom ports (exclusive of fishing and local craft) :—

Arrivals	2,531
Sailings	2,463

British merchant vessels sunk by mine or submarine :—

1,600 tons gross or over	10
Under 1,600 tons gross	7
British merchant vessels unsuccessfully attacked by submarines	2
British fishing vessels sunk	0

In the report for the week ended November 11 six British merchantmen were reported sunk, only one of them being over 1,600 tons.

HAIN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

P. and O. Offer.

A letter has been received by shareholders in the Hain Steamship Company from the managers stating, with reference to the offer of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company and the British India Steam Navigation Company for the purchase of shares, that they have already received authority from the holders of upwards of 85 per cent. to accept the offer. The managers have therefore accepted the offer on behalf of those shareholders from whom they have received the necessary authority.

EMPIRE DEVELOPMENT OR TAXATION?

The interim report of the Select Committee on National Expenditure was the subject of comment at a recent meeting of the Empire Resources Development Committee. The report affirms that even if the present rate of expenditure does not increase, and if the amount met from revenue proves to be in accordance with the estimate for 1917-18, each six months of the war will now necessitate a gross addition to the debt of about £1,000,000,000, or a net addition of about £750,000,000, if advances to the Allies and Dominions remain at their present level and are deducted from the gross debt.

The Empire Resources Development Committee holds that, in view of these disquieting figures, its policy of paying off the debt by the development "by the State for the State" of the Empire's vast resources, rather than by burdensome increments of taxation, should command the immediate attention of the authorities.

Mr. T. H. Marsden has been elected a director of the Land and Mortgage Company of Egypt in place of Mr. R. A. Huri, deceased.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Still Higher Prices.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

A further upward movement in prices in the market has again to be recorded, and rates in yarn and cloth continue to advance quite irrespective of raw cotton quotations. Producers have now a distinct advantage over buyers, and in several sections there is a scramble to get hold of supplies. Rather more encouraging advices have been received relating to the outlook for American cotton supplies to this country, and the Government has promised increased shipping facilities during December compared with this month. There is no setback to the healthy prospects for the Egyptian growth, and a much larger production compared with last year is assured. There have been rumours that the Control Board is about to restrict the output of Egyptian yarns to 80 per cent., but no definite decision has yet been reached. The demand in both carded and combed qualities has been healthy, the turnover being of substantial dimensions. The scarcity of American yarns is resulting in a run on the coarser counts of Bolton spinnings, and producers of numbers about 60's are in a much stronger position than a few weeks ago. A considerable inquiry has again been dealt with in cloth for Egypt. Goods suitable for printing and dyeing have moved off freely, with occasional sales in sized materials. There seems to be the possibility of increased facilities for exporting in the near future. An active demand has been reported in miscellaneous fabrics for India, but comparatively little has been done in grey staples. Only odd lots have been put through for China. The home trade continues busy. American yarns have again been dearer, with an encouraging offtake at record prices. A few more offers have been met with in bundles for India, but not much has been done. Business for France keeps up well.

PROMINENT INDIAN INDUSTRIES.

CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
— CAWNPORE, INDIA. —

Everything in Pure Wool.
MANUFACTURERS OF
"LALIMLI" WOOL WEAR
Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT

COOPER, ALLEN & Co., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Army Boot and Equipment Manufacturers.
CONTRACTORS TO THE INDIAN, EGYPTIAN AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS.
THE LARGEST CONCERN OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD.

The NORTH-WEST TANNERY CO., Ltd.,
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Tanners and Curriers, Leather Goods Manufacturers.
Saddlery and Harness of every description.
Travelling Requisites, Bags, Trunks, &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

The ELGIN MILLS Co. Ltd.
CAWNPORE, INDIA.
Spinners, Weavers, Bleachers, Dyers, and makers of every description of Cotton Goods such as TENTS, DURRIES (Cotton Carpets), and other Floor Coverings, Dusters, Towels, Bed & Table Linen, &c., &c.
Contractors to various Government Departments for Uniforms, Tents, Camp Equipment, &c.

New Egerton Woollen Mills Co.,Ltd.
DHARIWAL, PUNJAB, INDIA.
Sole Manufacturers of the Famous . .
Dhariwal
Long Life Wool Wear
Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c.. &c.
CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Hotels, Limited.

The report of the Egyptian Hotels, Limited, for the year ending April 30, 1917, states that after charging all expenses in connection with the working of the hotels, the profits were £11,598 16s. 11d., as compared with £29,000 15s. 1d. for 1916, and £6,284 17s. 5d. in 1915. After providing for charges payable in London and Cairo the accounts show a profit of £9,754 10s. 11d.; the balance of undivided profit brought forward from last accounts is £4,350 13s. 4d., making a total £14,105 4s. 3d.; from this has to be deducted debenture interest, £3,541; one-fifth of the debenture expenses, reducing the balance carried forward on this account to £575, £574 19s. 10d.; depreciation of plant, fixtures and fittings at hotels, £5,076 16s. 3d.; and reserve for doubtful debts, £981 17s. 9d., leaving an available balance to be carried forward of £3,930 10s. 5d. Since the close of the company's financial year the business of Shepheard's Hotel has shown a considerable increase. Mr. J. J. Hug resigned his seat on the board of directors and the directors have for the past financial year reduced the amount divisible amongst them by way of fees by the proportion of remuneration previously paid yearly to Mr. Hug, but which has not been drawn by him during the financial year. The director retiring is Lord Claud Hamilton, who offers himself for re-election.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Egyptian Hotels.—The twentieth annual meeting will be held at the registered offices, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., on November 27, at 2.30 p.m. The share transfer books will be closed from November 20 to 30, inclusive.

The directors of the Indian and General Investment Trust have declared an interim dividend for the six months ended October 31 last on the deferred stock at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable 12th proximo.

The directors of the Assam Company announce a bonus of 10 per cent., or £2 per share, less tax, payable December 20, making 25 per cent. for the 1916 crop.

The directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company intimate a dividend of 6 per cent. for the year on the ordinary and 2 per cent. actual on the participating preference, making the preference dividend 8 per cent. This is the first time preference holders have received more than the stipulated 6 per cent.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—The register of members will be closed from December 6 to 31 inclusive. Dividend warrants will be posted January 1.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian. — Gemsah, production week, 19 tons (previous week 21 tons); Hurgada, 3,419 tons, against 3,135 tons.

North Caucasian.—Week ended November 6, 497,847 poods (or 8,029 tons).

Ural Caspian.—Week ended October 11, 143,323 poods (2,312 tons). Week ended October 18, 129,775 poods (2,093 tons). Week ended October 25, 150,515 poods (4,428 tons). Week ended November 1, 148,435 poods (2,394 tons).

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
November 17, 18.....	480,000	330,000

BUYERS' GUIDE.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, POST CARDS, &c.

Raphael Tuck and Sons, Ltd., Moorfields, London, E.C

ENGINE AND HYDRAULIC PACKING MANUFACTURERS.

Attwater and Sons (Manufacturers of Metallic Flax, Asbestos Cotton, Steam Engine and Hydraulic Packings), Preston.

SPINNING MACHINERY.

GEO. THOMAS & CO., Manchester. Tel. and Cable Address: "Samobt, Manchester." Exporters of all classes of Machinery for Spinning, Weaving, Bleaching, Printing, &c., Cotton, Wool, etc. Testing Machines for all purposes, Tachometers, Balances, &c.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

Our market has been rather quieter this week in sympathy with the general trend of things on the Stock Exchange, due no doubt to the continued bad news from Russia, and to the critical state of affairs on the Italian front. On the other hand, a good undertone has continued to prevail, consequent upon the very satisfactory reports constantly being received from Egypt.

In Government stocks Egyptian Unifieds, after some business at 83¾, have been in demand round 83½, but the great scarcity of sellers has restricted business. Egyptian 3½ per cent. preferences are also rather firmer round 72. In Bank shares, whilst Anglo-Egyptians are ⅛ up at 14⅝, both Agriculturals and Nationals are rather easier, the former being 3-16 lower at 6 1-16, and the latter ¼ down at 16⅞.

In Land shares Allotments have been dealt in to the extent of a few hundred shares round 3⅜, and a large business has been done in New Egyptians, for the most part at the slightly improved price of 15s. 4½d. Behéras, which changed hands at 13⅛ earlier in the week, have since been rather quieter, with a seller at about 13. Delta Lands have been done round 13s. 9d., and Sidi Salems are unchanged at 21s. 3d., after business as high as 22s. 6d. to 23s. Union Foncières are also 1-32 easier at 2 3-32. In United Egyptian Lands there have been some trifling transactions under 1s., but there are biggish buyers at the latter price.

In Miscellaneous shares there has been a fair demand, with a good deal of business for Egyptian Markets round 27s. 6d. Salts and Sodas, which had gone back to 34s., have again begun to improve, and are closing only 6d. easier at 34s. 6d. Khedivial Mails have continued to be quietly picked up, and are closing 1s. 3d. higher at 39s. 3d.

In Greek stocks, Rentes, Larissas and 1914's are all about ½ down. There has been rather more business doing in this market than for some time past, owing to small sellers having come along at prices which it has suited Greek buyers to pay.

Paris Bourse.

Closing quotations included:—Egyptian Unified, 92; Turkish Unified, 59.50; Credit Foncier Egyptian, 760; Suez Canal shares, 4,650.

Oil Shares.

Price showed a stable tendency. Anglo-Egyptians (B.), and Roumanian Consols were unchanged, and in other divisions of the market slight rises were recorded.

A NEW INDIAN BANK.

Under the title of the "Tata Industrial Bank" it is reported that a new Indian industrial bank has just been established at Bombay. The authorised capital is Rs.600,00,000, or £4,000,000, of which Rs.250,00,000 is paid up. The bank will conduct all ordinary and exchange business, while giving special attention to the development of existing and new industries, underwriting debentures, etc. It will have an expert intelligence section, scientific and commercial, to report on the schemes brought to its notice.

BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

As certain trade associations connected with trades eligible to participate in the British Industries Fair, 1918, have until recently been unable to hold meetings to discuss concerted participation, and in order to suit the convenience of a section of the trade Press, the Board of Trade have decided to extend the final date for the receipt of applications for space until November 30.

The difficulties of organisation due to the war make it of the highest importance, however, that all applications should be sent in to the Director, British Industries Fair, 10, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.2, at the earliest possible moment.

The applications for space so far received from manufacturers point to the coming fair being greatly increased both in size and importance.

Shipowners of the Piræus have decided to grant the Greek Government a loan on the security of the taxation on extra war profits.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov 16	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83 2nd	83⅛
Do. Pref. 5% %, 1890	88	71½	72
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	61	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43½	43
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	55½	55
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	75	74½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82⅛	52½	52⅛
Persia 5% 1911	91	85	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	68½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6½	6½
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	14½	14⅝
Bank of Athens.....	£2	3⅜	3½
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅝	8⅝
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅝	7⅝	7⅝
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅜	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7⅛	7⅛
National Bank of Egypt	13½	17⅛	16⅝
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅜	6⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17⅝	9¼	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72½	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 7/16	20/6	20/6
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Béhéra Co.....	8½	13⅜	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4 7/16	4 7/16
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	3/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/10½	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	7/6	7/6
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	15/3	15/4½
Sidi Salem Co.	⅞	21/3	21/3
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2⅛	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/-	1/1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1 1/16	27/6	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅞	35/-	34/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅞	38/-	39/3
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Greece has recently adopted the 24-hour time system, thus bringing Greek railway and steamship schedules into line with the Continental systems. The day begins at midnight, and the hours run consecutively to 24 o'clock.

Up to November 10, Indian Treasury bills have been sold to the following amounts:—

	Rupees.
6 months bills.....face value	8,85,00,000
9 months bills.....face value	2,76,30,900
12 months bills.....face value	14,75,000
Total.....	11,76,05,000

Equal at 1s. 5d. the rupee to £8,330,400.

Sir John Ellerman, Bart., has informed the committee of the hospital for officers at Regent's Park, N.W., which bears his name, that he will defray the cost of the hospital for another year from December 31, or for four months after the declaration of peace, if that date should be earlier.

The City Local Tribunal on Wednesday afternoon passed a resolution of sympathy with the family of Major Evelyn de Rothschild, the second son of Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, and brother of the Chief National Service Representative for the City of London.

Sir Richard Vassar Smith, chairman of Lloyds Bank, has been elected President of the Federation of British Industries for the forthcoming year, in succession to Mr. F. Dudley Docker, C.B.

THE SMYRNA CIGARETTE CO.

GENUINE TURKISH AND EGYPTIAN CIGARETTES.

Special Blends for Near-Eastern Smokers.

Prices: From 4s. per 100 and upwards.

Ask your tobacconist, or from

J. CORBETTI & BOURDELAKIA BROS.,

22, Gt. Chapel St., Oxford St., W.

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THE NEAR EAST

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

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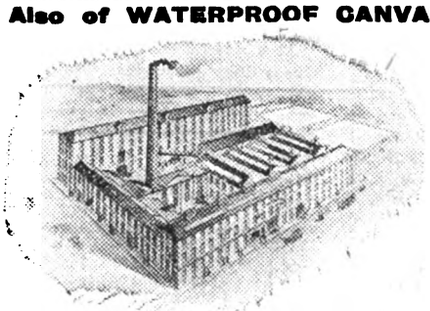
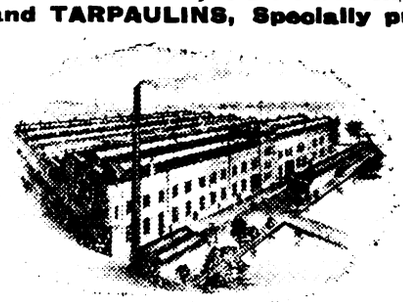

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 343.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The rapidity of the advance on the Palestine front has naturally not been maintained during the past week, and it was expected that the Turks would make a stand before Jerusalem, as proves to be the case. The length and strength of their resistance remain to be gauged; if the pessimistic comments in the German Press on this campaign are well founded, the capital should soon be in our hands. It would be unwise to anticipate the success until it is actually announced, but the progress of the British advance has already led to some pleasant recriminations between Turks and Germans. An article by the Constantinople correspondent of the *Vossische Zeitung* (the maiden aunt of the Prussian Press), admits that in an official sense it may be possible to speak of good relations between Berlin and Constantinople, but this understanding is liable to fluctuations, and at the present moment it is only of a moderate character. "Endless campaigns must not be counted on"—a paraphrase for saying that Turkey is tired of the war. Talaat's power is increasing while that of Enver is declining, continues the correspondent, which is not difficult to understand, since Enver banked everything on military success.

Talaat is said to have remarked that Turkey's real war aim is independence, and therefore she must also achieve independence *vis-à-vis* her allies—a cynical truth which will be understood in every Foreign Office. "Anyone who hopes for preference in tariff and economic questions has misunderstood Turkey's most earnest war aim"—a clear hit at the German policy of loans against economic treaties. The correspondent also says that Turkish-German unity will not be established by "friendship institutes"—we know that cheap method of German propaganda here also—but with blood and gold.

It would, of course, be foolish to pay too much attention to an article by a single correspondent, of whose mentality and digestion we are ignorant. It is essentially a plea for help, and it would be ridiculous not to recognise that Germany has helped her allies before, and may help them again, if she has the power. Now it is notorious that she has withdrawn men from the Russian front, and sent them to serve against France and Italy, and it may be that she is now reducing the strength of her line still further in order to send a contingent to Palestine. In any event, the stagnation on the Eastern front eases the demands on her munition factories for the European armies, and to that extent directly assists Turkey's munitionment. Apparently, when she has done all she can, she is still reckoned an unprofitable master. It is not for us to complain when rogues fall out.

The appointment of General Sir William Marshall to succeed the late Sir Stanley Maude in Mesopotamia is generally accepted in Service circles as the best that could have been made. The new commander is thoroughly familiar with the ground and the plan of campaign, as he has been associated with General Maude in his brilliant series of successes. England confidently looks to see him achieve fresh laurels for our armies on the Tigris.

The publication of the Russian secret treaties by the Leninites has produced no skeletons in the Allied cupboard, nobody is a penny the worse, and the promised revelations have fallen as flat as a German Chancellor crisis. We know what we knew before—that Russia wanted Constantinople, and that there was friction between Italy and the Jugoslavs; the revolutionaries might as well have told us that the earth is round and the sun is hot. There are no sticks with which to beat England such as Germany desired; for that reason, perhaps, Germany has invented one. The report has been spread that King Edward promised Austria a free hand in the Balkans, if the late Emperor would desert Germany, and that Francis II. indignantly refused. It is a very poor invention, that does no credit to the Munchausens of Berlin. King Edward did not meet the Emperor in the year named for the conversation, and he was far too well acquainted with European politics in general, and Balkan politics in particular, for such an idea to enter his head.

The position in Russia, which continues to go from bad to worse, is prejudicially affecting the whole situation in the Balkans. Russia has made an offer of peace, and is beginning to demobilise: there is little doubt that Germany will accept it willingly, and Austria joyfully, if Lenin can maintain himself. But the postulate is a dubious one. The Maximalists may be overturned any day, and with them vanishes the dishonourable project of a separate peace. Even if they maintain themselves, they have no power in the south, where Kaledin controls the Cossacks, the Army, and the food supply. As he will have nothing to do with peace, the Maximalists have to seduce or conquer him before their offer to Berlin becomes effective; but there seems little prospect of their succeeding against his determination.

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His stubborn attitude is, of course, of value not only for the Allies as a whole, but particularly for Roumania, since his forces act as a shield for Roumania, and also inspire the hope that the position may yet right itself in Russia. The upshot of the civil war in Petrograd and Moscow is not yet certain, but it cannot be said that the language of the Lenin proclamations impresses one with any sense that this person is securely seated in power, nor does the proposal for another Stockholm conference inspire one with emotion. It has evidently been conveyed to Lenin that what Germany wants is not a separate, but a general peace; hence the revival of Stockholm. But the scheme is hate's labour lost; the Western Allies have made it perfectly clear that they will neither consider peace nor recognise the Leninite Government, and the United States are entirely with us in this respect.

If Germany succeeded in even a separate peace, it would undeniably make matters very difficult in the Balkans. The liberation of her prisoners in Russia would provide her with a new army, which would neutralise for a time the renewed Allied efforts. That army would certainly not be able to break through on the Western front—that is impregnable, as Mr. Lloyd George has reminded us, although General Byng's victory shows that the impregnability is on the British and not on the German side—but it would be a useful asset for Germany against either Roumania or Greece. M. Repoulis, the Acting Premier of Greece, in commenting on the probability of German action in the Balkans, to which M. Venizelos made reference in London last week, remarked, "We do not know whether and when the Germans will be able to act. I can only tell you that the Greek Government is proceeding with war preparations in the quickest possible way." That is the right spirit; and it will, of course, not have been forgotten in Athens that King Constantine's demands to be restored will lose nothing of their urgency from Switzerland. He has done a great deal for Germany, and there is no doubt that the Kaiser has pledged himself to give "the husband of my sister" his throne again with all convenient speed.

The announcement that a meeting is to be held on neutral territory between British and Turkish agents to discuss the question of prisoners will be welcomed in many quarters, particularly among those who have relatives in that unfortunate position. We hope that the proceedings will be attended with every success; if goodwill is present on both sides, the matter should not be very difficult of arrangement. Nor is there any reason why a similar conference should not take place with regard to our prisoners in Bulgarian hands, who seem to have been rather overlooked, no doubt because they are less numerous.

The procedure at these conferences, it is understood, is extremely rigid and formal. British and enemy delegates enter by opposite doors, a formal bow is made on either side, the business is then conducted under the chairmanship of a neutral, through whom every suggestion is passed. The business concluded, the delegates rise, another formal bow is exchanged, and they then retire by their respective doors. No social intercourse whatever passes between the two sides, and no matters are discussed other than those, so to speak, on the agenda.

Lord Lansdowne's remarkable letter in the *Daily Telegraph* of Thursday will certainly cause wide and not very favourable comment. He does not actually plead for a peace by negotiation, but he comes near to suggesting it. He confesses himself reluctant to enforce the economic boycott or the Paris Resolutions—he has always been inclined to Free Trade views—he wishes to negotiate about the freedom of the seas (which means something entirely different in Berlin from any conceivable definition either in Downing Street or Lansdowne House), and he would like a declaration that Germany is to be left a great Power, and that a League of Nations should be formed. Apparently Germany would be admitted to membership of the League.

The letter is even more remarkable for what it omits. It says no word of territorial restitution. It ignores Belgium and Northern France, Serbia, Roumania, and Montenegro. No doubt this is unintentional, but it leaves an unfortunate impression, and Lord Lansdowne is too old a statesman not to know that he will be judged as much by what he leaves out as by what he puts in his public utterances. The letter will almost certainly be reproduced *in extenso* in Germany, and the fact that an English politician in the front rank can write without condemning submarine war, or the atrocities, and without mentioning the oppressed nationalities which it is our intention to release, will be used by Baron Kühlmann as an indication that his peace "atmosphere" is spreading. Quite undesignedly, no doubt, the effect of the letter will be to encourage the enemy. We prefer President Wilson's direct language as to the danger of the Baghdad Railway, and so will most Englishmen. It is curious that Lord Lansdowne, who saw the danger of that scheme when he was Foreign Secretary in 1903, should be less awake to it in 1917. In the former case he was in advance of most of his countrymen; in the latter he drags considerably behind.

Lord Morley's "Recollections," which have just been published, contain a few references to Near Eastern matters. In Balkan affairs, as such, he clearly took no interest, but his official duties at the India Office brought him into touch with Persian Gulf and Baghdad Railway problems. As to these his standpoint was a simple one. He always regretted that England refused the proffered deal of 1903, and once refers to this as a "fatal" decision; he also had some talk, during his period of office, with German Ministers and once with the Emperor himself (at the time of King Edward's funeral) on the question. No hint is given in his letters to Lord Minto, which Lord Morley reprints, as to the amount of ground covered or his own attitude. But it may be surmised that nothing more than a preliminary sounding took place on the Kaiser's part, as the actual negotiations over the Baghdad Railway took place two years later, by which time Lord Morley was no longer at the India Office and the Agadir crisis had occurred. As to his actual attitude, other pages of the autobiography make it clear. It was that of the simple reactionary, who is against all accessions of territory or political influence on general principles.

He writes again and again to Lord Minto, who was by no means a very bellicose person, dwelling with almost shuddering insistence on the evil of frontier entanglements, quarrels, wars; and once he even implores his Viceroy to read the Sermon on the Mount—an irresistibly comic touch from the stern agnostic. Lord Morley's attitude towards India itself is summed up in the words that we must strive to give India the spirit, although it is clearly impossible to give the letter, of English institutions—an admirable counsel in itself. But it is somewhat vitiated by his persistent misunderstanding of the I.C.S., whose members seem throughout to be regarded as the embodiment of official folly. Hardly ever does he give a grudging word of praise to their work, but he continually speaks of them as Tchinovniks, a sufficient indication of his prejudice. On the other hand, when Lord Minto hints that the real danger to India is the House of Commons, Lord Morley throws up his hands in horror; he simply cannot believe it.

The Kaiser makes his appearance in these memoirs, bluffly assuring Lord Morley that British rule in India would last for ever; on which the brief comment of Lord Roberts was that the Kaiser evidently knew little about India. Probably the German Emperor, who clearly fascinated Lord Morley, simply thought it the civil thing to say, and hardly expected to be taken so seriously.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 26.

The Sultan at Al Azhar.

The Sultan paid his first visit to Al Azhar University on Sunday last. He was accompanied by the Prime Minister, and on his way drove through the native quarters, where he was warmly greeted by the people. He was received at the Mosque by the Ministers, the Chancellor, the Grand Mufti, and the Ulema, and stayed quite a long time inspecting the classes and talking to the students. Before he left, his Highness announced that he had given the sum of £E1,000 to be distributed amongst the students. On the previous afternoon an interesting ceremony took place at Abdin Palace, when the new Chancellor of Al Azhar, Sheikh Mohamed Abul Fadl, was clothed in the presence of the Sultan with the special robe of honour which is always conferred on holders of that post on their appointment.

"Our Day" in Egypt.

Subscriptions to "Our Day" are still rolling in, and the amount subscribed already considerably exceeds the figure (£E118,000) given last week as the total received up to then. This unprecedented result of the appeal is, undoubtedly, due to the spirit of co-operation which has characterised all the efforts to raise money. As mentioned last week, no pressure of any description has been put upon any element of the population, yet all have contributed their share. Especially should mention be made of the liberal gift of £E500 by Sultan Fuad, and of the extraordinary manner in which the rank and file of the forces at present in Egypt have subscribed, in itself a testimony of the opinion the Army has of the work of the Red Cross. In addition, all the Churches (Western and Eastern) most generously joined with the Anglican community and collected subscriptions on the Sunday preceding "Our Day." A prominent feature was the amount collected by the ladies of the British community, who took up their stations with collecting-boxes at the principal establishments in town, and canvassed all arrivals most indefatigably for subscriptions. Finally, it is to be noted that this record amount has been obtained without the assistance of any of the fêtes which had been organised the previous two years. This year, owing to the circumstances, it was decided to dispense with these features, and yet the result has surpassed not only all expectations, but also all records. All those who had any share in the organisation of "Our Day" in Egypt deserve hearty congratulations for the splendid success which has attended their efforts.

The Egyptian Auxiliary Services.

A decree has been issued this week modifying in certain respects the decree of November 4, 1902, laying down the conditions under which recruiting for the Egyptian Army and Marine is to be carried out. The new decree enacts that all persons liable for military service, excepting those who are liable to be called up during the next three months for medical examination, who are included in the ballot of 1917 or who are liable to be enlisted for a period of six years for the commission of an offence under the Recruiting Law, shall be exempt from the obligation to such service, if they shall enlist in and serve for a continuous period of one year with the Egyptian Labour Corps, the Camel Transport Corps, or any auxiliary service attached to H.M.'s Forces and recognized by order of the Minister of War.

The publication of this decree caused the most fantastic rumours to come into circulation, amongst them being the statement that this was merely the thin end of the wedge, and that the next step would be the conscription of every able-bodied man who could be spared from the land for service in the auxiliary corps. The object of this decree is, however, clearly stated in the preamble, viz., that it is necessary in the interests of the country to encourage voluntary enlistment in the services mentioned, while safeguarding the supply of recruits for the Egyptian Army. The work of the auxiliary services, which have so notably proved their value, is likely in the near future to become very much more extended than it has been in the past, and a greater number of men will be required. It was recognised that, whilst something must be done to attract recruits in sufficient numbers, at the same time some privilege should attach to such voluntary enlistment, and by granting exemption from the obligatory three years' service in the Egyptian Army in return for one year with one or other of the auxiliary services, it is thought and hoped that both ends will be attained. There is nothing behind this measure; it merely represents the desire to increase the strength of the auxiliary services up to its required limit and to offer the recruits some special privilege.

The Fuel Question.

From time to time reference has been made in these letters to experiments which were being carried out under Government auspices with the object of ascertaining whether any substitute for coal could be made out of the vegetable refuse remaining over after the various crops have been harvested. These experiments have been in progress for about two years now, and Mr. John F. Wells, at one time Inspector-General of Mines in this country, who has been conducting them, has at last been able to give Egypt the first fruits of his labours. He has evolved a scheme whereby gas can be made out of the vegetable matter in question, for use in engines using anthracite coal, and the Egyptian Government has arranged to put the details of this scheme at the disposal of all owners of engines free of any charge. A notice has been issued by the Ministry of Finance advising engine-owners that they can obtain full particulars and copies of the plans on application to Mr. Wells, who will demonstrate the working of the apparatus to them at his research works in Shubra. Owners, however, must employ their own engineers to carry out the work under their own responsibility. The gift of this scheme to engine-owners will be a veritable boon to them, for they were being hard put to it to find fuel, and were forced to pay enormous prices for what they were able to obtain. This scheme should result in a substantial reduction in the cost of working their engines, and it is not surprising to learn that Mr. Wells has been literally snowed under by applications from people wishing to take advantage of the offer. It is to be hoped that other results of Mr. Wells' experiments will be made public soon, and that they will, where possible, be placed at the disposal of the population.

Closely connected with the fuel question is that of lighting. A new circular has just been issued by the Government calling upon the general public to exercise the utmost economy in the consumption of fuel and in the use of electric light and gas, and announcing that in connection with the latter it has arranged with the companies holding the monopoly to waive their right to charge for a minimum annual consumption whether the quantity had been consumed or not. Thus consumers will from now onwards pay merely for what they consume. There is, therefore, every possibility that a considerable reduction in the consumption of electric light and gas will result; for whilst everybody was prepared to sacrifice himself or herself and put up with some inconvenience for the public good, it was exceedingly galling to know that economy might mean the burning of less coal, but that at the same time it spelt directly more profit to the companies concerned, and there is no doubt that many refused to reduce their consumption for the very reason that they objected to inflating the already substantial profits of these monopoly companies. The Government has done exceedingly wisely in prevailing on the latter to suspend the application of the minimum clause, and it is to be hoped that when things return to normal again, and that clause is once more put into force, it will see that the minimum is based on the reduced rate for electric light established some three years ago, and that it is not continued on the basis of the old and higher one, as has been the case up to now.

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ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

"Embusques."

The needs of the Army, and the strain imposed by the war upon the population at large, have produced in Roumania, as elsewhere, a strong demand for the purification of the services behind the lines of young officers, placed and kept there by influential friends. Jassy especially was a regular nursery for such young, well-fed, and smartly-dressed officers, many of whom had never seen the battle-field, and all of whom were unhesitatingly enthusiastic about the achievements of "their" army. The new Minister of War, General Iancovescu, put a quick end to that state of affairs. Five hundred officers belonging to various services have been already sent to the front, the position of the remaining officers is being carefully investigated, and a decision of the Cabinet has provided that all officers, unless physically incapacitated, must go through a period of service at the front.

American Assistance.

The United States Red Cross Organisation has sent to Roumania twelve doctors and twelve nurses, together with a large quantity of sanitary material and food. Original is the fact that this mission is accompanied by a variety of specialists of standing—as, for instance, an engineer, an expert in social work, a politician well known for his organising ability, etc.

The Deficiency of Live Stock.

Interesting data have been published with regard to the serious diminution in Roumanian live-stock. The position is a serious one, because the main industry of the country (agriculture) will be fatally hampered unless the deficiency can be made good in time, because none of the other countries, belligerents or neutrals, will be in a position to export live-stock for a certain period after the war.

Horses.—Before the war Roumania possessed 1,218,563 horses. At the end of 1916 there remained in Moldavia 115,632 horses, and supposing that, at the best, 10 per cent. of the horses in occupied territory will be recovered, there will be a diminution of 947,463 in the total number, representing a minimum value of £11,500,000 Steps are being taken in order to find out from where breeding horses can be bought after the war, but it is considered that at least four times the value of the lost material will have to be paid, if indeed it will be possible to buy any horses at all.

Cattle.—According to a census taken on April 1, 1916, there were then in Roumania 2,937,877 head of cattle, of which Moldavia possessed 925,076. At the end of 1916 only 706,496 remained in Moldavia, a number which undoubtedly has since been considerably reduced; and, calculating on the same basis as above, there results a deficiency of 2,010,100 head of cattle, representing a minimum value of £16,000,000. It must be remembered in this connection that the peasant is largely dependent upon his cattle, not only for food, but especially for agricultural work—ploughing being generally carried out with teams of oxen—for the transport of his products over the rough Roumanian roads, and of the fuel and building material which he usually cuts himself in the nearest woods.

A similar situation prevails with regard to sheep, etc., and pigs, of which every peasant used to possess at least one or two, have disappeared almost completely.

Occupied Territory.

I have secured at last a copy of the *Gazeta Bucurastilor*, the chief paper now appearing in Bucharest, which is being edited and printed at the old offices of the *Adevarul*. One expected to find a publication heavily, though intelligently, censored; one discovered a rag which beats even the Tirpitz Press for its Pan-Germanism and for the abusive way in which it deals with the heads of the Jassy Government, from the King downwards. How the German authorities can possibly think that such kind of literature can gain for them the favour of the native population is hard to understand. But German activities often are hard to understand. No military news or *communiqués*, with the exception of those of the Central Powers, are published. Nor is there any other news except that gratuitously supplied by the German Wireless and by Wolff's Bureau. There is but one piece of interesting information, suggestive as to the ways in which the native population is handled, and of the kind of life the German military lead:

"Fines.—Twenty-one persons have been fined sums ranging from 30 to 60 lei for having allowed their dogs to go about free.

"A cab-driver was fined 50 lei for asking more than he was entitled to by the tariff.

"Four cab-owners have each been fined 30 lei for having arrived late at the cab-rank.

"Four cab-owners have each been fined 100 lei for failing to appear before the authority charged with the control of public vehicles.

"Three restaurant owners were fined 500 lei each for keeping their premises open and serving military after the appointed closing-time. They lost the right of closing later than other establishments, and their restaurants are not to be frequented any more by military."

ABYSSINIAN NEWS.

Since the last battle between the troops of the new Abyssinian Government and those of the dethroned Negus Jassu, nothing definite has been learned about the latter. It is still uncertain whether he is dead or alive, for conflicting rumours are current on the subject. The prevailing opinion, however, is that he did not take part in that engagement, but kept at a safe distance, not being confident of the issue.

It is expected that the Government will shortly issue a *communiqué* stating the true facts of the case. Even details of the fight were lacking for two months after it took place, owing to the torrential rains in the interior, which rendered communications most difficult. The rainy season, however, is approaching its end, and it will not be long before some of the tribes in that region will begin to flock to the capital, and from them a full and authentic account will be had.

According to one account, the Minister of War immediately after the battle proceeded to Jebel Magdala, where Jassu had taken up his residence and where one of his leaders still held out. The War Minister is now said to be in possession of half of this place. Jassu has lost his two chief leaders, Ras Amru Fiturari and Sarabthu, the first being killed and the second dying from wounds received in fighting.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL AT ATHENS.

There is a certain melancholy pleasure in reading, in the midst of war, of the purely peaceful activities of the æsthete, yet more, of the antiquarian, who works, after all, for the world, past, present, and future, and not merely for himself! The emotion is enhanced where ancient and modern Greece are concerned. Imagine Gallipoli, Salonika, Constantinople, Venizelos echoing, so to speak, around the Acropolis; and the British School of Athens continuing, unperturbed, its researches into the followers of Praxitiles, Byzantine music rhythms, the Bektashi, Petworth House, and the like. With this, too, it has given its quota to the war. Five students have fallen, and one of them—Guy Dickens—is the author of the first article in the Annual now published—a very excellent and discriminating discourse on the Praxitilean school; another, Roger Heath, contributed the second item, an admirably impromptu rendering of a charming little modern Greek poem.

The Annual—though it really covers 1914 to 1916 inclusive—is of profound interest, chiefly, of course, to "specialists"; but it is worth noting that modern Greece (we mean "modern" as relative to "ancient") has a prominent place. Such investigations have a definite practical value towards the understanding of the complexities of the Balkan Peninsula and the Turkish and other influences prevalent.

It is on the strength of its being very much alive in the present and not merely living in the past that the British School at Athens occupies a special position in the life of the country, and that many of those who have been associated with it have been able to fill such useful rôles at this time. Many romances are hidden within the pages of the Annual, apart from those that might be written round the Roll of Honour. Experts may differ whether a certain head is Praxitilean or post-Praxitilean; but the story of its experiences merely from the date of its discovery, say, near Ephesus, or in Athens itself within a few hundred yards of the King's Palace, to its appearance in the Boston Museum, would entail, in view of the embargo on the export of antiquities, a disquisition less learned, perhaps, but one of considerable human interest.

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THE ADVANCE INTO THE MOUNTAINS OF JUDÆA.

With the capture of the maritime plains around Ramleh and Lydda a new phase of warfare begins; the contest is carried into the mountains. Jerusalem lies on the central plateau of Judæa 2,450 ft. above sea level and 3,700 ft. above the Dead Sea to its east. The approaches of Jerusalem have always been formidable when defended by a brave and desperate foe, nature having provided the Holy City with natural defences of extraordinary strength. The mountain barrier is rugged, but there are four great passes which lead from the western plains to the central plateau. Two are historical battle sites; the other two have become important in consequence of modern conditions. Thus the Wady es Surar—described last week—has an importance never obtained in any previous war, because up its southern branch runs the Jaffa-Jerusalem Railway. The gorge is, however, so deep and narrow that before the railway could be of use to us the lofty mountains on each side would necessarily have to be cleared. We hold the line out in the plains and probably for some distance into the hill country, but inland our first seizure of the railway appears to have been on the 26th at Bettir. This is the next station to Jerusalem itself, and the site long years ago of one of the great Jewish tragedies. On the hill close to the modern village is Khirbet el-Yehud, "the ruin of the Jews," the site of Bethar, where the last followers of Bar Cochba withstood a three-years' seige by the Romans, and were finally massacred (A.D. 135) in such numbers that the place, it is stated, ran with torrents of blood. It was as I remember it a peaceful and charming spot, a favourite place for picnics from Jerusalem, from which in the spring months the children would return by the evening train laden with flowers from the hills around.

The second of these passes of modern importance is the Wady Ali, the narrow pass by which the Jerusalem-Jaffa road runs upwards into the mountains. The entrance into the pass is at Bab el Wad (lit. "The Gate of the Valley"), a narrow entrance between commanding hills which, report says, have long been powerfully fortified. After a steep and narrow ascent the road enters more open ground about Saris, and thence runs to Kuriet el Enab, a village more commonly known as Abu Ghosh, after a cut-throat bandit sheikh of the village, who a century ago, besides terrorising the villages around, used to rob pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. The Crusaders considered this place the site of Kirjath-Jearim, but on no solid grounds, and built here a church the ruins of which have recently been restored by the Benedictines. We learn that this important point was carried at the point of the bayonet on November 19, thus cutting the carriage road. Probably our troops reached this road, not by the Wady Ali, but by the next route. From Kuriet el Enab the road runs down to the little valley of Dilb, then ascends in a zigzag course, and plunges down the steep sides of the Wady Beit Hanina (the northern arm of the Wady es Surar) to the little village—with its Jewish settlement—known as Kulonia (once a Roman colony). From here there is a steady ascent to Jerusalem, the "new" road along the northern side of the Wady, the other, or "old" road, up a branch valley slightly to the south.

But it is clear that our line of main advance has been up the historic "Valley of Ajalon"—the modern Wady Selman. This, all through history, has been the great route of armies. Down this pass Joshua drove the Canaanites (Josh., x. 10f.), up this valley the Philistines came to fight Saul at Michmash, and the Hebrews, after defeating them, smote the Philistines that day from Michmash to Ajalon (I. Sam., xiv. 31). Battles surged up and down this route in the days of the Græco-Syrians and the Romans. The Crusaders, in the first Crusade, reached and captured Jerusalem in two days by this route. In the third Crusade, Richard Cœur-de-Lion failed to take the city; indeed, only reached within twelve miles of it, being opposed by Saladin, and hampered by differences with his allies. The entrance to the valley—here broad and open—is near Gezer (now Abu Shusheh), but on reaching the mountains several routes are possible. The most famous, the line of a once much-frequented Roman road, was by the two Beth-horons, the lower and upper, now known as Beit Ur el Tahta and Beit Ur el Foka respectively. It is a difficult pass, and rendered more so by the patches of ruined Roman road which consist in places of slabs of bare rock, in others of rough masses of irregular flag-stones. I remember to-day how my horse's feet slithered about over such places twenty-four years ago. Our mounted men have ascended here. Beit Ur el Tahta was occupied November 18, and an advance was made within four miles of the Jerusalem-Nablus road at Beitunia. An official report states that they had later to return to Beit Ur el Foka.

A second path leads a little south through Beit Likia (which our Scottish troops occupied on November 19) to el Kubeibeh (the traditional Emmaus), and thence straight on to the dominating height of Nebi Samwil, the site of the traditional tomb of the Prophet Samuel, and not improbably that also of Mizpah. This great mountain ridge (2,935 feet high) our soldiers have now occupied (21st inst.), and a most important site it is. From the minaret of the Mosque—now we are told destroyed by Turkish guns—the view embraces Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, the Mountains of Moab, Bethlehem, Jaffa, Ramleh, and the Mediterranean. It is a wonderful spot, and one from which both the Northern road, and the road from Jaffa can be commanded. When one rides round Jerusalem the mountain, with its mosque and minaret, can be seen from a hundred points. Though so near Jerusalem it is isolated from it by the deep valley—Wady Beit Hanina.

Thus our forces occupy an irregular line running from Beit Ur el Foka in the northern pass, through the mountain fortress of Nebi Samwil to Kuriet el Enab on the Jaffa-Jerusalem thence to Ain Kairim, which has a good carriage road, originally made by the Russians, which joins the high road near Jerusalem, and so over the hills to Bettir on the railway. Ain Kairim is the traditional home of John the Baptist, and the Russians have a convent here, with large and beautiful grounds planted with cypresses and other trees. It is one of the most charming spots round Jerusalem. Three of the passes are—if not fully occupied—at least in our possession, and Jerusalem itself is but a little over three miles from our nearest troops. We have, too, in Ain Kairim and Bettir the two best springs round Jerusalem. There is a fourth pass which, in years gone by, has been successfully negotiated when the Beth Horon pass failed. This is by the Wady Sûr—the highest part of the Wady es Sunt (the Vale of Elah). This comes out on the Judæan plateau some five miles north of Hebron, reaching there the great Southern road, which runs from Beersheba through Hebron and Bethelehem to Jerusalem. Along this route Jerusalem was captured by Antiochus III. with his general Lycius, who brought up here a vast army, with thirty-two elephants, and defeated Judas Maccabeus at Beth Zachariah, now Beit Zakarya (1 Macc., vi. 32f.).

It is a quite possible route for a modern army, and though we have had no news of any of our forces taking that way, we may yet hear of it. An advance along this route, with its comparatively good water supply (especially at "Solomon's pools"), would be of supreme importance, if accomplished, as it would not only threaten Jerusalem along the open and fairly level ground to its south, but an army so placed would seriously embarass the Turks' line of communications both for re-inforcements and of retreat along the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

Jerusalem has never been an easy city to capture when at all efficiently defended. The progress made so far, which has brought us so near the city, must be regarded as highly satisfactory when we consider the immense difficulty of the steep climb from the plain up such rugged passes in the face of a brave and well-organised foe, well supplied with modern guns and with all the advantages of choice of terrain.

E. W. G. M.

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THE WAY TO INDIA.

[*The peculiar interest of the following article in the "Cologne Gazette" justifies its reproduction at length in these columns. Comment upon it has to be deferred to our next issue.*]

In an article entitled "The Way to India," the *Kölnische Zeitung* of November 24 begins by recapitulating old arguments as to how the fear of a young, rising and successful Germany, whose natural desire to stretch its limits would eventually compel her to demand from Great Britain freedom of the seas, first made the latter go to war in order that she might by timely action check Germany's expansion, destroy her fleet and seize her colonies. The chief motive governing Great Britain's action in this, it is pointed out, was the necessity of securing the road to India.

"Germany's Eastern policy of to-day," continues the *Kölnische Zeitung*, "is based upon historical necessity. Our political ambition to hold Baghdad dates back to Charles the Great. It never came to anything, because, on the one hand, Germany did not possess the means to force her way there, and because, on the other hand, it is only in the last few decades that the necessity has become imperative enough to make of it a leading plank in our foreign policy. That our policy in this respect is purely defensive, depending as it does upon the friendship of Turkey, and is prompted solely by the need we have of obtaining access to the world's markets unhindered by England, a glance at the map will prove. For on the day when Germany succeeded in obtaining an independent outlet upon the Persian Gulf a great step would already have been made in achieving that equality upon the sea which we demand. England's unbounded command of the Indian Ocean would be thereby menaced. This she would never tolerate; here, therefore, the life interests of the two Empires meet and clash. For Germany must gain independent access to the Persian Gulf, if she does not wish to see herself cut off from the world's markets and the feeding of her population dependent upon England's goodwill; and England cannot permit our access to it, except at the price of diminished sovereignty at sea—that sovereignty upon which the safety of her island kingdom in the first place depends. England recognised these facts long since, and her attitude on the question of war with us was, therefore, long since fixed.

"The fact has even been admitted in writing by English authors that almost all England's Asiatic and most of her African conquests were made solely in order to erect a glacis round India, the most precious star of the British Empire. In pursuance of this idea, England conceived the purpose of acquiring a land route to India—an idea which is not new, as some suppose, but dates back to early days after the occupation of Egypt. The special significance of England's action in Egypt in this war has been already frequently discussed, and need not, therefore, be emphasised anew. Suffice it to point out once again that its conquest became imperative, if England, after the opening of the Suez Canal, was to remain undisputed master of the sea route to India."

The article then goes on to point out how systematically England has worked out her plan for the acquirement of the land route to India; how the first step was to buy the friendship of the heads of the Islam world, to incite the Arabs to revolt against the Turks, to start the idea of an Arab Khalif, a Turkish one being historically impossible. The second step, of course, was the occupation of Mesopotamia; the third, the military forcing of the passage from Egypt into the Arabian Desert. The last step was the acquiring, by diplomacy or by other methods, of those parts of Persia through which the land route would eventually pass.

"How far have the English reached these aims? The first tangible result of British propaganda in the Arabian world was the case of the Shereef of Mecca, who reappeared as king by grace of England. The military occupation of Mesopotamia has succeeded in so far as it was necessary for English plans. The well-known Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907 settled the Persian question, but the wish for an exit from Egypt will, we hope, be denied to them. The Turks are fully alive to British designs upon the Turkish Empire. Some day we shall arrive at a settlement with Britain over Belgium, and also on the purely European questions between us, but never shall we reach an agreement with her on a question which in any way touches her colonial possessions, least of all, if thereby the connection between India and the mother country were to be jeopardised. Let the innocents who still believe the reverse be once more assured that England cares not a jot for her proclaimed principle of nationalities. It has no significance for her once it ceases to serve her interests. If, therefore, we fail to settle the Eastern issue on a basis of military success, we shall never compel her to abandon her Mesopotamian and Arabian plans, even if we get her down on her knees. She would stick to these to the bitter end.

"For us, of course, the German work of decades is at stake in Mesopotamia. The future will show whether Germany was ripe at the time for a policy which involved such expansion, or whether her political evolution failed to keep pace with it. Success in such undertakings attends that country whose broad masses are convinced of the national necessity for embarking on them. The greater part of the English working classes know what the British colonies mean to them. May the day soon dawn when Germany's foreign policy will find itself reposing on an equally solid basis of popular opinion."

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES.

Palestine at the Roman Era.

In the 1916 issue of the "Annuaire de l'Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes" there is an important and lengthy essay by M. Maurice Vernes upon the geography of the Sinai Peninsula and Southern Palestine. His explanations of the geographical features of all the territory between the Nile and Central Palestine have a particular interest just now, in view of the military operations in these regions. He reproduces also an ancient map, portion of the Peutinger Tablet map of Egypt and Palestine at the Roman era. This shows the three routes feasible for the passage of armies from Egypt to Syria, with the names of the various cities and halting places. The coast lines of the Mediterranean and Gulf of Akaba are included, and it is undoubtedly the type of chart or map any Roman commander marching into Palestine would have used.

The Hittite Inscriptions.

In the number of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society for July, Dr. A. Cowley, of Oxford, prints what he modestly terms some "Notes on Hittite Hieroglyphic Inscriptions." In the essay he treats of the whole of the alphabet of this mysterious script of ancient Asia Minor, and also of the Determinative Prefixes which are such an important item for consideration when attempts are made to translate any hieroglyphic writing. All scholars who endeavour to find the secrets of Hittite inscriptions have to consider the work on the subject published during the last thirty years by Professor Sayce. One obstacle to an easy understanding of Hittite texts is that there are frequently several quite different signs, or pictures, for the same letter. Thus, in the list of letter symbols Dr. Cowley considers to be certainly ascertained, he gives two for D, 2 for M, 3 for N, 6 for K, and 6 for S. Since the excavations carried out at Carchemish for the British Museum a few years ago, the number of photographs of long Hittite inscriptions has been much increased. Unfortunately, the monuments themselves were left in the hands of the Turks, and therefore may have been destroyed.

Until further notice parcels (except those addressed to prisoners of war) for Switzerland, Spain, and Portugal, via France, cannot be accepted for transmission by post.

The Maitland Prize at Cambridge University for the ensuing year, of the value of about £125, will be awarded for the best essay on the following subject:—"The probable effects of the present European conflict upon the work of Christian Missions in the East."

A memorial service for Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude will be held, with the approval of the Dean and Chapter, in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, December 4, at noon. The service will be conducted by Bishop Montgomery, the Prelate of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, of which Sir Stanley Maude was a member.

The *Morning Post* correspondent at Paris has learned from Jassy that as regards the Jewish question in Roumania, the Ministerial Council has decided that all Jewish non-commissioned officers fighting in the Roumanian Army shall henceforth be regarded as Roumanian citizens, having full political rights. As the result of this decree 200 Jewish non-commissioned officers have been made sub-lieutenants.

A Reuter telegram from Cape Town says that Brigadier-General O. G. Gunning, C.M.G., who had been invalided from Mesopotamia, died on November 14, and was buried at Wynberg with military honours. General Gunning, who was born in 1867, entered the Army in 1888, and saw service in the Miranzi Expedition of 1891, receiving the medal with clasp, and on the North-West Frontier in 1897-8, when he was severely wounded. He was created a C.M.G. in 1915 in recognition of his services in the present war.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

SIR COLIN SCOTT-MONCRIEFF. *

This is definitely a book to be read, for it contains a good story well told. As regards the telling, most of the book is in Sir Colin's own words—a thread of personal reminiscences and a larger bulk of really delightful letters, the whole being put together with considerable skill. The story itself is in many ways remarkable. Scott-Moncrieff joined the Bengal Engineers in time to see some active service in the later Mutiny campaigns, and then passed to the Irrigation Department, in which he spent a quarter of a century, broken by occasional interludes such as the famine in Mysore. His work in India was throughout distinguished; he rose to the rank of Chief Engineer, and in 1883 he retired, and might have looked forward to a quiet life in Cheltenham or Ealing, "where good Anglo-Indians go." As a matter of fact, he was then only half-way through his public career, and his homeward journey was interrupted by Lord Dufferin's summons to take over "the keys of the Nile." In one sense he may be said to have been lucky in this appointment, for, as he wrote himself, "Happy is the reformer who finds things so bad he cannot make a movement without making an improvement." Egypt, however, was immeasurably the luckier of the two, and his nine years of strenuous and successful work, in the face of difficulties which are now matters of history, laid the foundations of the wonderful material prosperity which the country now enjoys. Even this was not the end; after leaving Egypt he spent ten useful years as permanent head of the Scottish Office, and finally there was his work as President of the Indian Irrigation Commission, which has now been tested by sufficient time to justify the verdict that it was one of the very finest administrative achievements in the whole history of the Empire.

If we ask what was the secret of this remarkable career, we are met at the outset by the opinion of the profession that Sir Colin was not a great original engineer. His strength lay rather on the administrative side, and he was in fact a great administrator led by circumstances to devote his energies to the specific task of bringing water to thirsty land. This fact was recognised long before his appointment to the Scottish Office; in 1883 he had been offered the post of Financial Adviser to the Khedive, and still earlier his selection for famine work in Mysore was obviously determined by the same considerations. Now, the art of administration rests primarily on two sets of qualities. In the first place it requires a wide knowledge of human nature in all its varying aspects, and this knowledge Sir Colin undoubtedly possessed. He could choose men, and he could adapt the burden to the back; having mastered for himself the nature of the work to be done, he knew what part of it must be kept in his own hands, and what could be safely left to his subordinates; and he knew also how to get the best results from tools of varying quality. The administrator, however, requires something more than knowledge for complete success; he needs character as well as intellect, and it is at this point that we come to the real Sir Colin, as he was known to his friends and as he is pictured in this book. Like most other fine characters, its keynote was simplicity; he was, in a word, "straight," and it was here that his strength lay in dealing with the ryot or the fellah, as well as with the men of his own country or the cosmopolitan crowd with whom he mixed in Egypt. Such men are good to know, and if we have said that this book is decidedly one to be read, our main reason is that it enables us to know one of the very best.

TURKEY'S UNFORGIVEABLE CRIME.†

Much has been forgiven the Turk in years gone by, but his treatment of Armenia has without doubt sounded the death-knell of the Turkish Empire. Not even the Germans, when they learn, as they certainly will some day, the truth of this, the greatest crime in the war, will be able to find excuse for so frightful a record. By the strenuous efforts of the German rulers, the awful truth is being kept back, and doubtless what little news has reached the Central Powers has been discredited as political lies. At least one book on the subject, by a German who knows the facts, has been deliberately suppressed, and the author is now a refugee in a neutral land. "Armenia and the War" is written by an Armenian with all the force and vividness of an Eastern stirred to the depths by his people's wrongs. Nothing but the welter of misery which so long has lain around us on every hand could make it possible for any man to read such a tale without a sickening sense of horror. "Of all the peoples upon whom this war has brought calamity and suffering, the Armenians have had the most to endure," says Lord Bryce in the Introduction. The oft-told tale is apt to lose its appeal with repetition, but it is well ever to "Remember Armenia." The public would do well to refresh their memories by reading this clear and moving statement of Armenia's case at a time when it would seem that England at last is bringing to Turkey a retribution for her crimes. All talk of allowing Turkey ever again to dominate the non-Turkish races now liberated, or being liberated, from her talons will sink to silence in the contemplation of wickedness, bestiality, and massacre such as this. The chapter on the "Gentle and clean-fighting Turk" is one which our pro-Turks should digest. In the reparation and restoration to bleeding Armenia which must come, unless our "war aims" are not mere hypocrisy, the author rightly thinks that America and democratic Russia—with, it must be hoped, a recovered national sanity—must have a leading part. Whether the author's suggested settlement is workable remains to be seen, but some form of Autonomous Armenia must be established in common justice for a crime in which not only Turkey and Germany, but, sad to say, ourselves—all unwittingly, by the blundering diplomacy of the past—have all had a share.

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE ARABIC.*

"Gems of Arabic Literature" is a "key" to the Arabic text-book, *Ar-Rauzat-us-Zakiah*, and will doubtless be of considerable use to those preparing for the Higher Standard Examination in Arabic for the Government of India. As a whole, the narratives appear in this translation in idiomatic English, though occasionally there seems to be an unnecessary departure from the literal meaning of the text. The general reader will here find much of interest and entertainment in the English text alone. Considering the fact that the book is published in Aden, there are wonderfully few misprints. If there is any criticism to be made, it is in the selection of the subject matter—which, of course, is beyond the translator's control. The description of Syria by Abel Tida has no geographical interest, and the accounts of Paris and London, though distinctly diverting, are so entirely out of date, and in many respects so ridiculous, that they can, to say the least, hardly raise the respect for our civilization among the untravelled subjects of our Indian Empire.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Life and Letters of Admiral Sir Charles Napier, K.C.B. (1786-1860). By H. Noel Williams. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 16s. net.)

Battlewrack. By F. Britten Austin. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 5s. net.)

Le Maroc; Géographie, Histoire, Mise en Valeur. By Victor Piquet. (Paris: Librairie Armand Colin. 6 fr.)

On the Road to Kut; A Soldier's Story of the Mesopotamia Campaign. By Black Tab. (London: Messrs. Hutchinson and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

Bohemia's Case for Independence. By Edouard Benes, D.Litt. (London: Allen and Unwin.)

Annual of the British School at Athens, 1914-15, 1915-16. (London: Macmillan and Co. 21s. net.)

La Responsabilité de la Hongrie. By G. Beck. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr.3.50.)

Comment se nourrir en temps de Guerre. By Dr. A. Combe. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr.4.)

La Révolution Russe à Pétrograd et aux Armées. By Claude Anet. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr.4.)

History and Encyclopædia of the War. Part 164. *The Capture of Baghdad.* (London: The Times Publishing Company. 8d. net.)

Serbia. By L. F. Waring. London: Messrs. Williams and Norgate. 1s. 3d. net (cloth), 2s. 6d. (leather gilt).

Sacrifice, and Other Plays. By Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (London: Messrs. Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

The Artists' Rifles Journal. Price 6d. Of special interest to the Artists' Rifles. As might be expected, the journal is admirably "got up," and thus makes an appeal to wider circles.

L'Orient Méditerranéen. By André Dubosq. (Paris: Perrin et Cie. 2fr 50c.)

Les Provinces Caspiennes de la Perse. By H. L. Rabino. (Paris: Ernest Leroux.)

Histoire des Relations Anglo-Roumaines. By N. Jorga. (Jassy: Imprimerie Progrosul.)

The Land of the Two Rivers. By Edwyn Bevan. (London: Mr. dward Arnold. 2s. 6d. net.)

* "The Life of Sir Colin Scott-Moncrieff." Edited by his Niece, Mary A. Hollings. (John Murray. 12s. net.)

† "Armenia and the War." By A. P. Hacobian. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 2s. 6d. net.

* "Gems of Arabic Literature. By Syed Hamood Hason Aden. (Published by translator.). Rs.9.0.0 cloth, Rs.7.0.0 half cloth.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. November 30	1917. November 17	Friday	1336. Saphar 15	5678. Kislev 15
December 1	18	Saturday.....	16	16
2	19	**Sunday**	17	17
3	20	Monday	18	18
4	21	Tuesday	19	19
5	22	Wednesday	20	20
6	23	Thursday	21	21

To-morrow will be the anniversary of the birthday of Queen Alexandra. The King and Queen are going to Sandringham for the occasion.

The Greek Minister was among the diplomatic callers at the Foreign Office on November 26.

Messrs. Ralli Brothers, of London, have forwarded to Athens the sum of £5,000 for the Greek Red Cross.

Baron Sonnino has thanked the Italian community in Cairo for the first instalment of £4,000 in aid of the refugees from the invaded districts of Italy.

The Hon. Thomas Stafford Sidney, Attorney-General of the Leeward Islands since 1909, who has died at Liverpool, aged fifty-four years, was at one time Advocate or the High Court of Madras.

H.H. the Aga Khan, who has been in ill-health for nearly a year past, and has been undergoing treatment in Switzerland for some months, has returned to France, and is making favourable progress.

A parcel mail for the Salonika Force, containing parcels which reached the Army Parcel Office, London, for despatch between November 1 and the evening of November 5, has been lost at sea through enemy action.

The Czech Press Bureau states that, according to the *Narodni Listy* of November 16, a resolution was adopted by the "Union of Czech Journalists" protesting against the continued severe Press censorship in Bohemia.

The inaugural meeting of the Anglo-Roumanian Society will be held at the Mansion House on Friday, December 7. The Lord Mayor will preside, and Sir Edward Carson, Lord Hugh Cecil, M.P., and Lord Dunedin will speak.

The Rev. Louis Borissow, aged seventy-seven, of the Rectory, East Gilling, Yorks, formerly tutor of H.H. Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, and at one time Chaplain and Precentor of Trinity College, Cambridge, left estate of the gross value of £7,276.

A telegram from Fiume states that the body of a woman has been washed ashore on the Island of Curzola, off the Dalmatian coast. Papers found in the pockets indicate that it is the body of Mrs. Alice Askew, the novelist. The body has been buried at a spot near the coast.

Speaking at a meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council on November 21, Lord Ronaldshay, Governor of Bengal, announced the appointment of a committee of Indians and Europeans, under a Judge of the King's Bench Division, to investigate the seditious movement in Bengal, says Reuter's Calcutta correspondent.

The Mayor of Athens has telegraphed to the Lord Mayor of London expressing the gratitude of the Greek people for the reception given to M. Venizelos, and saying:—"The sons of Greece are proud to have contributed to the triumph of the great cause, fighting at the side of gallant Great Britain and her noble armies."

M. Passaroff, Bulgarian Minister to Switzerland, recently intimated, it is reported, that he intended to forward his official archives to Sofia. Some of his numerous packing-cases, however, broke asunder, and proved to be full of boots, clothes, rubber, etc. M. Passaroff then discovered that his mother was seriously ill, and hurriedly departed for Sofia.

LADY, WISHING to go to INDIA, would like to meet lady or party, with view to companionship in travelling through India Willing to contribute half expenses in return for escort.—Reply to Box 501, care of THE NEAR EAST Offices, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2.

The King has given authority to Mr. C. H. Armbruster, of the Sudan Civil Service, to wear the insignia of the Third Class of the Order of the Nile, which decoration was conferred upon him by the late Sultan of Egypt.

The *Morning Post* learns from Cairo that Colonel Lord Edward Cecil, Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, is still in indifferent health. It had been hoped that he would improve in the Egyptian climate, but his condition is so unsatisfactory that it is possible that he will proceed to Switzerland to undergo a cure. Later news states that Lord Edward Cecil is seriously ill.

The marriage took place on November 27, at Llanishen Parish Church, of Lieutenant Adrian H. J. Stokes, D.S.C., R.N., third son of Sir Gabriel Stokes, K.C.S.I., of Dublin, and Miss Doris Louise England, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Edward England and Mrs. Edward England, of Parc, Llanishen, Glamorganshire.

M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, concluded his visit to London on November 27, and left for Paris. M. Venizelos was accompanied by the members of his suite. At the station were M. Gennadius, the Greek Minister, Mme. Gennadius, the personnel of the Legation, M. Embirocos, and Dr. R. M. Burrows, Principal of King's College.

The marriage took place on November 12, at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria, B.C., of Mr. Henry Cuthbert Holmes, eldest son of Mr. William Cuthbert Holmes, I.C.S. (retired), and Mrs. Holmes, to Philippa Despard, second daughter of Frederick Bernard Pemberton and Mrs. Pemberton, of Mountjoy, Victoria, B.C. The Bishop of Columbia performed the rite.

Princess Patricia of Connaught has consented to open an exhibition of Serbo-Croat art at the Grafton Galleries to-morrow, at 2.30. The exhibition, which is under the patronage of Queen Alexandra and Prince Paul of Serbia, will be open daily until December 22 from ten till six, and the proceeds will be divided between the Serbian Relief Fund and the Serbian Red Cross.

The Secretary of State for India announces that Sir Michael O'Dwyer's tenure of the Lieutenant-Governorship of the Punjab, which would in the ordinary course expire in May next, has been extended for a year, and that Sir Mahadev Chaubal will retain his seat on the Executive Council of the Governor of Bombay until March 1, 1918, instead of vacating the appointment in December.

Dr. Arthur Herbert Norris, who has been appointed by the Home Secretary to be Chief Inspector of Reformatory and Industrial Schools, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Mr. C. E. B. Russell, took up military duties on the outbreak of war as a captain in the R.A.M.C. He served with distinction in Gallipoli and France, and was awarded the Military Cross in November, 1916.

The Committee of the Lebanon Hospital (for Mental Diseases), Asfuriyeh, near Beyrout, Syria, will hold its twelfth annual general meeting at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W. (close to Oxford Circus and Queen's Hall), on Friday next, December 7, at 3 p.m. Canon J. T. Parfit will give a lecture, illustrated by limelight views, "On the Outlook for Syria and Lebanon."

The King has been pleased to award the Albert Medal in Gold in recognition of the conspicuous gallantry and self-sacrifice of Mr. Robert Leiper Lindsay, late superintendent of the Tembi Pumping Station of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, on the occasion of the destruction by fire in July last of a part of the pumping station, and the Albert Medal to Mr. James Still, his assistant, for the courage and devotion to duty displayed by him on the same occasion.

Lieutenant-General Dessino, Chief of the Russian Military Mission in England, received a telegram, dated November 23, from General Dukhonin, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies, instructing him to express to the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, on behalf of himself and the whole Russian Army, the profoundest sympathy on the occasion of the death of General Maude, late Commander of the British Forces in Mesopotamia, whose brilliant successes in the field he had followed with such deep interest. General Dukhonin's message has been repeated to General Marshall, commanding the British Forces in Mesopotamia.

11th K.E.O. LANCERS.

A COMFORTS FUND, to co-operate with THE INDIAN COMFORTS FUND, has been started for the Regiment.

Will those interested please communicate with Mrs. HARTLEY, 33, Wilton Place, S.W.

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APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

Sir William Brunyate, Judicial Adviser in Egypt, has been appointed to act as Financial Adviser during the absence of Lord Edward Cecil.

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of the promotion to the substantive rank of General of Lieutenant-General (temporary General) the Honourable Sir Julian Hedworth George Byng, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., M.V.O., Colonel 3rd Hussars, commanding Third Army, in recognition of distinguished service in the field during recent operations.

It is officially announced that the King has been pleased to approve of the appointment of Lieutenant-General Sir William R Marshall, K.C.B., to command the forces in Mesopotamia. General Marshall, who is fifty-two years of age, served with distinction in the South African war and in France, and was selected in September of last year to command a corps in Mesopotamia, with the temporary rank of Lieutenant-General.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Robert Gerald Pantin, whose death has just occurred at the age of forty-six, was educated at Bradfield College and Wadham College, Oxford. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1894, and served in the Central Provinces as Assistant Commissioner and Acting Under Secretary, being promoted to be a Deputy Commissioner ten years ago.

Sir Thomas Walker, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., a former Acting Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, died on November 25, aged sixty-eight years. He was Financial Commissioner of the Punjab when, in 1907, the newly-appointed Lieutenant-Governor broke down in health, and he held that position during a difficult year until the appointment of Sir Louis Dane in the spring of 1908.

Colonel Dudley North died at his residence in Down Street on November 22, aged seventy-seven years. He was educated at Harrow, and joined at the age of eighteen the 47th Loyal North Lancashire Regiment. From 1875 to 1878 he was Aide-de-Camp to the Governor of Malta, and in 1884 commanded the wing of the North Lancashire Regiment with the Zhob Valley Expedition. For five years, in the early 'nineties, he was Assistant Adjutant-General in Canada, and retired in 1897. He was created a C.B. in 1896.

The death occurred at his residence, 17, Lincoln House, Basil Street, Knightsbridge, on the 17th inst., of Lieut.-Col. James Levett Kaye, at the age of fifty-five. Col. Kaye was educated at Winchester and Sandhurst, and entered the Army in 1882; he served with the Royal Berkshire Regiment in Egypt and Gibraltar until 1885, including the Suakin campaign, 1885. He then joined the Indian Army, and in 1889 transferred to the Political Department of the Government of India. He was Settlement Commissioner in Kashmir 1895-1904, Political Agent at Alwar 1905, Resident at Indore 1907, and Resident in Mewar, Rajputana 1911. After retiring from the service he undertook war work in London, and was in harness at time of death. He married Edith Mary, only daughter of the late Mr. Stephen Harvey James, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department.

A military funeral was accorded Col. Kaye at Kensal Green Cemetery, where the Rev. B. C. H. Andrews officiated. The coffin, covered by the Union Jack, was conveyed on a gun carriage drawn by eight horses. The escort was composed of a squad of K.R.R.'s, who also formed the firing party, and bearers and the buglers under Sergt-Major Wild, all commanded by Captain Crockford. After the interment three vollevs were fired and the "Last Post" sounded by the buglers. The assembly included Col. R. A. Kaye, R.A. (brother), Lieut. James Kaye, R.E. (nephew), Mr. Ronald Collings, Dr. Beckett-Overy, Mr. Church, Col. Goodenough, Mr. W. Kaye, Mr. P. F. Hadow, Major Bourchier, Col. Mulroney, I.M.S., and Col. Impey.

Captain George Norman Berney, Herefordshire Regiment, who was killed in action on an Eastern Front on November 6, was twenty-five years of age, and the eldest child and only son of Mr. and Mrs. George Berney, of Hill House, Wimbledon. He was educated at Rokeby School, Wimbledon, and Haileybury, where he became College prefect, and received his colours as a member of the first Rugby Fifteen. On leaving school he was articled to Mr. J. Theodore Goddard, solicitor, of London, and he was preparing for his final examination when the war broke out. He enlisted as a private in the East Surrey Regiment, and afterwards received a commission in the Herefordshire Regiment on October 7, 1914. He took part with his regiment in the advance over the Salt Lake, and subsequent campaign in the Dardanelles, for which the regiment was specially mentioned in despatches. At the conclusion of this campaign he was invalided home to England for a short period. He rejoined his regiment directly he was convalescent without applying for leave, and went through the fighting on the Sinai Peninsula and elsewhere. Captain Berney was a keen sportsman and a well-known member of the famous Harlequins fifteen, playing as a full back. He was 6 ft. 2 ins. in height, and of superb physique, and he won the officers' Divisional heavy-weight boxing championship and also the officers' Brigade race at a tournament held recently in Palestine. *Sursum corda*, the motto of his old College, was the loadstar of his life.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

MARTEN.—On November 23, at Coonoor, South India, the wife of Stephen Alexander Marten, I.A.R.O., late of Perinaad Estate, Travancore, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

BAKER—DINGWELL-FORDYCE.—On November 20, 1917, at St. Edward's Church, Westminster, Colonel Eden Moyle Baker, late R.A., eldest son of the late Colonel F. Moffatt Baker, H.E., I.C.S., to Sidney Agnes (only daughter of the late Lieut.-General Sir J. Dingwell-Fordyce, K.C.B., Bengal Horse Artillery.

EDELMAN—KRASA.—On July 1, in London, Samuel Edelman, American Consular Service, lately at Damascus, Syria, to Etta, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Ferd. Krasa and Mrs. Ferd. Krasa, of 4, St. Cuthbert's Road, Brondesbury, N.W.

ASLAT—FOSTER.—On the 24th inst., at the Parish Church, Hampstead, by the Rev. E. Lees, M.A., vicar of St. Matthias, Canning Town, Captain E. K. S. Aslat, R.G.A., to Florence Muriel, second daughter of Harry Seymour Foster, J.P., D.L., Consul-General of Persia.

WHERE TO STAY.

Cairo's Hotels de Luxe.

SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL.
Open all the year round.

SEMIRAMIS HOTEL.
Splendid position on the East Bank of the Nile.

GHEZIREH PALACE.
Formerly the Palace of the late Khedive Ismail.

GHEZIREH CASINO,
In pure Moorish style, with a permanent Restaurant Francaise, is situated in the immediate neighbourhood of Ghezireh Palace.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTELS IN ALEXANDRIA.
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THE NEAR EAST.

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WAR AIMS IN THE NEAR EAST

The spectacle of from twenty to thirty members of the House of Commons claiming to have discovered a peace formula calculated to bring the war at once to a satisfactory end to all concerned, if the Allies could be persuaded to accept it, can only be explained as an instance of arrested mentality. In the momentous days of the first week of August, 1914, when the different Governments were at pains to justify the outbreak of war, the British Foreign Secretary said that the conflict which had already broken out between the Central Powers and the Dual Alliance had originated in a dispute between Austria and Serbia, and he hinted that the violation of Belgian territory might prove the determining factor in regard to Great Britain's participation in it. The statement was literally true, and was regarded as adequate at the time; but as the war progressed it was found to afford no real explanation of the world-crisis. Gradually it came to be realized that a far greater complexity of causes and effects was responsible for plunging Europe into war, and different schools of thought proceeded to expand the list of racial, political, dynastic and commercial rivalries of which the conflagration might be regarded as the resultant. A still further stage was reached when it was brought home to the more thoughtful among the peoples that, whatever may have been the cause or causes of the war, an entirely different group of problems was involved in bringing it to an end. When President Wilson accepted this truth, the United States were able to range themselves with the Allies. The bulk of our pacifists, it is, perhaps, charitable to suppose, are still groping their way about in the maze of darkness and uncertainty that marked the early stages of the war. For them it continues to be in the main a dispute between Austria and Serbia, or a senseless misunderstanding arising from some such incident, and at its worst interpretation, they hold, the Belgian "mistake" can be atoned for by Germany by means of suitable reparation. As so often happens, features or characteristics escape notice until attention is drawn to them in an exaggerated form. For a caricature of pacifism, yet absolutely true to life, we are able to turn to the Bolshevist attempts at government in Petrograd. There the most abysmal ignorance dictates unchallenged to the world, or, at least, to the official Press and telegraph office. It may or may not be true that the cry of "no annexations or indemnities" found such immediate favour, because the reference was widely understood to be to two cities that the troops had no desire to take; but it is certainly established that the Bolshevist Government, while freely cutting up Russian territory into a variety of would-be independent States, repudiates the mere suggestion of the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary or of any action which might challenge the Tsarism of the Central Powers and improve the lot of their subject peoples.

The world might submit to be ruled by brute force; but it is inconceivable that it should acquiesce in the domination of ignorance, whether in the form of British pacifism or Bolshevist inconsistency. Slowly the group of problems involved in bringing the war to an end is being found to centre in a single paramount issue, whether (in the words of an American thinker) civilisation is to regard the principle of aggression as its highest law, and that nation is to be greatest which can mobilize the most terrific force and use it in the most savage way. How savagely the Central Powers have used their strength in this war few Britons are really capable of understanding, and the majority will probably make no attempt to understand fully. Something of the horror of Belgium's sufferings may have sunk into the British consciousness; but the tendency is to associate them with an abstract conception of militarism, which is vaguely expected to dissolve itself into thin air when the war ends in favour of the Allies. What is not realised is the extent to which this savagery has entered into the nature of the peoples of the Central Powers and their Allies—it may be as the direct product of militarism, but the temperament which lent itself to the latter has now absorbed the fruits of it into its bones and marrow. Belgium does not stand alone. Atrocities, possibly on a more intensive scale, have been perpetrated in Austria-Hungary against the actual subjects of the Hapsburg monarch. Similarly in territory occupied by the Bulgarians and in Turkey the same ruthless policy of oppression and extermination has been carried out, and in such circumstances as demonstrate unmistakably the part they occupy in the general administrative system directed from Berlin.

Nowhere has the belief in the clean-fighting Turk been clung to more tenaciously than in Great Britain, and even now the individual Osmanli is assured of the respect due to a stubborn antagonist. But the accumulation of evidence of the ruthless policy of extermination steadily pursued by the governing classes throughout the war leaves no room for a Turkish "empire" in a scheme of things purporting to endow future generations with a heritage of right controlling might. The outline of the story of Armenia's martyrdom is familiar to most readers of the public Press; occasional accounts of the persecution of Jews and Syrians have also been received, but it has not been possible to gauge the total effect of Turkish misdeeds in this direction. Now comes a statement issued by the Greek Government of what its countrymen in Turkey have suffered since the beginning of the European War. Not the least tragic feature in this memorandum is the evidence it adduces to show that in their anxiety to carry out the will of the German Government King Constantine and his Ministers deliberately set themselves to ignore the sufferings and appeals of the Greeks under Ottoman jurisdiction. Under the plea that deportation was a military necessity, insisted upon, as it happened, by the German Commander-in-Chief, General Liman von Sanders, these unfortunate people shared the fate of Armenians and Syrians, whose end was deliberately compassed under the same euphemism. They may not have been quite so systematically massacred, but the conditions under which they worked and were slowly starved to death reduced their numbers less rapidly, but almost as effectually. It is very clear that the Allies' war aims cannot ignore the situation in the Ottoman Empire any more than the case of Belgium. But as far as can be gathered the future of Turkey is left out of consideration both by Bolshevists and pacifists of other nationalities. To both in their indifference to historical fact and present-day experiences the Turks appear as the most desirable rulers not only of Constantinople, but also of Armenia, Syria, Mesopotamia, and Arabia. If they are not—and their history shows how fatal to the peace of the world will be the prolongation of a savage tyranny in these regions—then they must be ejected. No peace by agreement at the present moment would find the Turkish Government prepared to acquiesce in the complete emancipation of its subject peoples; and if by chance it was so prepared, there can be little doubt that Germany would repudiate the idea. The peace that the Allies could achieve to-day would be one that would leave the Germans in supreme control from the Baltic to Mesopotamia, and ready to perpetuate with Turkish help the system of eliminating all the non-Turkish elements in the Ottoman Empire. The Allies' obligations to these people who look to them for liberty and protection will allow no such peace, and for this reason the fighting in these parts must continue until the goal is achieved beyond all possibility of challenge.

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CONSTITUTIONS IN THE MAKING.

By COLES PASHA.

It has always struck me as very remarkable that whereas Egypt is only separated from Europe by the breadth of the Mediterranean, and from India by some thousands of miles, rural life in Egypt should have so little in common with village communities in Europe and be similar in every respect with what one finds in many parts, if not the whole, of India. Such being the case, it is not surprising that local institutions which have proved a success in India should now be flourishing on the banks of the Nile, Egypt having during the last thirty years borrowed extensively from India in the shape of District and Municipal Councils and other forms of local government. As India is now embarking on Home Rule on a somewhat broader basis, it may be interesting to discuss whether she cannot in turn borrow from Egypt and reorganise her Councils on the model of the Egyptian Legislature, which in many respects is in advance of anything that India has yet attempted in the way of self-government. Before discussing the question, it is as well to explain briefly to those who are unacquainted with Egypt how the existing Constitution in that country has been arrived at.

Lord Dufferin, who was sent to Egypt after the suppression of the Arabi Rebellion, drafted a scheme of government which subsequently materialised into a Legislature of two houses, the Legislative Council and the General Assembly, both bodies being a combination of nominated and elected members. In addition, there was an Executive Council of eight Ministers selected by the Khedive, but not necessarily from the members of either Assembly. The Council of Ministers was alone vested with the power to initiate legislation; proposals for increase of taxation had to be approved by the General Assembly; with this exception neither of these semi-elected bodies had any right of veto. But all laws had to be submitted to and discussed by the Legislative Council as an advisory body prior to promulgation. In the Legislative Council there were fourteen members elected by the Provincial Councils from their own numbers and twelve others nominated by the Khedive. The General Assembly consisted of eighty members, viz., eight Ministers, twenty-six members of the Legislative Council, and forty-six elected by the representatives of villages.

It is now impossible to say what form the Constitution would have taken had Lord Dufferin known that the English occupation was going to continue for so many years. Had the occupation come to an end, possibly the General Assembly might have fulfilled the purposes for which it was created. As things were, it rarely met, and it was, in fact, a negligible quantity, except on one famous occasion when Sir E. Gorst decided that it should be consulted in connection with the Suez Canal concession, although extra taxation was in no way involved. The proposal was rejected by the General Assembly, notwithstanding that it was strongly supported by the British experts in the Finance Ministry. Egyptian Nationalists will tell you that the Assembly justified its existence by its action in this matter alone. Anyhow, it was undoubtedly a mistake on the part of Sir E. Gorst to have appealed, only to be refused; English prestige in general, and his in particular, suffered in consequence. I mention the incident as it may serve as an object-lesson in India in the future.

But we need not proceed further with the merits or demerits of the General Assembly, as in 1913 Lord Kitchener came to the conclusion that the Egyptian Constitution left much to be desired. His lordship accordingly revised the Organic Law and reconstituted both Chambers into one Legislative Assembly, with "a fresh electoral basis giving a more equally distributed and comprehensive representation to the people." Lord Kitchener was undoubtedly right in amalgamating the two Chambers into one General Assembly; but whether the franchise he created is superior to Lord Dufferin's is, I think, open to doubt.

As I have shown, the fourteen elected members of the Legislative Council were chosen by the Provincial Councillors from amongst themselves, whilst the forty-six elected members of the General Assembly were elected by the village representatives direct. The General Assembly may, therefore, be said to have been the more democratic body of the two. Lord Kitchener argued (see Annual Report for 1913) that a Provincial Councillor might be an excellent adviser in provincial matters but an incapable legislator. Again, that a man whose opinion might be very inferior in local subjects might well be of assistance in shaping legislation. It was, therefore, not logical to select the legislators from your Councillors. It was better, in fact, to give the man in the mud hut (man in the street) power to differentiate as to who would make the best Councillor and who the best legislator. The obvious reply to this argument is that *all* Provincial Councillors are not necessarily incapable legislators, and those most likely to further the interests of the State would probably be selected by their brother Councillors, who presumably would be more capable of making the selection than the ordinary peasant.

On the other hand, many professional politicians would perhaps not care to seek, in the first instance, election to a Provincial Council, and their services would, therefore, be lost as legislators. But this objection could be met by accepting as candidates for the Legislative Assembly others besides Councillors, still reserving the selection to Provincial Councillors. I cannot recognise Lord Kitchener in the rôle of a democrat, but radical reformers will undoubtedly agree with his lordship and tell you that by limiting the field of selection or the electors the fundamental principle of democracy is involved. I must, I fear, plead to being a Conservative in this respect. In my opinion it is a very moot point, even in the West, whether the man in the street should be allowed any direct vote for other than Local Councils. In Egypt and in India I do not hesitate to plump for Lord Dufferin's system of franchise rather than Lord Kitchener's. It is often forgotten that when democracy insisted on having a voice in the Government and a vote, the House of Commons was the only popular governing body in England. Since then decentralisation on a very liberal scale has been introduced and still continues; one's ideas of a franchise have, therefore, to be readjusted to an entirely different point of view. In India and in Egypt we have very wisely commenced from the bottom of the ladder, and the last thirty years has seen local self-government extensively developed, what with village Councils, "Talooka" and District Boards, etc., etc. The man in the mud hut has, therefore, a good deal to say in local affairs, all that really interests him or that he knows anything about. If necessary, give him still more power in connection with these local institutions, but do not ask him to decide who shall sit in the Legislative Assembly; let this be left to the "Elders" he has selected to govern him in local matters. If you extend the franchise you only widen the field for political organisations and wire-pullers generally; you get no nearer the so-called sovereign will of the people, for the simple reason that the majority are often unable to understand the issue and have no particular "will" to guide them.

As a matter of fact, too, I do not think that either the Indian or Egyptian Nationalists trouble themselves much about the popular vote. From their point of view the success or failure of any scheme of Home Rule will depend on whether the Executive forms part of, and is responsible to, the Legislative Assembly. We have seen that in Egypt the Executive, or Council of Ministers, is a body quite apart; I have often wondered whether it would not have been wiser, if from the first Lord Dufferin had laid down that the Council of Ministers should be selected from the Legislative Council he created. It certainly would have been one grievance less for Nationalists to agitate about, and I am sure that in the early days of the occupation elected Ministers could not have opposed their English advisers more than did Nubar, Cherif, Riaz, etc., who were nominated by the Khedive. At all events, I have recollections of a very rabid Nationalist becoming quite tame

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when he was selected as a Minister on Lord Cromer's advice.

An elected Executive will take a good deal of swallowing in India, and I sympathise with the civilians who have for years ruled so successfully, whatever Mr. Ramsay Macdonald may say to the contrary. But the old order will soon die out, and, speaking from thirty years' experience in Egypt, I can say that persuading native Ministers has its attractive side. I often look back with pleasure to my association with Riaz Pasha, one of Egypt's strong men in the past. I did not always succeed in getting him to agree with me, but we remained the best of friends to the end, and I hope he respected me as I did him.

But to return to our Legislative Assembly, or whatever name it will be called in India, let the authorities with whom the decision will rest take their courage in both hands and create in each Presidency an elected Assembly with an Executive or Council of Ministers selected from that Assembly.

In Egypt, Lord Kitchener had comparatively an easy task to make the Assembly representative. Arabic was the common language, and provisions had only to be made for the Coptic community and the Bedouin tribes outside the elected body. This his lordship accomplished by providing for the nomination of a very limited number in addition to the elected body. There are no other nominees of the Government in the Assembly, but the non-elected Council of Ministers now takes part in the debates.

In India, to create a thoroughly representative body is a very formidable undertaking, if not an impossible one. In the Bombay Presidency alone Hindoos speak, besides English, three different vernacular languages recognised as official. There are also Mohammedans, Parsees, and a variety of sects and castes for whom special provision would have to be made. I do not see how it is possible to include all their interests by any scheme of proportional representation, at least to give the majorities anything like their fair share would mean the Assembly running into hundreds not at all desirable. I think that the only possible scheme is to let the District Councillors elect the Legislative Assembly not necessarily from their own numbers, but as delegates of the people, the District Councillors being themselves elected by village or group delegates. Provision should also be made for nominating a limited number from the most important minorities who might otherwise remain unrepresented.

(To be continued.)

THE "EGYPTIAN GAZETTE."

Owing to the paper shortage and its ever-increasing circulation, the *Egyptian Gazette* has decided to raise its subscription rates for Egypt, the Sudan, and Palestine as from the beginning of November. The new rates are as follows:—Twelve months, P.T. 300; six months, P.T. 160; three months, P.T. 90; one month, P.T. 35. For other parts of the world the old rates remain, plus P.T. 5 per month extra for postage.

CHURCH ARMY HUTS IN PALESTINE.

Prebendary Carlile, speaking at a sale of work in aid of the Church Army Recreation and Refreshment Huts for Soldiers, which was opened by Princess Arthur of Connaught at the Central Hall, Westminster, on November 27, said the Church Army were making arrangements in Palestine for work among the soldiers. They were expecting to have a telegram at any moment to say that they had got the Tanner's House in Joppa. He thought it would be put to much better use than tanning leather, if it were employed to brighten the lives of the boys who had gone on this pilgrimage in the Holy Land. He was also hoping to hear shortly that the Church Army Recreation Tent had been pitched on Mount Olivet.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE KING OF MONTENEGRO AND AUSTRIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—During a recent debate in the Rome Chamber, Signor Labriola (Independent Socialist) is reported to have read two telegrams respecting Montenegro. The first (according to this account), bearing date of December 21, 1915, from King Nicholas to the late Emperor of Austria, ran as follows:—

> "Your troops having occupied my country, I ask you for an armistice and peace. Your generous and chivalrous heart cannot be cruel to my people."

The Emperor Francis Joseph (again according to Signor Labriola) replied:—

> "I am glad to learn that your Majesty wishes for peace, which shall be made on the conditions already known."

The extracts and statements made by Signor Labriola, both as regards the telegram sent by King Nicholas, and equally the telegram of the late Emperor Francis Joseph, are entirely inexact. It simply is not true that the Austrian Emperor telegraphed that peace would be concluded "according to the already known conditions."

The text of the Emperor's reply was as follows:—

> "The conditions for the suspension of hostilities have already been communicated to your Majesty by my chief Military Commander. On being duly requested by your Government, the said commander will hand over the answer of my own Government."

What, then, were the circumstances in which King Nicholas was originally compelled to send his telegram to the Austrian Emperor? In the first place it was because this was the work of his Government, and in the second because the supreme Montenegrin Military Command (composed of high *Serbian* officers) demanded it. Before any telegram was sent, the Montenegrin Government had sent in their resignation, alleging that King Nicholas had rejected their proposition of suing for peace. And it also must be remembered that the Chief of the General Montenegrin Staff, the *Serbian* Colonel Pescitch wrote of his own initiative to the King proposing that Austria be approached with a demand for peace on account of the desperate condition of the Montenegrin army, left entirely destitute of all munitions and starving from want of food.

With one or two exceptions, the King of Montenegro was alone in his opposition to the discussion of peace terms, and his final consent to the sending of the telegram was forced upon him; at the same time his own personal conviction was strong that Austria was *not* prepared to conclude any reasonable peace terms. The King had already decided that he would never place his signature to any treaty of peace with Austria.

In order to save the country from its tragic situation and to render possible the conclusion of peace, one of the Allied representatives at Cettinge had even suggested to the King that he should abdicate, but his Majesty, by avoiding such a course, saved the honour of his country.

If any further proof were needed as to the matter of the peace negotiations with Austria, we may take this very telegram of the Emperor Francis Joseph himself, because, if such negotiations *had* taken place previously, the Emperor would not have telegraphed that his Supreme Military Command would give the answer for his Government.

The politics of King Nicholas are strictly *National* and in close and perfect agreement with the "Entente"—during his long reign the King has never deviated from this line. Those who slander him now, accusing him, amongst other charges, of favouring a peace with Austria, are the same people whose wish was father to the thought, and who hoped to see this disloyalty accomplished in order to bring about his abdication.

The diplomatic documents, which entirely support every statement I have made, are well known to the Allied Powers, but the Royal Government of Montenegro feels that the time has not yet come for the full *exposé* of these extraordinary accusations and slanders, both in the interests of the internal politics of Montenegro itself, and also as regards the unity of action of the Allied Powers.

The whole matter has simply been part of a deliberate intrigue against King Nicholas and Montenegro—an intrigue perfectly clear to the King, who evaded it, and removed himself to France, his action thus refuting all the slanders directed against him and his country.

King Nicholas, as Sovereign of Montenegro, has always done his duty, and, together with his people, has suffered and remained steadily attached to the common cause.

I am, etc., ALEX. DEVINE.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Jews and Palestine. Nov. 19.

Mr. KING asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the desire of the Government to see established a Jewish Zionist nationality in Palestine had been communicated to the Allied Powers, especially to France, Russia, Italy, and the Allied States; and whether it was one of the Allied war aims, or only a British war aim, to set up a Zionist community in the Holy Land.

Mr. BALFOUR: No official communication has been made to the Allies on the subject of establishing a Jewish nationality in Palestine, but his Majesty's Government believe that such a declaration as a war aim would meet with their approval. His Majesty's Government hope that the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people will result from the present war.

British Prisoners in Turkey. Nov. 23.

Mr. HOPE, in reply to Mr. HUME-WILLIAMS, who asked how soon it was hoped that the conference between the Turks and the English with reference to an exchange of prisoners could take place, said it is anticipated that the conference between British and Turkish delegates at Berne will take place shortly, but the British representatives will not proceed there until information has been received that responsible Turkish delegates have left Constantinople. It has been frequently stated that his Majesty's Government are opposed to the exchange of valid combatants. The Turkish Government have consented to an official from the Netherlands Legation at Constantinople visiting internment camps for the purpose of ascertaining the requirements of winter clothing, but not for the purpose of general inspection and report. Opportunity will be taken of the Berne Conference to demand that full and unrestricted facilities for the latter purpose shall also be granted.

Ex-King Constantine. Nov. 26.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Allies guaranteed to ex-King Constantine an annual payment of 500,000 francs; if not, whether he could give the exact sum; whether he could state the services for which this payment was agreed to; whether any conditions were stipulated, such as, for instance, that the ex-king should not plot against the Allies; and whether he could give the proportion of this Royal income paid by the British Government.

Mr. BALFOUR informed Mr. Lynch, in reply, that the protecting Powers had not guaranteed any payment to King Constantine.

Mr. LYNCH: If they have not guaranteed him, have they paid him?

Mr. BALFOUR: The hon. gentleman is under a complete misapprehension. Nothing has been guaranteed, and, as far as I know, nothing has been paid.

Indian Army Officers.

Major H. TERRELL asked the Secretary of State for India whether officers in the Indian Army whose term of service had expired and who were over fifty-five years of age were, though unemployed, not allowed to leave India; whether such officers whilst unemployed received any and, if so, what pay beyond the pensions they have earned; would he say by what authority such officers were forbidden to return to England; and would he explain why such officers should be compelled to remain in India at their own expense and without pay?

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD OF EDUCATION: No information has been received to this effect, but inquiry will be made.

Major TERRELL asked whether officers in the Indian Army who had, during the war, been engaged on Staff work in France had been recalled to India, and there employed in various subordinate positions where their experience of Staff work on active service was of no use; and whether the Government would take steps to prevent such waste of Staff experience and see that experienced Staff officers are employed on Staff work.

Mr. FISHER: The Secretary of State for India must leave it to the judgment of the Commander-in-Chief in India to employ officers recalled from France to duty in India to the best advantage, having regard to their individual qualifications and capacities, as to which he is fully informed, and to the special needs for the time being of the Indian Army. At present experienced officers with knowledge of the Indian vernacular are urgently needed in India for the training of new units, and possibly some officers who have been on Staff duty in France are being utilised for this purpose.

The Exchange of Prisoners with Turkey, Nov. 27.

In answer to Mr. BLISS, Mr. J. F. HOPE said: My noble friend Lord Newton and Lieutenant-General Sir Herbert Belfield left this morning for Berne to meet Mouhktar Pasha and other Turkish delegates with a view to arranging an exchange of prisoners. They are accompanied by Mr. O'Reilly, of the Prisoners of War Department, and Captain Gattie, of the War Office.

Mr. BLISS asked whether there was any member of the British deputation who had special knowledge and experience of the Turkish Empire.

Mr. HOPE: I understand that the British representatives will have the benefit of the assistance of Mr. Matthews, who is in Switzerland, and who acted as Dragoman in Constantinople at the outbreak of the war.

Mr. BLISS asked whether he was a British subject.

Mr. HOPE thought he must be, and said he had been in the Levant Consular service.

Mr. TENNANT asked whether it was not a fact that Lord Newton himself had served diplomatically in Constantinople.

Mr. HOPE: I am not sure; but certainly he did in the Balkans.

General Milne's Despatch.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, asked by Mr. G. LAMBERT to state whether General Milne's despatch describing the operations of the British Salonika Force was published as received, or was edited for publication, and whether the Government was satisfied with the relations existing between the Allied Commander-in-Chief and other commanding officers at Salonika, said General Milne's despatch was only edited in regard to a few minor military details, the publication of which might have been of assistance to the enemy. The last part of the question was one that he could not answer.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Population of Busreh.

A census of the population of Busreh and 'Ashar was made in August, 1916, by house-to-house visitation, and the results have been published in the *Basrah Times*:—

The enumeration was conducted by men attached to the Sanitary Committee for Mesopotamia, kindly lent by A.D.M.S. (Sanitary) for the purpose. Each enumerator was given a certain definite area and was provided with an interpreter. The figures are as follows:—

	Total Civilian Population.	Troops and Government Employees.
Busreh	13,696	1,152
'Ashar	11,227	3,616
Arab Village of Um-el-Dijaaj	3,200	—
Estimated total	28,213	4,768
Total Population	32,891	

...The population comprises:—Arabs, 20,498; Jews, 3,347; Christians, 1,350; European civilians, 116; other nationalities, 2,812; total, 28,123.

The Arab population is distributed fairly equally between Busreh and 'Ashar. The Jews are almost entirely confined to Busreh; they occupy a definite quarter of the town. Christians are slightly more numerous in Busreh; in this term I include all indigenous residents professing adherence either to the Roman Catholic, Protestant, or Greek Churches, and include Syrians, Chaldeans, Armenians, converts (mainly Arabs) of the French Mission, Protestants (converts of the American Mission), and a few adherents of the Greek Church. "Civilian Europeans" are employed in the various agencies of Busreh. "Other nationalities" include chiefly:—Indians, Turks, Persians, Kurds, Soudanese, and a few Levantine Greeks and Russians. "Troops and Government Servants" are those occupying the barracks and billeted. The number of the staff and in-patients of the various hospitals were not included in the inquiry.

As the enumeration was a progressive act no meticulous accuracy is claimed for the figures, but it is believed they fairly approximate to the average population.

Reforms in the Hejaz.

An Arab correspondent at Jeddah records in *The Times* some of the reforms that have characterized the substitution of Arab for Turkish rule in the Hejaz. After describing the improved conditions under which the pilgrimage is now undertaken and the freedom of the pilgrims from robbery, extortion and violence, he mentions the steps taken to improve education and agriculture:—

Soon after organising the Government, the King of the Hejaz, anxious to educate his people, began to open schools. In Mecca five or six primary schools and one military school were opened a year ago. In Jeddah two primary schools have already been started, and preparations are being made for some others. An agricultural school and another for geology are also to be opened. The reader may laugh at this, but I assure him that there is a large area of land fit for agriculture, and there are many places that have plenty of water for irrigation, such as Mount El Huda, Wadi Qarn, Wadi Thimalah, and Wadi Adwan, as well as all the districts of Turbah and Southern Hejaz. The Arab Government has sent to Egypt and other countries for professors and teachers for these two schools.

The King has encouraged the teachers of theology and those who expound the traditions of Mohamed the Prophet in the Sanctuary at Mecca. Three courses of religious instruction are given daily in the Haram, on the lines of that given at El Azhar University in Cairo, and Arabic penmanship is also taught in the Haram.

There is still plenty of room for improvement in sanitation, but the municipalities of Jeddah and Mecca are endeavouring to keep the towns clean. Incinerators have been established,

POSTAGE OF NEWSPAPERS TO NEUTRAL COUNTRIES.

By an order of the War Office all papers posted to neutral countries are stopped, except those sent by the publishers or newsagents who have obtained special permission. No information is given as to the disposal of such stopped papers. Readers are therefore asked to bear in mind that if they desire to post a copy of THE NEAR EAST to a friend in a neutral country they should order its despatch by the publishers, at 1, Devonshire Square, London, E.C.2.

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and good hospitals with good practitioners are now to be found in the Hejaz. The Public Works Department is rapidly widening the narrow streets in Mecca, and steps are also being taken to improve the Customs Service.

The Future of the Khalifate.

An informative article in *The Moslem World* sums up the position in regard to the Khalifate, which is described as "the symbol of the traditionally and theoretically essential and necessary political unity of the Moslem world." The interest of the present situation, it is stated, lies in this question: Will the Khalif of the future continue to maintain this claim to the headship of a politically unified Islam, and will Islam continue to feel itself a political unity over against the non-Moslem world, or will the principle of nationality prevail among the Moslem peoples as it has elsewhere, and their Khalifate become merely a symbol of religious unity. After a brief reference to the early history of the Khalifate, the author, Professor D. B. Macdonald, continues:—

The resultant present situation can be put quite shortly. Moslems to-day look to, roughly, six different supreme rulers. By far the largest number render an allegiance, often dubious, to the Ottoman Sultan. On a basis of strict canon law his claim to that allegiance is shaky, for almost all Islam accepts as valid a statement put into the mouth of Mohammed that the Khalif must be of the tribe of Quraish, that of the Prophet himself. Abd ul-Hamid, the late deposed Sultan, felt the force of this so strongly that the tradition in question had to be omitted in collections of traditions printed at Constantinople. The true basis of the Ottoman claim is really pragmatic. That Sultan is undoubtedly the greatest independent ruler in the Moslem world, and to him, therefore, the headship belongs by right. This basis would, of course, vanish with the vanishing or considerable curtailment of Turkey.

The other rulers are (2) the Invisible Imam of the Twelver sect of Shiites. "All Persia believes that the twelfth in descent from Ali (the cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet and the fourth Khalif of the Sunnites) was removed by Allah (about A.D. 874) from the sight of men and is now being preserved alive in retirement until his time to reappear shall come." For Persians he is the real head of their Government, and the Shah is only a *locum tenens*. (3) The Aga Khan. (4) The Imam of the Yemen. (5) The Shereef of Mecca, who, according to the author, may be expected to raise the question of the Khalifate when independence has finally been recognised. (6) The Imam of Oman. Further, the Senussi, repenting of their recent union of the Turks, may, it is thought, take refuge in independence in regard to the Khalifate.

In the main, Professor Macdonald inclines to the view that the drift of Moslem thought is towards setting apart Mecca and Medina, with their surrounding territory, as a kind of Estates of the Church, and towards choosing as Khalif the head of the Shereef families there.

THE LATE DR. ELSIE INGLIS.

We regret to learn of the death of Dr. Elsie Inglis, M.B., C.M., Commissioner of the London Units of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, which took place at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on November 26. Miss Inglis, to whom belonged the credit of being the originator of the Scottish Women's Hospitals, served her country with the most praiseworthy self-sacrifice and devotion during the war. Serbia was the scene of her most strenuous work. She went there in the spring of 1915, when the typhus scourge was at its worst, and organised four big hospital units where the need was greatest. Thanks to the endeavours of herself and of many other workers of the Allied countries, the epidemic was overcome. Then followed the invasion, when Miss Inglis rendered equally meritorious service, and, through refusing to leave her Serbian wounded at Kraljevo, was captured by the enemy. Released with her staff after great discomforts, she wished to go to Mesopotamia, but, being unable to do so, continued her work for Serbia in this country. Then last year she set out for the Dobruja front, and went through the Roumanian retreat. She had only recently returned from Russia.

Under the presidency of Dr. Dickinson Berry, who, with her husband, Mr. James Berry, has rendered devoted service to Serbia during the last three years, a Serbian dinner was held at the Lyceum Club on November 26. The Serbian Minister and Mme. Jovannovitch were present, and among other guests were Dr. Popovitch, Dr. A. Trumbic, and Ivan Mestrovic. There was also a large gathering of women who had taken their part in helping Serbia. Dr. Berry said that the war had broken down barriers between nations, and in a brief but vivid description of some of her experiences told how the Allies were helping each other in ways which were not specially conspicuous, but were important and valuable. She was warmly supported by the Hon. Mrs. Haverfield in her tribute to the dauntless spirit of the Serbian nation. "The Serbian soldier, from the highest to the lowest, is a perfect gentleman," said Mrs. Haverfield, who added that she found the same excellent characteristics among the Jugoslavs.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
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The announcement that a first dividend would be paid on the ordinary shares of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company indicated excellent results during the past year, but the figures disclosed in the report make even better reading than might have been expected. The gross profits amount to £415,917, as against £178,386 in 1916 and £131,244 in 1915, while the net profits are £344,110, as against £135,037 and £90,431 for the two previous years. It is proposed to distribute 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares, the distribution involving the payment of 2 per cent. extra on the participating preference shares. £50,000 is placed to the preference shareholders' reserve, £100,000 to the general reserve fund, and £19,500 is carried forward. It is clear from these figures that but for the wise decision to commence the accumulation of reserves considerably larger dividends could have been paid.

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The most promising feature of the report, however, is the statement that the field from which the subsidiary companies are drawing present supplies continues to develop most satisfactorily. The wells previously brought in still flow with practically undiminished production, and the new wells drilled in during the year are of an equally prolific character, thus confirming previous opinions as to the great richness of this field. It is further pointed out that a well sunk in a reserve field has proved a large additional area of productive territory, while a good show of oil, with strong gas pressure, has been struck on one of the new fields now being tested. It will be evident, therefore, that the most optimistic views on the prospects of the field are well on the way to realisation, which makes it more than ever a matter for congratulation that this country is in a position to draw on this vast source of oil supplies.

***

The chairman of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Mr. H. A. Richardson, had some very pleasant things to say at the general meeting of that institution this week, a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue. There was, indeed, no reason for anything but optimism, for the past year has been the most satisfactory in the bank's history. For this happy result two factors are largely responsible. There is, first of all, the prosperity of the cotton industry, and, secondly, the fact that the presence of the troops in Egypt has largely increased banking operations. The chairman pointed out that to find figures approaching those of this year it would be necessary to go back a decade. "Then," he added, "Egypt was at the height of the ephemeral prosperity reached by the land boom, which collapsed in 1907, leaving wreckage which it took years to clear away. To-day its prosperity stands on a much surer foundation, with a balance of trade in its favour of over £20,000,000, and little or no speculation in land."

***

He then proceeded to illustrate the bank's progress by a few statistics, and showed that in the decade the deposits had grown by over £6,000,000, and they had £1 of liquid assets for every £1 of demand liability. Over the previous year deposits had increased by £1,500,000, and this improvement, he stated, was better than appeared because £1,000,000 which could only be regarded as temporary money had been replaced by deposits of a more substantial character. Among the other interesting facts he cited was that the investments of the bank included £1,000,000 Five per Cent. War Loan written down to 93. Before closing, Mr. Richardson briefly touched on the prospects of the current year. "The cotton crop," he said, "is estimated at 6¼ to 6½ million cantars, and, so far, our reports go to show that the quality of the arrivals in Alexandria is a great improvement upon that of recent years. If shipping can be provided for the greater part of this supply, Egypt will again coin money, for prices are well above last year's quotations.

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The general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, which is reported elsewhere, was notable for the optimism expressed by the chairman, Lord Claud Hamilton, for the future of the undertaking. He stated that he was very hopeful about the fortunes of the company when the war came to an end, as he thought Egypt would then become a great place of resort during the late autumn and winter months for both American and British people. For the rest, it is only necessary to note his statement that the improvement in the company's position during the last quarter of the financial year has been maintained up to the present time.

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From what Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Director of the new Commercial Intelligence Department, said in his recent address to Liverpool business men, it is evident that the new department will fulfil expectations by working on far more satisfactory lines than its predecessors. The department, he said, was a "permanent department of action as well as intelligence, and if there should be an opening in a foreign country which Government support could legitimately develop it would receive that support." That seems to indicate the coming removal of the principal grievance that our commercial enterprise has failed in the past to receive the least semblance of official support. I also note with interest Sir Arthur's statement that the whole consular and commercial attaché service should be completely remodelled with the object of making it as helpful to the commercial community as a Government department could, also that "foreign policy in future must be very largely industrial and commercial in outlook and aspect."

***

The experiments that have been conducted in Egypt to find a substitute for coal as a means of meeting the present shortage have borne fruit, for Mr. John Wells has now produced a scheme by which gas can be made from vegetable matter, cotton stick, fibre, and other substances instead of anthracite. Obviously, the value of the process at the present time depends entirely on whether and to what extent it will be possible to adapt existing machinery to the purpose. There seems no reason to suppose, however, that there will be any undue difficulty in doing so, and it is satisfactory to learn that steps have been taken to encourage the adoption of the process, for, while its use will not solve the coal shortage, it will, at any rate, make existing supplies go much further than they otherwise would.

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Among the new Greek taxes that are being imposed to cope with the unfortunate financial situation in which the country was placed by the late Governments is one of two drachmæ a kilo on exported tobacco. Egypt provides the best market for Greek tobacco, but it seems probable that one effect of the new tax will be a considerable diminution of the demand from that source. Until recently Greek tobacco was in small danger of serious competition in Egypt, but for some little time now Chinese and Japanese tobacco has been imported on a large scale, and it is to be presumed that the increased price of Greek tobacco will mean greater imports from these sources. It has to be remembered that there is no hindrance to the importation of Asiatic tobacco, and its cheapness—the best only costs PT55 per oke, while Greek tobacco never costs less than PT60 per oke—combined with its fair quality, which enables it to be blended with other tobaccos, gives it a great advantage, and now that the Greek tobacco is to be taxed, the Asiatic product wil not improbably take its place in the market.

***

The rapid growth of our Army finds apt reflection in the increasing prosperity of the business of Cox and Co., the well-known Army bankers. On October 4 the deposits stood at £16,921,400, as against £13,392,000 on October 9, 1916; while the cash holding was £7,638,000, as against £5,892,200 for the previous year. Treasury bills stood at £1,272,000, as against £1,928,000, but bills of exchange amounted to £2,760,700, as against £1,547,700, and investments in securities were £2,357,200, as against £1,909,800. Advances to customers stood at £3,170,200, compared with £2,420,000.

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THE CALCUTTA HIDES TRADE.

Retrospect and Prospect.

Recent developments in connection with the Calcutta hide trade have again brought the question of the control of this important —one might say vital—industry into prominence. Since the war this trade has been the subject of various special arrangements culminating in the appointment of a Buying Committee in Calcutta composed of various prominent firms of purely British origin. This action met with undisguised approval both here and in India, and was generally regarded as settling the question of the control of this trade during the war. Now, however, it appears likely that the whole matter may be reopened. The trade is not one of purely Indian concern; its organisation is a matter of import to the Empire as a whole, and it is essential, therefore, that any change made must be justified on broad Imperial grounds. In the present case a proposal to include as agents of the Government members of the old hide ring has met with considerable opposition in Calcutta. The firms composing the Buying Committee are not unnaturally surprised at what must be regarded as the singularly vacillating attitude of the authorities. Apprehension at the outlook is no less widespread in London than in Calcutta, and in the circumstances it may be hoped that the authorities will pause before putting into force what those best qualified to know regard as an ill-considered proposal.

Growth of German Influence.

The *raison d'être* of the Buying Committee can best be illustrated by a brief survey of the position of the trade in recent years. Like so many other important British industries, the Calcutta hide trade at the outbreak of war was almost exclusively in German hands, as, indeed, it had been for nearly thirty years previously. The methods by which the result was achieved were very similar to those employed by the enemy elsewhere. The German firms in the trade were a "ring," and contrived to handle the great bulk of hides by the simple method of boycotting any outsider who dared to enter the trade. Against this ring nothing short of an effective combine working with the favour of the authorities would be of any avail.

Effect on British Trade.

The Germans firms, incidentally, had all the external support they could wish. They worked through a hide organisation at Hamburg, and they had above all the inestimable advantage of Government support, which took the form of a fiscal policy favourable to the increasing import into Germany of raw hides. Small wonder is it then that the figures for the export of hides to Germany and her Ally rose to 70 per cent. of India's total production. The balance practically represents the quantity of hides normally tanned in India and subsequently exported to this country, so that the enemy was obtaining his raw hides at the expense of British firms. The vision of British tanners turning to other sources of supply while on the other side of the North Sea German tanneries drew increasingly from British sources is not a pleasant retrospect, but it is unfortunately neither more nor less than the truth. And all this for lack of organisation. It need hardly be added, perhaps, that in the years immediately preceding the outbreak of war the German and Austrian imports of hides swelled to an enormous figure. The statistics are such as to leave no room for doubt that during that period India was unconsciously supplying the enemy with the raw leather necessary for his military plans. And there is some ground for the belief that the process did not stop there, for after the outbreak of war an immense business by firms still left in the trade was done with neutral countries.

Government Action.

We have seen the nature of the situation which confronted the Indian authorities in regard to the hides trade in 1914, and it now remains to examine the steps which were taken to deal with it. Almost at once the Government took steps to liquidate certain firms, at the same time licensing others with a German element, the licensed firms altering their constitution so that they could continue in the trade. Subsequently the Imperial Institute was asked to form a committee to inquire into the conditions of trade before, during, and after the war. The committee's findings were that the trade had been conducted to exclude all British firms and to further the interests of German tanners, whose wants were specially studied, and it recommended that during the war no firm having any connection with the pre-war German "ring" should be permitted to remain in the trade, and that after the war an export duty of at least 10 per cent. should be placed on all hides, to be rebated when proof was given that the hides had been tanned within the Empire. In these proposals it seemed that a sound and practical solution of the situation had been found. The next development followed when the British Government, requiring all the raw leather it could obtain, and being probably suspicious of the destination of the excessive Indian exports to neutral countries, became the sole buyer of all available hides. Thereupon, the India Government, to carry out the wishes of the home administration, invited certain British firms to form a Buying Committee, a step which was fully in accordance with the recommendations of the committee of the Imperial Institute. The firms concerned gave their consent on the understanding that no firm of German origin, or concerned as members of the old German "ring," was associated with them, and this stipulation was approved.

The Buying Committee.

With the establishment of the Buying Committee composed as it was of the leading British experts in the trade it might have been thought that nothing further remained to be done. Unfortunately the Government seems inclined to alter its policy, and to throw open the buying business to all firms, a course that would admit even those whose antecedents in regard to the German trade were not wholly above suspicion. This action, in present circumstances, would be little short of disastrous, for now, if ever, is the time to place the control of the trade on a sure footing, so that there can be no danger in the future that the trade will ever again be diverted from British hands. The removal of restrictions, so far from being calculated to achieve this end, might even prove a step in the opposite direction. In the present committee the authorities have at their disposal a body admirably fitted to frame a scheme for the future regulation of the trade. It is known, indeed, that the members had that idea in view when they took office, being under the impression that the committee would become the nucleus of a federation strong enough to resist any "ring" that might be formed in the future. The importance of the realisation of some such project lies in the fact that the German "ring" may, and probably will, be revived after the war, and then, if we are not ready to fight the enemy with suitable weapons, we must be prepared to see all that has been accomplished during the war came to naught. The trade will again flow to Germany, and the revived tanning industry in this country will endure a second death. Of equal importance is it that the arrangements for the control of the trade should be so ordered that they will readily lend themselves to the process of transition. The Home Government has fully realised this, and is taking steps accordingly, and it is the hope of all interested in British trade that the Government of India will work on similar lines, so that when the war ends the trade will be adequately organised to meet German opposition.

HOLLANDIA RICE MILLING COMPANY

In the House of Commons on November 26, Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that the Hollandia Rice Milling Company, Ltd., Rangoon, was at the beginning of the war deemed by the Government of Burma a hostile firm and placed under control; that it was found that shares in the company were held by a German firm and by a Dutch firm trading in Germany; that one of the directors was resident in an enemy country; whether he was aware that irregularities were discovered; that on May 4, 1917, it was notified in the *India Gazette* that the firm was to be wound up, but that on or about June 1 the Government of India suspended the liquidation and cancelled its previous orders; whether he would state the reason for such cancellation; and what representations were made, and by whom, to induce the Indian Government to take such a step?

Mr. Herbert Fisher: So far as the Secretary of State's information goes, the facts are generally as stated in the first three parts of the question. He has no information that irregularities took place while the firm was trading under control. The business was ordered to be wound up on May 5, but on representation from the Netherlands Government this order was withdrawn on June 9. The Government of India then reported that the company was being allowed to carry on business pending discussion regarding its possible reconstruction. Further inquiries are being made as to the future position of the company.

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EGYPT'S TRADE.

Improved Returns for September.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, October 26.

The trade returns for September published by the Customs administration show an improvement in both imports and exports. Imports during the month amounted to £E2,760,223 and exports to £E2,037,179, as compared with £E2,715,175 and £E1,518,688 a year ago. For the nine months the figures are imports £E21,715,670 and exports £E27,596,522, as against £E22,429,644 and £E19,952,534 at the end of September, 1916. The balance of trade is therefore steadily increasing in favour of this country.

Chief Imports.

The principal imports during the month were meat, £E269,344; flour, £E77,505—75 per cent. more in value but slightly less in quantity; raw sugar, £E182,166; petroleum, £E86,864; coal, £E384,118—about 20 per cent. less in value but only half the quantity imported in the previous September; chemical manures, £E148,019; textiles, £E770,538; cotton tissues, £E414,839—a decrease of 40 per cent. in quantity and 20 per cent. in value; and tobacco, £E180,469. The chief exports were skins and tanned goods, £E63,718; cotton seed, £E40,870—a decrease of 66 per cent. in value and in quantity; sugar, £E75,409—more than double in quantity; gum £E37,441—practically nil last year; and cotton, £E1,584,713—the value increased by £E542,033 and the quantity by 7,040 cantars. Cigarettes valued at £E29,766 and weighing 22,499 kilos were exported, a slight increase in value but a considerable one in quantity.

Trade with the United Kingdom.

Although the total imports remained the same for the month Great Britain's share fell by 20 per cent.; the deficit was, however, made up by India and Australia. The chief British imports were coal (all), textiles (over 80 per cent. of the cotton tissues) and worked iron and steel. Australia sent all the meat and India all the flour, tea, pepper, indigo, sacks and 80 per cent. of the cotton threads. The share of the United States and Italy fell off considerably, whilst those of Greece and Chili improved very much, the former owing to tobacco imports and the latter to nitrates imports. Under exports Great Britain's portion improved somewhat though not quite in proportion to the general increase. France doubled her purchases, Italy trebled hers and Japan took £E26,467 as against practically nothing this time last year. All the cotton seed and cake went as usual to Great Britain and 80 per cent. of the cotton. The balance of the latter went as to 12 per cent. to France and 7 per cent. to Italy. France took almost all the gum and cotton seed oil, whilst 75 per cent. of the sugar went to the same destination, the balance going to India. During the month new silver coins to the value of £E80,000 were imported from India, and new nickel coins worth £E10,000 from England.

Trade with the Sudan continued to flourish during the month. Imports into Egypt amounted to £E122,360 as against £E53,725 a year ago, and exports to the Sudan rose to £E128,101 from £E104,285. The principal imports into Egypt were live-stock, £E316,730; cereals, £E15,410; gum, £E216,915, and cotton £E36,979. Exports to the Sudan of note were refined sugar, £E38,890, and cotton tissues, £E14,801.

SHIPPING AMALGAMATION.

Another P. and O. Purchase.

The P. and O. Company has concluded another important shipping deal by acquiring the fleet of large modern steamers of the Nourse Line, owned by James Nourse, Ltd., of London and Calcutta. For over half a century the Nourse line has participated in the East and West Indian trade, its vessels being usually employed in the trade between Calcutta and the islands of the Southern Pacific.

The business will, it is understood, be maintained as a separate organisation. This makes the second shipping line to have been acquired in recent weeks by the P. and O. Company, for only about four weeks ago an agreement was concluded for the purchase of the Hain Steamship Company, Ltd.

TREBIZOND FILBERT CROP.

Uncertain Outlook.

In a district occupied by two belligerent forces, says the United States Consul at Trebizond, in a message dated August 25, it is impossible to obtain official or even reliable semi-official crop statistics. The two principal dealers in filberts, however, have informed this office that they estimate this season's crop for the coast district from Eloa to Hopa (the former to the west and the latter to the east of Trebizond, a distance of approximately 120 miles) to be about 18,500,000 pounds.

Last season's estimate for the immediate vicinity of Trebizond proper was 4,340,000 pounds, as against 17,551,000 pounds in 1913, and 31,000,000 pounds in 1914, an abnormal year. How much of this year's crop can be regularly gathered is very uncertain. The dealers are discouraged and their trade has already been seriously affected. They are also handicapped by the fact that the local executive committee has fixed the selling price at 8 roubles a pood, which at the normal rate of exchange equals $11.41 per 100 pounds; whereas the market price obtained in a near-by town where the sale is unrestricted is about 24 roubles a pood, or $34.22 per 100 pounds. The normal price before the war was $5.66 per 100 pounds.

Yield in Previous Years.

In 1910-11 the crop of filberts was smaller than in 1909-10, showing a difference of 24,000,000 pounds. The total exports for the season were 107,113,300 pounds, to which 5 per cent. for local consumption should be added to show the total amount produced. Of these exports 48 per cent. went to Germany, 22 per cent. to Austria, 10 per cent. to France, 10 per cent. to Egypt, 4 per cent. to America, 3 per cent. to England, and 3 per cent. to other countries. The crop of the 1911-12 season proved to be much smaller, the total being only 58,591,400 pounds. Prices were consequently much higher; they reached $6.11 per 100 pounds, as compared with $4.02 in 1910-11.

TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Question of Government Control.

The Swansea Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting protested strongly against the proposals that the Government control over imports and exports should continue for three years after the war, and expressed the opinion that trade would recover and extend by the removal of the present restrictions and limitations at the earliest possible moment after the conclusion of peace. The Chamber strongly urged that no period of time for control after the war should be decided upon until the views of traders were first ascertained.

The question was considered at the London Commercial Sale Rooms on Monday, and a similar attitude was taken up, the following resolution being carried by acclamation (there being only one dissentient):—"That this meeting of merchants, brokers, and others connected with Mincing Lane is strongly opposed to the continuation after the war of the Government's control of trading; and it declares that the best interests of the Empire require that the ordinary channels of business should be resumed with the least possible delay."

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Eastern Competitors.

In previous engineering notes we called the attention of British manufacturers to the great efforts of Japan to capture the Eastern trade hitherto in the hands of the manufacturers of Central Europe. Her recent bargaining with America to hand over to the latter what shipping she could spare in exchange for steel is a proof of her well-organised plans for the development of her iron and engineering industry for that, as well as other purposes. But apart from the businesslike Japanese activity, there is another rising competitor nearer than Japan, and fortunately within the British Empire, but of whom nevertheless careful note should be taken by the manufacturers and trade unionists in the United Kingdom. It is India, whose production of iron and steel is now large enough not only to supply the requirements of the country, but to send a fairly large amount to Australia and the Far East, where Indian brands are beginning to be well known. The principal customer is Japan; whilst in the financial year 1915-1916 the Indian Government took 85 per cent. of the output of the Tata steelworks alone for munitions. But apart from her potentiality in iron and steel, India is also progressing in the engineering industry, and in a short time will be able to supply a great part of the agricultural machinery and implements needed annually for the cultivation of her own vast lands, and perhaps of other Eastern countries. One of the latest indications of India's progress is her entrance into the motor manufacturing industry. A well-known Calcutta firm, we hear, has turned out a vehicle which has been built throughout in that city. Japan has also made good progress in motor manufacturing. The question therefore arises to what extent India, with her cheap and abundant labour and inexhaustible supplies of raw materials, and Japan will be able to compete with British trade in the Near, Middle, and Far East. This question must be seriously considered by British manufacturers.

New Gas Carburetter.

The utilisation of town-gas as fuel in motor-cars is attracting the attention of all users of motor-cars, and especially of companies owning commercial cars employed in transport or mail service in the East. The scarcity of petrol there is much greater than in this country, and hundreds of vehicles remain idle for want of petrol. Apparently only the want of sufficient information prevents owners from deciding whether flexible containers or pressure cylinders should be adopted. To such owners, as well as to others, it may be of interest to know that there are gas carburetters that can be used either with flexible containers or pressure cylinders. The chief features of one of the newest carburetters for such purpose is that it can be inserted between the present carburetter and the induction pipe; and either petrol or gas can be used at will without alteration. When using petrol, extra air can be let in through the gas carburetter, and when using gas the extra air can be let in through the petrol carburetter. Of course, when using gas the petrol is turned off. This carburetter is suitable for using gas from a collapsible holder or from a pressure system, and it is said that it does away with all difficulties when using gas from pressure containers, which defects consist of wasting gas, and from choking the induction system when the throttle is closed. The reducing valve is intended to be used in connection with an ordinary common reducing valve, which will reduce pressure from ,say, 1,500 lbs. to 2 lbs. or 3 lbs.; then this valve is put in, and this reduces the pressure down to a few ounces if necessary, and provides a reservoir for the engine to draw from.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Upward Movement Continues.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

Prices in the market have continued to advance, and there seems to be no end to the upward movement. The increased rates required by spinners have somewhat checked operations, but the inquiry, especially in certain quarters, remains healthy, and it is evident numerous buyers believe that the top in values has not yet been reached. Very important matters are now engaging the authorities with regard to the future of our industry. The Control Board has considered the wages question and the curtailment of the running of looms. The weaving employers, in response to the application of the operatives for an increase of wages of 40 per cent., have offered 10 per cent. in December and a further 5 per cent. in February, and the proposal is receiving the consideration of the representatives of the workpeople. It is expected that the operatives will receive an advance in wages, but there is every probability of the levies upon the masters being continued and compensation paid to the employees who are thrown out of work as a result of the stoppage of machinery. No particular fresh news has been received relating to the Egyptian cotton crop. A demand has again been experienced in Egyptian yarns, and producers of both carded and combed qualities have tended to consolidate their position, which is now very strong. Operations in cloth for Egypt have not been quite so extensive. Some shippers seem to have satisfied their more important wants for the time being. There are expectations of rather freer exports during the next week or two, and very high freights are being paid.

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CAWNPORE WOOLLEN MILLS CO., Ltd.
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Everything in Pure Wool.

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Flannels, Serges, Blankets, Tweeds, Broadcloths, Coatings, Hosiery, Rugs, Puttees, Uniforms, &c., &c. . . . .

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Long Life Wool Wear

Costume and Suiting Materials, Blankets, Rugs, Lohis, Hosiery, Puttees, Uniforms, Liveries, &c., &c.

CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

The thirty-first ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., was held on Friday at the bank, 27, Clement's Lane, E.C., Mr. H. A. Richardson (the Chairman) presiding. The Secretary (Mr. George H. Soul) read the notice and the report of the auditors.

The Chairman said: I propose:—"That the directors' report and the accounts annexed thereto be received and adopted." Egypt has continued to prosper and we are able to give you record accounts. We must go back a decade to find figures approaching the total of our present balance-sheet and the profit and loss account we put before you to-day. Then Egypt was at the height of the ephemeral prosperity reached by the land boom, which collapsed in 1907, leaving wreckage which it took years to clear away. To-day its prosperity stands on a much surer foundation, with a balance of trade in its favour of over £20,000,000, and little or no speculation in land. Since that time our deposits have grown by over £6,000,000 and our balance-sheets have shown an increasingly strong position. We have now £1 of liquid assets for every £1 of demand liability. Such a position is highly satisfactory to those responsible for the management of the business and the yearly accounts, and I imagine also to those shareholders who scrutinise our balance-sheets to form their own opinion as to the risk of uncalled liability. In 1907 we showed £133,000 profit— a record until to-day, when we show £144,000, after having provided for the heavy extra taxation now required. This really phenomenal increase of actual profits is due to the growth of our deposits, the high value of money in London, and last, but not least, to the care and ability of our officers at all our branches. The prosperity of Egypt is, as you know, due to its cotton crop and the high price realised for it. The crop was only 5,111,000 cantars, but its value was £42,000,000, or more than double that of the preceding one. The cereal crops were, perhaps less in quantity than those of last year, owing to a large reduction in maize, but they have contributed their full share, as there has been a big advance in prices, while the continued presence of large numbers of soldiers in Egypt has much more than made up for the suspension of the pre-war tourist seasons. It is said that Egypt has added during the war at least £30,000,000 to its wealth. Everyone connected with Egypt must deplore the death of the late Sultan, the trusted friend of this country. We may be sure that the new Sultan will follow in the footsteps of his predecessor; his reign starts with the brilliant victories in Palestine, and we may hope they will prove a happy augury for the future, and that under him Egypt will go on prospering more and more.

The accounts show the same strong position and much the same features as last year. Deposits have increased by 1½ millions, but the improvement is better than the figures indicate, because a million of what could only have been regarded as temporary money included in last year's total has been repaid and replaced by deposits which should be of a more permanent nature. Bills payable are reduced to a quarter of a million, and are now really cheques and demand drafts in the Post Office. Acceptances for clients have merchandise behind them, and are now a declining quantity, because business has become largely cash instead of acceptances against documents. Our war loss reserve remains intact, and will do so as long as we can continue as hitherto providing out of revenue for all ascertained and expected losses. Investments include £1,000,000 5 per cent. National War Loan written down to 93. Advances show a gratifying increase of half a million. The dividend and bonus we give you this year are equal to a 23 1-3 per cent. tax deducted distribution. I am sure none of you will object to our having reverted to the old bad habit of paying our dividends tax free. You have the satisfaction of contributing a substantial amount to the country for excess profits duty. As regards the current year, the cotton crop is estimated at 6¼ to 6½ million cantars, and so far our reports go to show that the quality of the arrivals in Alexandria is a great improvement upon that of recent years. If shipping can be provided for the greater part of this supply Egypt will again coin money, for prices are well above last year's quotations. For next season the area of cotton cultivation has been reduced in order to leave more ground for the cereals—a wise act, for there is little use growing more cotton than can be shipped, and the prices of cereals in Egypt have reached a level which must impose great hardships on the poor who cannot grow their food and people who have only small fixed incomes to live upon.

Mr. R. H. Foà seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held at the offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, London, on Tuesday last, the chairman of the company, Lord Claud Hamilton, M.P., presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors were read.

The Chairman said: Gentlemen,—The accounts for the year ended April 30, 1917, are in your hands. I regret that I am unable to report that the improvement shown in the accounts for the year ended April 30, 1916, was maintained, but it is a matter of congratulation that, in view of the decline in the receipts due to the exigencies of the situation in Egypt and to the great increase in the cost of the maintenance of the commissariat at Shepheard's Hotel, owing to the war, the profits earned reached the figure of £12,520. I may mention that considerable improvement in the position set in during the last quarter of the company's financial year, that this improvement has up to the present time been maintained and that it is the hope of myself and my co-directors that this will continue and be reflected in the next balance-sheet to be presented to you. With regard to the accounts, I have little to add to the directors' report attached thereto. The plant, fixtures and fittings have been consistently depreciated. The stock on hand has been valued by the hotel manager, and proper reserve has been made for any doubtful debts included in the sundry debtors. In conclusion, the best thanks of the board and of the shareholders are due to the members of the local board and to the hotel manager and his staff for the efficient manner in which they have carried on the company's business during this most trying year, which has been evidenced by the oft-expressed appreciation of the guests at the hotel. I now move:—"That the directors' report and accounts for the year ended April 30, 1917, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted."

A question was asked with regard to the sale of some property belonging to the company, and in reply Sir William B. Peat said that a portion of the purchase money had been paid. The company still held possession of the land. At the present time it was impossible to get the purchase completed, but they could rest assured that the directors were looking after the interests of the company, and that eventually it would be completed.

The resolution that the report and accounts be received and adopted was seconded by Sir William B. Peat and carried unanimously.

Sir William B. Peat proposed the re-election of Lord Claud Hamilton, the retiring director. As a colleague of his lordship, he said, he could testify to the assiduous care which the Chairman had exercised and the invaluable benefit which the Board had received from his experience and advice on all matters connected with the affairs of the company.

Mr. Stavridi seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman, in acknowledging his re-election, said he was very hopeful about the fortunes of the company when the war came to an end. He thought Egypt would then become a great place of resort during the late autumn and winter months for both American and British people.

On the motion of Mr. McAuslan, Messrs. Turquand Youngs and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A resolution was passed expressing the shareholders' appreciation of the able direction of the local board and of the assistance rendered by the manager and the staff, and a vote of thanks having been given to the Chairman, the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY REPORT.

ANGLO-PERSIAN.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., states that the profit for the year to March 31, after allowing for depreciation, debenture interest, home charges, etc., amounts to £344,109, to which has to be added the balance brought forward,

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CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
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WILKINSON'S (ESTD. SINCE 1829.)
ESSENCE OR FLUID EXTRACT OF RED JAMAICA
SARSAPARILLA
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Pronounced by the HIGHEST MEDICAL AUTHORITIES
the Safest and Most Reliable Remedy for
Torpid Liver, Debility, Eruptions, and the most WONDERFUL PURIFIER OF THE HUMAN BLOOD
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£33,646, making a total of £377,756. From this the following dividends, less income-tax, have already been paid on the preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum: For half-year to September 30, 1916, £30,000; for half-year to March 31, 1917, £30,000; and the directors now recommend the payment of the following further dividends, less income-tax:—6 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, £128,219; 2 per cent. per annum additional on the preference shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, £20,000, leaving £169,537; out of which the following appropriations have been made:—To preference share reserve fund, £50,000; to general reserve fund, £100,000, leaving £19,537 to be carried forward. During the year his Majesty's Government paid a call of 2s. 6d. per share on their 2,000,000 ordinary shares. Since the close of the year the balance of 7s. 6d. per share has been called up and paid, and the Government have also taken up the £199,000 of 5 per cent. debenture stock for which they agreed to subscribe. The loss sustained by the company in consequence of the cutting of the pipeline by Persian tribesmen has now been ascertained to amount to £402,887, for which a claim has been duly lodged with the Persian Government. No credit for this has been taken in the trading account. The new 10-inch pipeline was completed and brought into operation in January. This completed one-half of the programme of extensions for which capital was subscribed by his Majesty's Government, but the year under review only gained a partial benefit from this capital outlay. The full benefit will, however, be reflected in the results of the current year. The refinery extensions referred to in the last report have not yet been completed owing to the loss at sea of a portion of the plant, but this material has been replaced and the extensions will be brought into operation at the earliest possible date. To meet urgent war requirements further immediate extensions are necessary, and to provide the capital for these it is proposed to make an issue at a premium of a further 1,000,000 participating preference shares of £1 each, ranking *pari passu* with and having the same rights as to dividend and participation as the existing preference shares. The Treasury's sanction to the issue has been obtained. The field from which the producing companies are drawing present supplies of crude continues to develop most satisfactorily. The wells previously brought in still flow with practically undiminished production, and the new wells drilled in during the year are of an equally prolific character, thus confirming previous opinions as to the great richness of this field. A further well sunk in a reserve field has proved a large additional area of productive territory, and on one of the new fields now being tested a good show of oil, with strong gas pressure, has been struck, but it has not yet been practicable to estimate its producing capacity. Since the close of the financial year the directors have purchased from the Public Trustee the whole of the shares of the formerly German-controlled undertakings of the British Petroleum Company, Ltd., the Homelight Oil Company, Ltd., and the Petroleum Steamship Company, Ltd. These should prove valuable acquisitions. The seven tank steamers contracted for in 1915 are now in commission, and several others have been acquired. The company's fleet now afloat numbers twenty-two vessels.

THE
GENERAL ANGLO-SERBIAN INDUSTRIAL & FINANCIAL COMPANY, LIMITED,
106, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2

The Company has been formed to promote British Trade and Industry in SERBIA and other BALKAN STATES.

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Correspondence is invited from those interested in SERBIA and the BALKAN STATES, or contemplating business with these countries when communication is restored.

ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Street,
Thursday.

Business has been on a much larger scale this week, the better news from the Italian front having, no doubt, contributed to some extent to a revival in the demand from Egypt. The further large increase in the circulation of the National Bank of Egypt and the continued rise in the price of cotton have also been favourable factors. As regards Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds are again in demand at a quarter advance on last week's price; but business has continued very restricted, sellers being very scarce.

In Bank shares, Nationals, although unchanged until to-day, are now a firmer market, and close 3-16 up at 17⅛ on some good local buying. Agriculturals are 3-32 up at 6 5-32, all the shares on sale round this price having now been absorbed. A further rise of ¼ to 14 xd has to be recorded in Anglo-Egyptians. Land Banks are, exceptionally, 1-16 easier at 7, round which price some of the shares offering have been taken.

In railways, Delta Lights are 1/16 harder at 6 3/16. The features in Land shares have been Allotments, which have jumped up sharply ¼ to 3⅝, with a fair business doing, and Sidi Salems, which are over 5s. up at 20s. 3d. bid on some moderate buying in a rather restricted market. Aboukirs have improved 6d. to 21s., with a fair amount of business passing. Behéras are looking rather firmer, but their price remains unchanged at 13. Delta Lands have been neglected, but Gharbiehs have been in demand on Egyptian account, and are over ⅛ up at 1¾ bid. New Egyptians are 3d. higher at 15s. 7½d., with a large business going on daily; and, as the price of these shares is now higher in Egypt than on this side, it would not be surprising, should the present favourable tendency continue to see a further accentuation of the rise in these shares. Union Foncières are 3/32 higher at 2⅛, and here also a very fair amount of buying from Egypt has taken place up to about 43s. In United Egyptian Lands there are some biggish buyers about round 1s. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts are 3d. firmer at 7s. 9d., and, in view of the appreciation in many of the holdings, the shares should go to a higher level.

In Miscellaneous shares a small transaction took place in Alexandria Waters at 12⅜, and some business has been doing in Markets, which are 3d. higher at 27s. 9d. Salts and Sodas have been quite a feature, and, on buying from Egypt and local demand here, have improved about 2s. to round 36s. 6d. Khedivial Mails, after rising to 39s. 9d., close 3d. down to 39s.

In Greek securities the market has a firmer look, and some business has been done round current prices; but, apart from a rise of one point in 1890's to 56, there is no change to record.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) were unchanged at 28s. 6d.-29s. 6d., as were Roumanian Consols at 10s. 3d.-11s. 3d. Otherwise the market was rather weak. Burmah declined ⅛ and North Caucasians 1-32.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of Ruston Proctor and Co. have declared a dividend of 5 per cent. per annum on the ordinary shares, the same as last year.

Egyptian Markets.—First 5 per cent. debenture coupons No. 38 falling due December 1, are payable at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, 27, Clements Lane, E.C., at the face value, and at the branch offices of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank at Cairo and Alexandria, at the current rate of exchange.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.—On and after December 1 the registered office will be at 194, Palmerston House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2.

Spies Petroleum.—The eighteenth general meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., on December 6, at noon.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov. 23	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83⅛	83⅜
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72	72
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	61	61
Do. 4 %, Monopoly, 1887.....	49	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	55	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	74½	74½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	84	85
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Lm. 1913	92	67⅛	67⅛
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	68½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56⅝
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	6 1/16	6 3/16
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7⅜	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	14⅜	14 xd
Bank of Athens.....	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅜
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¼	4⅜	4½
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7 1/16	7
National Bank of Egypt	13¾	16⅜	17 1/16
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf.			
Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅛	6 3/16
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17¾	9⅜	9⅜
Piræus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	72½	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	20/6	21/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Béhéra Co.....	8½	13	13
Do. Pref.	4⅛	4 1/16	4 1/16
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	2/6	2/6
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	7/6	7/9
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	1⅜	1⅜
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	15/4½	15/7½
Sidi Salem Co.....	1/8	21/3	26/7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2 3/32	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/1½	1/1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12 1/16	12½
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1 1/16	27/6	27/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	1/4	34/6	36/6
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅛	39/3	39/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3¾	3⅜

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Nov. 16.	1917. Week Nov. 15.
Cattle markets	1,087 ..	447
General markets	382 ..	476
Receipts (£)	1,469 ..	923
Total for year	47,357 ..	49,357

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
November 21	290,000	60,000
November 22, 23, 24	680,000	630,000
November 25	250,000	100,000

INDIA'S TRADE BANK.

In the House of Commons on Wednesday Sir J. D. Rees asked the Secretary for India whether he could give the House any information regarding the reported establishment in India of a trade bank; and would he say to what extent this bank, in the event of the report being founded upon fact, was to be a State or a State-aided institution.

Mr. Fisher, who replied, said the Secretary of State had seen the statement in the Press, but he had no further information. He had not sanctioned the establishment in India of a trade bank.

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CAPITAL - - - - £3,000,000.
(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

Governor: F. T. ROWLATT.

HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

E. W. P. FOSTER, C.M.G., SIR CARL MEYER, Bart.
HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

London Agency: 6 and 7, KING WILLIAM STREET.

MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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THE NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT,
at CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA,

who will be pleased to open Banking Accounts with them, and transact general Financial Business for them during their stay in Egypt.

HENRY S. KING & CO., London.
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THE EASTERN BANK, LIMITED.

Head Office: 4, CROSBY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.

Subscribed Capital, £1,500,000. Called up, £600,000. Reserve Fund, £70,000. Reserved Liability of Shareholders, £900,000

Branches:
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THE NEAR EAST

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 344.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The military interest of the week has again been concentrated on the Western front. In Mesopotamia there was no particular activity, except for the briefly reported British success on the Diala, nor was any to be expected so soon after the appointment of a new Commander-in-Chief. In Palestine the rapid advance of a fortnight ago has come to an end for the time being, but, fortunately, it has not been necessary in General Allenby's case *reculer pour mieux sauter*. No doubt he will jump far enough and fast enough when the time comes, and the present interval is certainly not being wasted. The Turks have made one or two ineffectual assaults on our positions, and they are naturally strengthening their line against the further attack which is seen to be inevitable.

Meanwhile the Turkish talk of a separate peace continues and rather increases. The picturesque Hungarian, Count Karolyi, who has been staying in Switzerland for some days past, having persuaded himself that the Allies were ready to treat for peace, has admitted that Turkey is ready to consider proposals; and he appears to be sincere in his declarations, since he remarks that neither Bulgaria nor Austria is in a similar frame of mind, and further gives it as his opinion that Germany will come out of the war as the dominant Power in Europe—a doctrine which is hardly likely to ingratiate Karolyi with either England or France. (It is interesting to note that Admiral Tirpitz in an incautious interview has let slip that he is not so happy about the position, since in his opinion England has won more than Germany so far; but in fairness it must be admitted that his pessimism may be induced by half-pay.) As to Turkey, if she really requires a separate peace, she knows where to apply for terms. The marriage with the Kaiser has been so disastrous that one can well understand her desire for a divorce—particularly if she could be sure that Germany will not obtain custody of the one child of the union, the Baghdad Railway.

Unfortunately the alleged Turkish desire is matched by the Russian demand for a separate peace, which has already reached the stage of an armistice accomplished on the Eastern front between Russia on the one side and Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria on the other. From an armistice to the actual conclusion of peace may be a long or a short road; the Leninites have talked so much of "no annexations and no indemnities" that they may find the position a little awkward when they discover that Germany is out for the control of Poland, Lithuania, and Courland, a desire which her official spokesmen have so far veiled in rather clumsy language. Bulgaria has shown no such modest reticence. She has made it known that she insists on Macedonia, the Dobrudja, and part of Serbia—a demand which, if acceded to, would leave her the largest State in the Balkans.

The present heads in Russia, if they can be so called, have shown themselves so complaisant to German opinion and so hostile to the Allies that they may even swallow these demands, making peace at the expense of the western provinces of what once was Russia and of Roumania. In that case Germany would have won the game, but not the rubber. The position in the Balkans would be serious in the extreme, but not hopeless. Roumania would be isolated, since Russia would certainly not allow the Western Allies to communicate with Jassy; but we know that Roumania, with a heroism for which no words can be too high, intends to carry on, whatever happens. She has this consolation, that Kaledin in South Russia has no intention either of making peace with Germany or recognising the Berlin-subsidised Government of Lenin; and the position in the Ukraine is also not necessarily permanently favourable to the Central Powers, despite their intrigues of the last decade.

For the time being, Russia can no longer be considered as a great power—Siberia has this week imitated the other provinces and formally declared its independence—and the political situation both of Roumania and Turkey must, therefore, be profoundly modified. At the moment this is undeniably all in Germany's favour, but this will not necessarily prove to be so permanently. While the Teutonic Press is naturally exultant over this immediate gain, the more sober elements in the enemy journals seem to show an undercurrent of doubt, and to fear that a situation which has so suddenly turned in their favour may equally suddenly become clouded. No competent observer, either on the German or the British side of the hedge, believes that the present situation in Russia can last, and any change must almost necessarily be to our advantage. It is quite on the cards that Germany may make peace with Russia, and then discover that the real Russia will not make peace with her.

For the moment, while her statesmen are considering terms, her soldiers are certainly considering fresh campaigns. There are nearly two million German and Aus-

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trian prisoners in Russia and Siberia, and the main object of the German General Staff no doubt is to speed up the politicians to make peace in order to get these men back again. The details of the conflict between the two will not be known for many a long day, but nobody who has read the memoirs of Busch will forget the conflict that raged between Bismarck and Moltke on the subject of peace terms in 1871, or doubt that a similar struggle is in progress now. If Germany makes peace, these prisoners will be a great asset to her, even though their numbers are subject to rather considerable deductions from the fact that a large proportion are Austrian Slavs, who cannot be depended on in the field.

These prisoners, together with the armies which will no longer be needed against Russia—the latter, however, being mostly second-line troops and men resting after Western service—would give Germany a large addition to her wasting man-power. Now these troops must be used in one of three ways:—(a) In the invasion of England, which from Germany's standpoint would be best of all, if it promised any chance of success, since she looks on England as her arch-enemy; (b) in the renewed attempt to break through the French front, which would give her a chance of reaching Paris and perhaps the Channel—an excellent second best, according to the Berlin calculation, but only a second best, since she would still be unable to touch England or the outer world; and (c) an attack on Roumania, Greece, or Italy, or the reinforcement of Turkey. This would in many ways be only a third best for Germany, since it would not win the war outright, as it would leave the Western Powers who are the stay of the war untouched. But it has in it superficially more of the elements of immediate success; it would be more satisfactory to Germany's allies (who, after all, may still venture to put in a word for themselves from time to time), and it would please those who wave flags and "look on the map," *à la* Bethmann-Hollweg. In that event the Salonika front, after a long stagnation, would again become of primary interest.

President Wilson has declared war on Austria, as was anticipated in THE NEAR EAST a fortnight ago, and he has stated that this should logically lead to war against Turkey and Bulgaria, only that these are "mere tools of Germany, and do not yet stand in the direct path of our necessary action." It may, nevertheless, become difficult at some future date for America to avoid a declaration of war against these States, unless indeed Turkey succeeds in cutting the painter. President Wilson has indirectly answered Lord Lansdowne's letter by his action; but while his speech will be welcomed by the Entente, it is possible that one passage in it will cause some uneasiness among the Jugoslavs—that in which he remarks that "we owe it to ourselves to say that we do not wish in any way to impair or to rearrange the Austro-Hungarian Empire." Now, the Corfu declaration, when carried out, implies a very considerable rearrangement and diminution of the Austrian Empire, and it has been generally understood that President Wilson was firmly in sympathy with this propaganda—indeed, some passages of his past speeches could be cited in support of that movement.

Probably, however, the governing clause in his speech "the peace we make must deliver the people of Austria-Hungary, the peoples of the Balkans, and the peoples of Turkey, alike in Europe and in Asia, from the impudent and alien dominion of the Prussian military and commercial autocracy"—will be accepted as sufficiently satisfactory by the small nations of the Near East and the peoples which are struggling for nationality. If Austria could be freed from Prussia, it would not be very difficult for the Roumanians and Jugoslavs to free themselves from Austria.

Lord Curzon's statement about Aden added little to our knowledge of the military position, probably for the excellent reason that there was little to add. He announced, however, that Aden has been transferred from the India Government to the Foreign Office. The change is not, perhaps, very important, although it may denote a certain change of orientation, Aden having been considered for the last fifty years "the frontier fortress of India," as the Cape used to be two centuries ago, whereas now it will have a constitutional status somewhat akin to that of a Crown Colony. The present war, however, has made so great a change in the prospects of the vast region between Egypt and India that there is something to be said for control of one of the vital points of the route directly by the British Government.

The news that the campaign in German East Africa has at last been brought to a successful end will be received with almost as much interest and relief in India as in England. Indian troops have taken a prominent part in the reduction of the last and largest of the German colonies, and the possibility of Indian settlement in that country after the war has already been discussed in various quarters. For many centuries, of course, before the Germans or even the Portuguese came to East Africa there was communication between that coast and India, but no actual settlement has been made there. Now, however, that the religious prejudice against crossing the sea is getting less in India there seems to be no particular reason why this method of coping with the ever-present population question should not be tried. It would help to relieve the position in India, and it would undoubtedly be of advantage to the development of East Africa.

The few German newspapers which have mentioned the British Government's decision with regard to the future of Palestine have affected to regard it as a mere political move, which will remain entirely without influence either on the course of the war or on Jewish opinion. That it will not affect the military situation will, of course, be admitted; it was never intended to do so. But the idea that it will not touch Jewish opinion is already demonstrated to be false. Appreciation has already been expressed in Jewish circles in Sweden and Holland among neutral States; from America have come messages of sympathy and congratulation. It was not, of course, to be expected that the Jews in Germany would openly express their approval; they are not in a position to do so, and some of them, no doubt, who are thoroughly acclimatised to the bleak Prussian soil, take only an academic interest in the project, although after the war, when the scheme is a success, they may find it wise to revise their opinion, if they intend to retain any real connection with Jewry. But it is palpably ridiculous to pretend that the great bulk of German Jews take no interest in the home of their race, and it will need more than a newspaper denial to convince the world that they are not following the development with acute interest.

Indeed, it may be suspected that discreet inquiries are being made through neutral sources as to the scope of the project. The official announcement, it will be remembered, necessarily confined itself to a statement of the main principle, and left the details in a nebulous condition, presumably for subsequent discussion. Much depends on the details, but these, of course, are to a large extent a matter for discussion with the Jews themselves. And on that matter, no doubt, Jews in enemy countries will take care to be informed. They will not need to rely entirely on such information as the German Government allows to be published for their knowledge.

In Lord Brassey's record of the Sunbeam, which has just appeared, is a reference to the ex-Queen of Greece which may be quoted. "Her Majesty was an annual visitor to Eastbourne; often I had the honour of being her partner at lawn tennis. When we sat out on one occasion, I remember, after a few moments of silence, these words of exclamation, 'Dear, dear England! How I love your land! How completely I feel at home when I am here! There is no land I love so truly.'" But *tempora mutantur, et nos mutamur*. . . . The Kaiser's sister has since dissembled her love with some success.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 2.

The Secretary of State for India.

Mr. Edwin Montagu, Secretary of State for India, has arrived here with his suite on his way to India. He is staying at the Residency as the guest of Sir Reginald and Lady Wingate. On Saturday last he was received in special audience by the Sultan, to whom he was introduced by the High Commissioner, and by whom he was afterwards entertained to luncheon. The guests included the Earl of Donoughmore, Sir William Duke, Sir J. Makins, Mr. Charles Roberts, the Prime Minister, the Ministers for Education, Justice, and Public Works and War, and the Hon. Mervyn Herbert and Captain Alexander, of the Residency Staff. On Monday Mr. Montagu, accompanied by Mr. Keown Boyd, of the Residency, visited Al Azhar, where he was received by the Chancellor and the Ulema. He made a complete round of all the classes, and had a long conversation with the Indian students.

The Egyptian Frontiers.

At their last sitting the Council Ministers approved of the grant of an additional credit for the formation of two further detachments of Camel Corps. These men are intended to do duty at the various frontier stations, where the situation is no longer such as to warrant the retention of British troops and where the work of policing can quite well be done by Egyptian forces. The new administration recently formed for the control of the various frontier territories has got going, and appears to be doing quite good work. It must not be expected that this new organisation should do anything more than simple police work, however, for it must of necessity be to a large extent a native-staffed department. Any extensive development or pacification of the regions it is called upon to administrate would require the employment of a large leavening of white men, and these cannot certainly be spared at present from the very much more important war work which still remains to be done in this part of the world. The fact that the new administration is able to arrange for the freeing of British troops from frontier police work for employment at more vital points alone should be sufficient justification for its existence, without its being expected to undertake any other more ambitious schemes.

In this connection it is interesting to note that the process of replacing able-bodied soldiers by civilians in the various base offices is proceeding apace. Ladies have been introduced into every branch, including Intelligence, and it has thus been found possible to send further up the line a considerable number of men who would have otherwise been employed less usefully. In addition, the civil administration has stepped in to the assistance of the military, and has set up what are known as civilian employment bureaux in Alexandria and Cairo for the recruitment of office labour from the civilian population, European as well as Egyptian, for employment in the various offices at the bases and in the Canal zone. I understand that these bureaux have registered a very considerable number of men for this work, and that the military authorities are daily drawing on them for labour to a very large extent.

The Control of Supplies.

The new Department of Supplies is gradually settling down to its functions under the Controller, Mr. J. I. Craig. Offices have been taken for it in the buildings occupied in peace times by the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the labours of which have been suspended since the war, and the complete control of all supplies will soon be carried into effect. Already the various Tariff Commissions have been forbidden to alter prices of the various commodities inscribed on the tariff without the previous permission of the department, and steps are being taken to put an end to the absurd anomalies which previously existed and which certainly were a source of irritation to the population, and to introduce some system of co-ordination between the provincial and urban tariffs. It will, of course, be some time before all the questions affecting supplies are tackled, for that depends largely on staff, and it is an exceedingly difficult matter to find the requisite men; but in the meanwhile no time is being lost in grappling with the more pressing and more serious features of the situation.

The Government has just issued an interesting note with regard to the functions of the new department. It puts on record the fact that it has been created for the control of foodstuffs and articles of first necessity, with a view to assuring that the quantities necessary to the country are available and to regulating their distribution in the various districts; but that its prime object is not, as has been somewhat freely stated, to buy up all the crops, so as to assure supplies for the British forces operating in and based upon Egypt. It is, of course, quite possible that the department will be called upon to arrange for providing these forces with certain supplies, but the Government points out that only such quantities as can be spared by Egypt will be taken up by the military authorities. This is a decidedly comforting communication, for it means that the requirements of the local population will be satisfied before anything is withdrawn for consumption by the British forces, and it allays for all time the fear which was prevalent that the purchases made by those forces would create a shortage locally in certain commodities.

The Racing Season.

The Cairo racing season was opened by an excellent meeting at Heliopolis on Saturday last. Owing to the high Nile, it will not be possible to open the racecourse at Gezira until a much later date than usual this year, but an ideal arrangement has been made whereby the course at Heliopolis, which has been closed for several years now, will be used until the inundations have subsided, and ultimately weekly meetings will be held alternately at Gezira and Heliopolis. The racing last week was excellent, and was thoroughly appreciated by the large khaki crowd that attended. It was in every way an auspicious send-off to the winter racing season, and all concerned are to be congratulated on the very satisfactory arrangements made by them.

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CONSTITUTIONS IN THE MAKING.

By COLES PASHA

(*Continued.*)

In many respects the Egyptian classification of Ministries will form a useful precedent for a Presidency Executive. In 1913 Lord Kitchener decided that "Public Health" had outgrown the ordinary dimensions of a department, and very rightly cut off some of its branches, which really had little connection with public health. I think that his lordship would have been still wiser had he created a Ministry of Public Health and added to it the control of Local Government institutions which are now under the Interior. I suggest that this be done in India; we should then have a Presidency Executive consisting of Ministers of Justice, Interior, Public Works, Agriculture, Public Health and Local Government, Finance, Education, or seven in all.

The Ministry being an elected body and responsible to the Legislative Council, the Governor of the Presidency should cease to take an active part in the Council, representing the Crown rather than the Executive Head of the Presidency, as he does now. The Governor should be assisted by a Privy Council of four, two of whom should be members of the Indian Civil Service and two natives of India, to be nominated by the Governor-General in Privy Council. Every Act passed by the Legislative Council should be submitted for approval to the Governor in Privy Council, who would have the right to veto or approve the same, but not to amend. In the event of non-approval or veto, the Act to be returned with a reasoned statement as to why it has not been approved. If again submitted with a two-thirds' majority of the Council and again not approved, the final veto to rest with the Governor-General in Privy Council. The Governor in Privy Council should also have the power of summoning, adjourning, and dissolving the Legislative Council, the latter power, as also the dismissal of Ministers, to be exercised only after the approval of the Governor-General in Privy Council.

As the Governor will cease to take any active part in the debates of this Council, a "Speaker" will have to be appointed to preside. He should be selected from the Civil Service, not elected by the members. In contradistinction to the ex-officio presidents of the District and Local Boards, the Speaker of this Legislative Council must not be a managing director or dictator in any sense of the word. He should have no preconceived ideas on political questions, but, nevertheless, must be a strong man on points of order and procedure, as it will rest entirely with him to rule out objectionable motions, and the maintenance of order generally will be no easy matter. He will be responsible, too, that the Legislative Council does not exceed its powers and attempt to legislate on matters reserved as now for the Government of India.

I am of the opinion also that in case of a dissolution of the Legislative Council or dismissal of Ministers and the non-appointment of others, the Governor in Privy Council should carry on the duties of the Executive for the time being, and provision should be made for this in any Self-Government Act which may be introduced. The occasion will, I am sure, never arise, but the fact that the Statute contains such a provision might possibly, in some remote contingency, obviate the necessity of proclaiming Martial Law.

A period of three years will suffice for the life of the Council, and in ordinary circumstances the outgoing Ministers will continue in office until their successors are appointed.

There are many other details which cannot be dealt with in the space of a short article, but these are broadly the lines which, in my opinion, Presidency Home Rule should follow. The Indian Nationalist will be so pleased that he will probably not question the very real safeguard surrounding the elected Executive. On the other hand, I suppose my Indian Civil Service friends will be more than shocked at such radical proposals. But I can assure them that everything will go on much as it does now, and after a time it will come quite as natural to interview the native elected Minister to persuade him to accept your views on any particular reform as it is now to call on the Member of Council.

With the permanent Indian Civil Servant below and the Governor in Privy Council above, the Indian Minister will be between our old friends the "anvil and the hammer," and not have much of a chance of kicking over the traces, even if he desired to do so.

The reform (if you like to call it so) of the Presidency Council is comparatively easy; it is when you reach the Government of India, and higher still the Secretary of State in England, that the problem of Home Rule becomes much more difficult to solve. A well-known Indian reformer, now deceased, has left a last will and testament in the shape of a scheme of a Legislature for the Government of India on the model of the German Federal Council and Reichstag, and it seems to be generally accepted that the Reform Act of India will more or less follow these lines. But it must not be forgotten that the India Government is not acquiring sovereign powers ceded by other States, as Germany and Australia did. The Government of India possesses already sovereign rights; it is delegating to, not acquiring from, subordinate States. Perhaps, therefore, there is not the same necessity for a Federal Council or any other form of Second Chamber. But the great difficulty is, of course, that, even if you accept an elected native Executive in a Presidency, the Government of India's Council of Ministers must for many years still to come be composed largely of Englishmen—Interior, Justice, Education, and Public Works might *possibly* be filled by natives of India, but the Minister of Finance, War, Foreign Affairs, Railways, and Postmaster-General must certainly be English. A mixed Ministry of this description would in no way be under the control of an elected Legislative Assembly, whatever its relations with the Governor-General might be. The question arises, therefore, would it not be better to follow the American rather than the German precedent and keep your executive entirely separate from your elected Legislature, the Governor-General appointed by the King-Emperor taking the place of the elected President?

I am inclined to think that this offers the best solution, and is more in keeping with the existing form of the Government of India. There does not appear, however, any necessity to have a Senate and a House of Representatives; a single Chamber will suffice; but I should prefer to see it elected after the manner of the American Senate rather than after that of the German Reichstag. Lord Bryce has, I know, laid down that, whatever precautions you may make, the will of the people will nevertheless have the final word. In America, perhaps, but not in the East!

We have seen what a formidable task it is to elect even for a Presidency a popular Chamber to include all interests; it is certainly impossible to find seats in one Legislative Assembly for every community who may claim the right to be heard in the government of India as a whole. It seems to me wiser not to attempt to do so, merely leaving it to the Legislature of each Presidency to elect members to sit in the Legislative Council of India. In America the Legislature of each State elects the same number of Senators irrespective of size and population of the State. There is a special reason for this in America which does not exist in India. It seems only right, therefore, that the more important Presidencies should have a larger number of representatives in the Indian Council than the smaller Lieutenant-Governorships. (If all are not re-grouped into Presidencies.)

I would also ignore the American precedent, and would allow the Executive to take part in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly as the Ministers do now (since Lord Kitchener's Reform Act) in Egypt, an English Minister presiding instead of a Speaker.

The same Egyptian law should also be a guide in the matter of initiating legislation, both the Executive Council and the Legislative Assembly being given the right to do so. But I would once more follow the American procedure and keep the Governor-General (the President) outside the Legislative Council, reserv-

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ing for the Governor-General in Privy Council the same rights of veto or final approval of legislation emanating from the Legislative Assembly of India as the local Governor has for Presidency legislation. As the Executive of the Government of India will be a nominated and not an elected body, there does not seem to be any necessity to grant the Governor-General in Privy Council the right to dissolve the Legislative Assembly, and its life might be prolonged to five years instead of the three of the Presidency Councils. It might even be made an Assembly which never dies, as the American Senate.

The Privy Council should consist of six members, three being members of the Civil Service and three being natives of India to be nominated by the Secretary of State.

It may be observed that I have suggested a Minister of War rather than the Commander-in-Chief for the Viceroy's Council. As we all know, there has been much discussion on this point in connection with the late Lord Kitchener. I may state that at a private dinner given to Lord Kitchener in Cairo when he was on his way to India I, amongst others, was an interested listener when Lord Kitchener made no secret of what his views on the subject were. I remember that I remarked afterwards to my host that the official life of the Military Member of Council would not be a long one, as it was clear that Lord Kitchener intended to be the Minister of War as well as Commander-in-Chief. In fact, his lordship evidently thought that the Military Member of Council was, as Minister of War, more powerful than the Commander-in-Chief. It seemed clear to us that Lord Kitchener did not object to there being a Minister of War, only that it was not a post for an officer on full pay and of *subordinate rank to himself* to hold. This view of the case is not usually taken by Lord Kitchener's critics, and on this account the conversation after dinner is, I think, of interest.

Such is the brief sketch of a scheme which, I think, will satisfy Nationalists and do no harm, even if it does no good. It may be asked, "Why, as you recognise the difficulties of popular control in the Government of India, do you go out of the way and ask for trouble in the local government of a Presidency by creating elected Councils and Executives responsible to those Councils?" My answer is, "If I rightly understand the question, we are not out to consider what is the best form of government in India, but the best form of limited Home Rule which it is *agreed* shall be established. We have, in fact, reached India's goal, as *The Times* puts it. For the last fifty years we have been creating Municipal and District Councils, etc., etc., and teaching the people how to govern themselves. The next step is assuredly the Local Self-Government of a Presidency, even if the Government of India continues much as formerly."

As I am neither a politician nor a professional contributor to magazines, I suppose I have no right to be heard. On the other hand, it does not fall to the lot of every man to have served in the East for forty years with some of England's ablest administrators. I should indeed be wanting, if I had failed to form any views of my own on the various forms of government I have been associated with. I venture, therefore, to offer the conclusions I have arrived at for the consideration of the authorities who will have the final word on the Indian Home Rule proposals about to be discussed.

THE CITY AND M. VENIZELOS.

In a telegram to the Lord Mayor of London, the Mayor of the Piræus, M. Panagiotopoulos, says:—"The Piræus community, whose great Hellene, M. Venizelos, happens to be its first citizen, felt with national pride particularly deep emotion for the splendid welcome accorded at the Mansion House in the glorious metropolis of the British Empire to the great leader of Hellenism which was addressed by the Lord Mayor and eminent British statesmen. The Piræus Community, thankful and proud of the high honours bestowed on their eminent citizen, whose intrepid courage and sublime political ability enlarged Greece and afterwards entirely saved her from complete destruction, and now elevated her to the eminence of being allied to Great Powers excelling in civilisation, beg to express to your lordship cordial sentiments of infinite honour and gratitude from the people who are ready to suffer any sacrifice in partaking in the great struggle for humanity's highest ideals for which the noble nations of the Entente fight."

PERSIA AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

TABRIZ, October.

Signs of the Times.

Some time ago I was complaining to a highly intelligent Persian friend of the absence in such a large city as Tabriz of a good school, of free hospitals and of orphanages. I also pointed out that there was no good daily newspaper—not even a weekly one. His reply was that a newspaper was impossible, as it was bound to be the mouthpiece and organ of "others." We should not be able to write in it what we liked, but only what was allowed or ordered. Much of the latter would be in direct conflict with Persian interests, but the paper would have to publish it or run the risk of being suppressed.

This conversation took place during the old Russian régime. There is now a different Government in Russia; liberty is the order of the day, and Persia enjoys a certain amount of relaxation from Russian pressure. One of the first-fruits of the new-born freedom in Tabriz is the appearance of a Persian weekly magazine called *Tajaddood* (Reform). It is reported to enjoy the financial support of the Ministry of Finance.

The Democratic Party.

In a recent issue of the *Tajaddood* appeared the official manifesto of the Central Committeee of the Young Democratic Party. It read as follows:—

Brothers! The day of our expected liberty has come. It is time now that we should demand the punishment of those wicked officials who, continuously and unlawfully, have violated and pressed under foot our rights. Let us dismiss these traitors to the nation and enemies of their country, and let us give their positions to the promising young men of Iran, who are full of patriotism and energy. Let the seals of authority be allotted to these young men to whom treason is unknown, and who would not sacrifice the State's interests to their own personal gain. Do not allow those mean Ministers who are prepared to sell our country to foreigners to remain at their high posts. Do not be afraid to accord these wicked men their due punishment; the times demand it. The sordid desires and inclinations of these men are not in harmony with our present-day freedom. The work of regenerating our nation and country should be committed to those who would be responsible to the nation, and who would devote their whole energy and ability to leading Iran in the paths of progress and prosperity. O ye workmen and artisans of Iran, do not become careless, but work together, for yours is a glorious future, and victory. The successful issue of the Mejless elections depends upon your wide-awake and wise action. Take lessons from the experience of the past. Our country and our religion require us to be very careful in regard to the future.

Official Changes.

A similar manifesto was published in Teheran. Some changes both in the Cabinet and among the municipal officials of Tabriz have since taken place; but whether they were due to the manifesto it is difficult to say. Hadji Nazim, the Mayor of Tabriz, has resigned, and has been succeeded by Hadji Nizam-ed-Dowleh. The Assistant Governor has been dismissed; but the substitution of one "Dowleh" for another "Dowleh," of Sirdar Somebody for Sirdar Somebody Else, may not mean much as far as the real interests of the people are concerned. Persons are changed; the class from which the new officials are drawn remains the same. But the Democrats affect considerable satisfaction, although their own ranks have not been drawn upon to fill the vacancies. In any case, they urge, their voice has been heard and the party has secured recognition. Be that as it may, the fact remains that some of the dismissed officials were in very bad odour with the Government; they owed their appointments to Russian influence or pressure, and as soon as that influence was eliminated the men were removed from their offices.

But, as the event has proved, the people can now talk, and can also formulate demands. Moreover, they argue that if the Government to-day is willing to take a step forward to meet the people's wishes, to-morrow it may be willing to take ten steps. A good father was always telling his son that he ought never to be satisfied with a subordinate position, but ought always to try to become the head of something—a school, a factory, a firm, a party, or a community. If he could not be head of any of these, at any rate, let him be "head" of his own head. The Democrats, on this principle, have not yet become the head of the Government, but they have at least succeeded in being the head of their own party interests.

A further step taken by the Democratic Party (*Moutaraphiun Irani*) has been to send a telegram to the Joint Council of the Russian Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates in Petrograd. It ran as follows:—

The Russian Consuls and their officers in Persia, who were appointed by the former Government, and are still holding their

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posts, are men of violent and unlawful principles. Their views and actions do not correspond with those of the new Liberal Government of Russia, and it is very desirable that they should all be replaced by men sharing the liberal and democratic opinions of Democratic Russia. They continue to follow the policy of absolutism in conjunction with their Persian agents and friends.

A list of officials falling under this ban was appended. No reply has so far been received—Petrograd has had some domestic troubles of its own in the meantime—but Consul-General Beliazeff has gone, and has been succeeded by an adherent of the new régime.

A Popular Demonstration.

There was a great procession in Tabriz the other day organised by the Democratic Party. Persian and Russian bands headed it, and in the ranks were Persians, Armenians, all the Russian troops in Tabriz, as well as the members of the local Council of Soldiers' Delegates. After visiting the Russian and British Consulates the procession went to the cemetery, where fiery speeches were made in honour of Persian and Armenian revolutionists—from the days of Sattar Khan to the present time—who had fought and fallen for the freedom of ancient and glorious Persia.

FORESTRY IN CYPRUS.

(From a Correspondent.)

An increase in the production of timber is admittedly among the pressing needs of the Empire, and the grant of £40,843 for the advancement of forestry in Cyprus, recently announced by Mr. Hewins, shows that the possibilities of this small dependency have not been overlooked. The re-afforestation of vast, devastated tracts, once so well clothed with trees, is one of the principal and most obvious needs of Cyprus. Had the interest on £40,000 been devoted, under expert advice, to this object during the last thirty or thirty-five years, the state of things as regards replanting would have been very different from what it is now. As it is, the feelings with which the announcement should be welcomed cannot fail to be mingled with some anxiety as regards the application of this comparatively large sum in the minds of those who have watched the course of events during the last forty years.

The British Government in general, and the Colonial Office in particular, have often been charged with indifference to the fortunes of Cyprus; and those who have made the charge would have little difficulty in showing cause for their suspicions. It is unnecessary to discuss them here. Whether the accusation is well founded or not, certain it is that Cyprus, while being drained by a grossly unfair annual "tribute" to the Porte, has until recently been treated with extreme parsimony. It is also undeniable that Britain, as Trustee for the island under the Anglo-Turkish Convention, has not done all that ought to have been done; for the fact was candidly admitted by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain during his tenure of office as Colonial Minister.

The case as regards the forests can be very briefly stated. When Cyprus was occupied in 1878, the reckless and criminal cutting down of trees, under the maladministration of many centuries, had been such as to threaten the speedy and utter denudation of the mountains, in which the remains of the State forests flourished, or, rather, languished. Sir Garnet Wolseley, the first Governor, lost no time in getting an Ordinance passed to amend the existing Turkish law for their protection, control, and management. In 1882 Sir Robert Biddulph reported that Cyprus was "in a critical stage as regards her forests." An able officer of the Forest Department in France, M. Madon, was appointed to take up the post of Principal Forest Officer. He made two admirable reports, and it would have been well, if many of his suggestions, pronounced as out of the question under the régime of rigid economy, had been carried out. After two years of valuable work, M. Madon left the island. An officer of the Indian Forest Department, Dr. Dobbs, took over the work; but during his brief sojourn he was almost exclusively engaged on forest delineation. Since that time not a single official who has had any training whatever in forestry has been in charge of the office. Circumstances, of course, called for a continuous, vigorous, and vigilant forest policy, and the Colonial Office cannot be exonerated from blame in allowing a generation to pass without taking the steps which were required. The Forest Office was, in turn, tacked on to that of the Land Registry, and that of agriculture, and it was not for years that it became an independent department; but still no official trained in forestry set foot in the island. In 1909 Mr. D. E. Hutchins was invited from East Africa to examine and report on the forests. He found that good police work was being done, and that precautions against fires were in hand, but that goat grazing still remained to be dealt with. Even now, there is reason to fear that the problem of the goats, which ought to have been drastically solved many years ago, is not handled with the firmness that is called for.

Much valuable time has been lost; but this is not all. There seems to have been a positive unwillingness to act upon the counsels of scientific advisers, even when they have been specially called in to study and report on local conditions. No one who has studied the various reports of these experts and the outcome of the missions can fail to note that their advice has generally fallen upon deaf ears. A few instances will suffice. A French expert, M. Mouillefert, was deputed to report on the island vines with a view to much-needed improvements, but practically nothing came of the suggestions made. When some years ago the extension of cotton growing was under consideration, Professor Wyndham Dunstan, F.R.S., Director of the Imperial Institute, was invited to visit Cyprus, and to report on its agricultural resources. Professor Dunstan recommended as essential the reorganization of the Agricultural Department under a scientifically trained agriculturist. This would have cost about £3,000 a year, to which objections were promptly raised. In the end, the cost was reduced to £1,000, to which the British Cotton Growing Association offered to contribute £100 a year. The authorities rejected the whole scheme.

The policy of progressive development inaugurated by Mr. Chamberlain led to a loan of £314,000 for a harbour, railway construction, and irrigation works. £60,000 was spent on storage reservoirs, but they are generally regarded as a failure. Referring to them, Professor Dunstan remarked, "I trust that no considerable sum of money will be spent on the extension of the reservoir system, except on the advice of an expert of established reputation." Again, with regard to artesian borings, these were recommended during the earliest years of the occupation. Nothing was done until recently, and then work was carried out in a half-hearted and incomplete manner. Professor Dunstan naturally advised that this very important work "should now be thoroughly carried out under expert supervision."

Present circumstances indicate the need of great caution. The war has caused largely increased demands on all forest produce, and the latest reports show a rapidly expanding revenue from sales, both for building purposes, fuel, etc. (£17,606 in 1915-16, as against £10,229 in the preceding year). The increasing use of steam saws at work is ominous. The gift of 2,000 tons of firewood to the troops in Egypt was of course quite right and proper. But is there not some fear that the drain may become excessive and retard the equilibrium which it is the object to restore, in view of the slow rate of growth in the necessary process of re-afforestation? The chief cause for apprehension, however, would seem to be lest there should be a failure to provide efficient coadjutors in the work that lies ahead.

These observations imply no reflection whatever upon the officials who have been entrusted with the management of the forests. On the contrary, heavily handicapped as they have been owing to lack of properly equipped staffs, they have faced the difficulties of the situation, carried out arduous duties with the greatest zeal and energy, and can point to much valuable work.

Everyone interested in Cyprus will be delighted to hear of the forward movement which is contemplated, but from the foregoing remarks, which are made in no spirit of captious criticism, it will hardly seem surprising if some misgivings should exist as to the disposal of the grant. The results should certainly be watched with the greatest interest, as no one can doubt that the restoration of the forests must contribute very largely towards the prosperity of this long-suffering island.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CALCUTTA HIDES TRADE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Your interesting and opportune article on the Calcutta Hides Trade draws attention to a subject of the highest importance not only to India but to the British Empire.

This trade had been permitted to get into the hands of firms concerning whose character the India Government itself had suspicions. Some of the firms, therefore, were liquidated and others were allowed to trade under licence. The next step was to get British firms to enter the business, so that the machinery of distribution should be kept running. At the present time certain British firms are acting as a buying committee, and there is no doubt they are quite capable of carrying on the trade, although it is obvious that British tanners cannot immediately deal with the total quantity available as a result of the cessation of export to enemy countries.

Where the India Government has undoubtedly failed is in not finally eliminating all firms belonging to the pre-war "ring." It is difficult for British tanners or for members of the Buying Committee to believe that the complete eradication of German influence is intended so long as any "ring" firm is permitted to continue either in the hides or goat skins trade. Vacillation in this matter thwarts the purpose of British merchants and tanners.

It was their intention, which they have not yet abandoned, so to enlarge their organisations as to be in a position, a year or two after the war, to deal with the whole quantity of hides available; but it is not to be supposed that serious developments will take place, until they are convinced that the India Government really means to get rid of all those firms by whose action this trade was diverted to Germany. The specious reasons advanced for this diversion do not carry conviction to an unprejudiced mind, and should not impose upon India Government officials. Let the India Government at once close down all "ring" firms and their offspring, and it will be made abundantly clear that British merchants and tanners have both the capital and capacity for conducting this trade successfully in the interests of the Empire. If the trade is finally lost to the Empire, it will be through the indecision of the authorities, and not because of lack of enterprise on the part of merchants and tanners.—I am, etc.,

MERCHANT.

London, E.C.3, Dec. 3, 1917.

GERMAN BUILDINGS IN JERUSALEM.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—In connection with Miss Estelle Blyth's interesting description of the German Stiftung on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, I may say that since the war it had become the headquarters of the military at Jerusalem, and a month or two ago English airmen, flying from the coast, dropped fifty bombs on it and so destroyed it. This was reported in all our leading newspapers.

Nov. 30. A CONSTANT READER.

CAROB DISEASE IN CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The Agricultural Department claim that their instructions were faithfully carried out in the Kyrenia district by all except a few of the large land-owners. There are in the district at least one hundred thousand carob trees, and I am certain that at least one half of these were never touched. It must be remembered that in Cyprus the land often belongs to one man and the trees to another. Many men own carob trees who do not own land. As the villagers take no interest in the matter, it is quite certain that a man owning, say, a dozen trees twelve miles distant from his village, is not going to travel that distance in order to knock down diseased carobs, rub off the flowers, clear away axes and bury all this in quick-lime. Neither last year nor this were trees in my neighbourhood cleaned. Carping criticism, however, never does much good, so I refrain from saying more.

What is required is a remedy, and that can only be obtained if the Government take the matter in hand themselves instead of vainly trying to induce peasants to do what they are disinclined to do. It is doubtful whether all is yet known about the disease and its proper treatment. Therefore, the Agricultural Department should acquire, say, a square mile of trees, for which they would pay a moderate rent to the various proprietors. The land should be fenced in expensively and the boundaries clearly defined. Treatment would be continued more or less the whole year round, and in a few years a model plantation would have been created and an object lesson provided that would be of great service.

In the second place the Island Government ought to purchase a block of land in proximity to the buildings of the Agricultural Department at Nicosia, and on it form an orchard of carob trees on the same careful lines as does a fruit-grower in British Columbia.

In the third place, the Agricultural Department should be empowered to take under their control, immediately after the collection of carobs, large areas of land—to put on men to clean the trees under official supervision, and, if deemed right, recover from the owners a small sum for the work done. In this way large compact areas of land would be efficiently dealt with. The Department in their own Journal confess that villagers cannot be trusted to manage their trees. A large gang working steadily for a month under strict supervision and fully equipped with the necessary implements would do good work.

The putting into execution of these three suggestions of mine would involve expenditure of money, but that is the last thing to meet with the approval of those in authority. Nearly forty years ago the late Sir Charles Dilke said in Parliament that Cyprus was to be made the garden of the Near East. The British public may believe that this has been done, but men who live in the island know better. The Director of Agriculture is as anxious as I am that there should be a change of policy, and that "starvation" should no longer be the motto of his Department.

Kyrenia, Cyprus, October 9, 1917. G. L. H.

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IVAN MESTROVITCH AND HIS ART.

"Ivan Mestrovitch's Place in Art" was the title of an illuminating discourse at the Grafton Galleries, London, on December 4, by that most competent critic M. Bogdan Popovitch, Professor of Comparative Literature in the University of Belgrade, who has been known and honoured for many years on the Continent for his contributions to the literature of art. M. Bogdan Popovitch contended that art criticism should be, in the first place, the business of the artist himself. He who created must know best what he wanted to create, and, moreover, the knowledge required for the understanding of the plastic arts was of a quite special kind, and with such difficulty to be acquired that, exceptions apart, only the artists possessed it in full measure. A work of art had been defined as "an adequate expression of an interesting impression," and it might be said that of these the "adequate expression" was the more important element. A conception that was not adequately expressed was practically non-existent. Referring to Mestrovitch, they in Serbia, he said, were as proud of him as they were of their folk-poetry, and of that lofty poem full of high poetry and profound wisdom, "The Garland from the Mountain," by Nyegosh. Of his rank they thought what others had said of him a hundred times and what had been echoed from all the four quarters of the cultured world: "amazing" was the word by which his art had been, perhaps, most often characterised; "genius" was the other word regularly applied to him.

His æstho-psychological characteristics may be summed up in these words: technical skill, force, rebellion, dissonance, and patriotism, which latter, aided by his art, enabled him powerfully to express the secular aspirations of his nation. We have already noticed how important in a work of art is its technical side, the expression, the skill in execution, that there is no great artist without great technical skill. Mestrovitch, by common agreement, has it to an exceptional degree. The accuracy and sureness of his expression—that is to say, all his workmanship—is beyond praise. He is not a realist in the sense in which Rodin was; he does not reproduce reality exactly as we observe it ordinarily; he intensifies reality; he manipulated it for his own purposes, making the human frame, like Michael Angelo, a means of expressing his own powerful or violent feelings. Therefore, one should not always seek in his statues that flowing line which in Rodin's works—e.g., in his "Penseur"—in so marvellous a way recalls the flowing line of life. This flowing line would not be in accordance with the exaggerated emotion and impression which he wants to express, nor can it be preserved when the principal purpose is force, and when the attention is concentrated on significant details. The torso of the Serbian hero which you can see in the middle of the vestibule of the Victoria and Albert Museum shows in its quiet attitude the utmost possible effort, the muscles standing forth the while almost as separate organisms. But even in the greatest exaggeration of forms he does not transgress the limits of nature His observation and skill are too great to permit him making this mistake. This observation and this sure workmanship were his when he was in his early twenties. I remember his exhibitions in Belgrade in 1904, and in Agram in 1905, and remember my own surprise before a long series of his statues, which all testified among other things to a sureness, a forcibleness, and yet at the same time a softness of execution that was the touch of genius. It was like a revelation, and I ventured to write in a review on that occasion that a great artist had been born to my people. This skill has since only increased. He really does what he likes with his colossal figures. He gives them most difficult positions; he twists them, he draws them out, he crushes them in, as in the case of a strange feminine figure which I saw at an exhibition in Munich, a figure in round sculpture, but flattened out almost as a relief, as if, while still in clay, it had been deliberately crushed in all its length. In all cases the anatomy of the human body remains correct, in whatever material he works; he works with the same command of the medium, and handles clay, stucco, wood, and marble, as I have seen him at work, with the same amazing skill and ease. He really can say for himself what the great French sculptor, Puget, once proudly said of himself, in his quaint French of the seventeenth century:—

"I am at home among great things. I revel in working on them, and the marble trembles before me, however big the block may be."

His second characteristic quality is *force*, as displayed in both its aspects, the spontaneous or temperamental, and the voluntary or intentional. This quality is evident. Force is visible in almost every one of his works, and in their ensemble, in those colossal Michael Angelesque—in this case truly the right epithet—statues, with their impetuous and vehement attitudes, and their formidable tension of muscles, and the fecundity of the artist, and the crushing number and infinite variety of his works. At the age of thirty he had already produced several hundred sculptures. Alongside this spontaneous force goes, as I have already mentioned, a voluntary—almost intentional—display of strength. Forceful natures, which are themselves victims of their own strength, carry with them a violent need of expressing it strongly and ever more strongly, and are never satisfied with the expression supplied by their spontaneous strength. They go further; they are seeking a stronger expression than the spontaneous one, with which they are supplied by a strict observation of nature. Michael Angelo, despite his classical education, which mitigates his sombre mood of a dissatisfied Titan and preserves the line—Michael Angelo gives his boy David the stature of Goliath; twists his figures as with a corkscrew; disarticulates the human frame up to the limits of possibility, if not overstepping them. With Mestrovitch it is the same. In taking their spring, if I may say so, the artists of that category express more themselves than objective nature; they come to Nature with their feeling already in them, and add to her this inner feeling of theirs. Hyperbole is necessary to such artists, even at the risk of allowing some rhetoric to mingle with the general impression. Exaggeration with them is not insincere; it is their second nature.

A rebellious spirit is, as we have said, the third characteristic of Mestrovitch. Everything bears witness to it, and everything combined to give birth to it in him. You remember the reply Michael Angelo gave to the eulogy which a poet wrote in praise of his statue of "The Night," the reclining woman on the sarcophagus in the Medici Chapel in Florence. The poet, in praising it, had said that the woman seemed to be alive and that the statue could almost be awakened like a human being. Michael Angelo replied with these beautiful lines:—

Pleasant unto me is sleep,
And still more pleasant stone to be.
So long as shame and mischief last.
Neither to see nor feel, this for me is bliss;
Wake me not, therefore, pray speak softer.

"Shame and mischief"—such were the conditions which made Michael Angelo the rebellious and stormy Titan that he was. Now, the condition of things in Mestrovitch's Fatherland have been incomparably worse, and to-day words fail us to depict their horror.

We come to the fourth and last characteristic. It is clear that art born in such circumstances cannot have the harmony of classic art. It is full of dissonances—as in modern art in general one sees in all directions want of harmony, and even of equilibrium, not only in painting and sculpture, but also in the other arts, in architecture, in literature, and even in music. With the advent of democracy, new generations, before having benefited by the mitigating influences of a long experience which brings with it calm philosophy and refinement, have found themselves in the midst of acquisitions of an old and advanced civilisation and full of unsatisfied desires and new gifts. They have snatched at these acquisitions, and wish to express themselves, too, and rightly so; but this sudden advent has brought necessarily with it disharmony, and we see this paradox: a generation which is both young and old, both healthy and morbid, perhaps because those who gave them birth were themselves too civilised. Whence many an excess: Maximalism, Bolshevism in all fields. Whence, too, the defiance of conventions, the piercing, strident tone which seems to be the dominant note at least of certain products of modern art. Courage has been replaced by boldness; where formerly the artist showed sadness, now anguish is expressed; where formerly was heard the expression of anguish we hear now shrill cries. There is morbid nervousness in many works of modern art. As instances from literature and the other arts are well known to everybody, I will mention only one instance from music—from Debussy's music, whose character has been best shown in three lines of French short story. In this story the brother enters the room where his sister is playing the piano. On his entrance she rises, brushing a tear from her eye, whereupon her brother says, "You have been playing Debussy again." Yes, modern art is often a *crise de nerfs*, as the French say, a nervous paroxysm.

But those of us who belong to the older generation, with or without the above-mentioned philosophy or refinement, should be careful. All that is new to elder people does not seem beautiful. So it was in the whole course of the history of art, and great artists of previous generations condemned in their day works of the new generation which later generations proclaimed as masterpieces Beauty is ever enlarging its sphere, and mankind gradually gets used to new kinds of beauty—classic beauty, elegance and attractiveness did not exhaust the number of beautiful things, and new experience brought new beauties.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMANISM AND ISLAM.*

An enormous literature has been called into being by German perfidy. The avalanche began with "J'Accuse!" and it gathers force from the revelations which are published in an ever-increasing volume by the Press. But Germans are so securely muzzled that the minority who possess a conscience dare not tell the world what they know; and the testimony of their foes is received with suspicion by waverers. For, incredible to relate, some inhabitants of this war-girt isle still believe that the Hohenzollerns and their dupes had no lust for world-dominion, that Belgium was invaded as a measure of self-defence, and that it would be wise to make peace with Germany by negotiation. Mr. Willimore's indictment is framed on a novel basis. Its counts are set forth in the form of a connected narrative, and rest on evidence given by Germans, or neutrals with a German bias. At this time of the day it is needless to criticise his counterblast to the self-styled "pacificists." A perusal of his volume will convince every one save a small but noisy clique of cranks that Germany has engineered a deeply-laid plot against the world's civilisation, and is attempting to carry it into effect with diabolical thoroughness.

For readers of THE NEAR EAST, chapters xi., "The Murder of a Nation," and xiv., "The Fate of Islam," possess a special interest. The first proves beyond any doubt that four-fifths of the Armenian subjects of Turkey have, since August, 1914, been massacred or doomed to a fate even worse than death. Further, that these horrors were enacted with the approval of German overlords, who gave a free hand to their vassals at Constantinople in return for their help against the Entente. A notion is current in this country that extermination was the only method of dealing with Armenians. They have been styled, by a writer who saw them through German spectacles, "Bengalis of the worst type, but possessing desperate courage." As a matter of fact, Armenians rank among the most gifted Asiatic races. Under just government they would have been a tower of strength to the Turkish Empire. The section which owes allegiance to Russia has fought staunchly in her armies, and shows marked aptitude for the arts of peace.

Even more important, from an Imperial point of view, is the evidence given in chapter xiv. of the German attitude towards Islam. At pp. 248-50 Mr. Willimore reproduces an official circular which the Governor of German East Africa issued to his subordinates in December, 1913. He enjoined them to check Mussulman propaganda by every means within their power, and suggested that, as a counter-irritant, they might well "encourage the natives to occupy themselves with breeding pigs"! This damning document was discovered by General Smuts in the archives of the German Residency at Moshi, which fell to his arms in 1916. It is a strange commentary on the announcement made by the Kaiser at Jerusalem in 1898, that he was the "Protector of all Mussulmans." By way of contrast, again, I may quote a passage from p. 250 of this useful book:—

> "At the beginning of the war a Mussulman native of India, resident in Turkey, told the writer that he was asked by a Turk how it was that 80,000 Albanians were able to revolt against their Turkish rulers, while 80,000,000 Mussulmans in India were content to remain under British rule; and that he had replied that Indian Mussulmans had no desire to throw off their allegiance to a Power which showed such respect as England does for the creed they profess. He told him, among other things, that more care is taken in India than in Turkey itself to ensure that no noise outside the mosques shall disturb the devotions of those within."

These words will find an echo in every Eastern country which enjoys the just and statesmanlike sway of Great Britain.

F. H. S.

WITH THE ANZACS IN CAIRO.†

This narrative of the work of an army chaplain, of the "muscular Christianity" type and brimming over with healthy humour, will appeal to many. The writer has many terrible things to say, which he states with great frankness, about the moral temptations of Cairo, and evidently he would have said even more but for the Censor, who is responsible for a blank page and a-half. But the reader feels he has a right to be open about what he has so thoroughly personally investigated. In this respect the book should do good. Other chapters about his religious duties and the splendid work of the Y.M.C.A. come as a refreshing counter-balance to the depressing parts. Most readers will feel that "The Old Captain" is the right sort, and the unstinted praise he gives to many of his fellow-workers will disarm the critic of this necessarily personal narrative of any accusation of egoism.

THE CZECHO-SLAVS.

While the case of the Jugoslavs has been convincingly put in an abundance of propagandist literature, to the extent that it is now openly recognised as a European question, rather less attention has, for one reason or another, been devoted to the Czechs of Bohemia and their kinsmen, the Czecho-Slavs of Northern Hungary. Yet the separatist agitation in Bohemia is older and not less important than that of the Jugoslavs, and their case at least as hard. The comparative neglect is to some extent repaired in *Bohemia's Case for Independence*, by Dr. Edouard Benes, of Prague University (George Allen and Unwin, 2s. 6d. net), whose work is introduced by a preface by Mr. Wickham Steed. Dr. Benes perhaps rather overstresses, as is natural in the circumstances, the historical connection between Britain and Bohemia, which has always been slight. To the ordinary observer in Prague before the war it certainly seemed that the Czechs were so fully occupied with their struggle against Germanism that they had little time to give to the study of any but their own affairs. Another contribution to the subject is by M. G. Beck, in *La Responsabilité de la Hongrie* (Payot et Cie., Paris, 3f. 5c.), which deals mainly with the Hungarian Slavs and contains some rather piquant chapters on secret service work by a secret service man of Austria at Agram, in which an Austrian official is stated to have said that Hungary was guilty of the murder of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand. The names and addresses are given of those who are said to have made these revelations.

M. Jan J. Kowalczyk has published a pamphlet, *Prussian Poland* (Petersen, Copenhagen), in which he analyses the position of the Poles under Prussian rule, and concludes that if they are "reunited with the whole Polish nation to an independent State, they will form one of the strongest pillars of the future European peace." The main facts cited are familiar to students of European politics.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Reminiscences. By Gérard Van de Linde, F.C.A. (London: Lee and Co. (Publishers, Ltd.) 12s. 6d. net.)

Mistress of Men. By Flora Annie Steel. (London: William Heinemann. 6s. net.)

Cotton and Other Vegetable Fibres. By Ernest Goulding, D.Sc. (Lond.), F.I.C. With Preface by Prof. W. R. Dunstan, C.M.G., etc. (London: John Murray. 6s. net.)

Zionism and the Jewish Future. By various writers. Edited by H. Sacher. (London: John Murray. 2s.6d. net.)

The Young Stagers. By P. C. Wren. (London: Messrs. Longmans, Green and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart.: A Sketch of Modern Lancashire. By W. Haslam Mills. (Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes. 6s. net.)

Abdul Hamid. By Sir Edwin Pears. (London: Constable and Co. 6s. net.)

True Tales of Indian Life. By Dwijendra Nath Neogi, B.A. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 2s. net.)

Serbian Fairy Tales. Translated from the Serbian by Madame Elodie L. Mijatovich. (London: William Heinemann. 6s. net.)

Neutrality versus Justice: An Essay on International Relations. By A. J. Jacobs. (London: T. Fisher-Unwin. 1s. net.)

La Tunisie. By J.-L. de Lanessan. (Paris: Librairie Félix Alcan. 5 francs.)

Twenty-two Goblins. By Arthur W. Ryder. (London: J. M. Dent and Sons, Ltd. 7s. 6d.)

The Acáthist Hymn of the Holy Orthodox Eastern Church. In the original Greek text and done into English verse. Edited by W. J. Birkbeck, M.A., and the Rev. G. R. Woodward, M.A. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 3s. 6d. net.)

Education and Statesmanship in India, 1797 to 1910. By H. R. James. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 4s. 6d. net.)

La Route des Dardanelles: Visions d'Orient. By Edouard Montier. (Paris: Société Française d'Imprimerie et de Librairie. 3fr.)

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*"The Great Crime and its Moral." By J. S. Willimore. Hodder and Stoughton, Warwick Square, 1917. Price 6s.

†"With the Anzacs in Cairo." By Guy Thornton, Chaplain Captain of the N.Z.E.F. main body. London: H. R. Allenson. 2s. 6d. net.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. December 7	1917. November 24	Friday	1336. Saphar 22	5678. Kislev 22
8	25	Saturday.....	23	23
9	26	Sunday	24	24
10	27	Monday	25	25
11	28	Tuesday	26	26
12	29	Wednesday	27	27
13	30	Thursday	28	27

The Serbian Minister has returned to London from Scotland.

H.H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur has given a lakh of rupees to "Our Day" Fund.

The Rev. S. M. Zwemer has returned to Cairo after a six months' tour in India and China.

Four classes of the Greek Infantry Reserve and eight classes of Artillery have been called to the Colours.

It is estimated that 40,000 Greeks in the parts of Macedonia invaded by the Bulgarians have died of hunger and other hardships.

According to a Zurich telegram, ex-King Constantine has left the nursing home, where he has been for some time, completely cured.

A Government official in Kordofan states that recently the Syrians performed a play there in aid of the Red Cross "Our Day" Fund, and as a result collected £450.

Proceedings under military law are pending against certain Czech regiments charged with having this year "treacherously conspired against the Austro-Hungarian troops."

The Middlesex County Council, at a meeting held on November 29, unanimously decided to send a message of congratulation to General Sir Julian Byng and the soldiers under his command.

Last Monday (December 3) was the anniversary of the birthday of Prince Peter of Greece, who was born in Paris in 1908, and is the son of Prince George, brother of ex-King Constantine.

According to an estimate received by the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund there will be 125,000 children to care for in the Holy Land as the Allies advance.

The Athens *Hestia* states that the Greek population of Eastern Macedonia and the officials who remained there are in a deplorable situation under Bulgarian rule Forty thousand deaths from starvation occurred during the first few months of this year.

A memorial window to Major Ronald E. E. Kriekenbeek, Indian Army, and Captain John Peake Knight, D.S.O., Royal Horse Artillery, placed in St. Augustine's Church, Grove Park, S.E., was dedicated on December 2 by the Bishop of Woolwich. Major Kriekenbeek was killed in Mesopotamia.

The engagement is announced between Major A. H. MacIlwaine, M.C., R.H.A., eldest son of A. W. MacIlwaine, J.P., of Manor House, Ferriby, East Yorkshire, and Joan, eldest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel J. Manners-Smith, V.C., C.V.O., C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General for Rajputana, India.

Professor C. F. Burney, Professor of Interpretation of Holy Scripture, University of Oxford, has been appointed to deliver the Schweich Lectures on Biblical archæology, and will give three lectures on "Israel's Settlement in Canaan: the Biblical Tradition and its Historical Background," on the 13th, 17th, and 20th inst.

A meeting to inaugurate the Anglo-Roumanian Society is being held at the Mansion House this afternoon at a quarter past three o'clock. The Lord Mayor will preside, and the speakers will be Sir Edward Carson, Lord Hugh Cecil (President of the Society), Lord Dunedin, Mr. A. F. Whyte, M.P., and the Roumanian Minister.

The Agram newspaper *Hrvatska Irzava* of November 14 has published a letter dated from Blato Island, Curzola, in which Dr. Lujo Fouque states that Mrs. Askew was buried on October 13 not far from the sea, just beyond the fence of a vineyard. Dr. Fouque adds: "Within a few days we shall place above the grave a small monument with cross and a suitable inscription."

LADY, WISHING to go to INDIA, would like to meet lady or party, with view to companionship in travelling through India Willing to contribute half expenses in return for escort.—Reply to Box 501, care of THE NEAR EAST Offices, 1, Devonshire Square, E.C.2

Mr. Frederick Orgley, Registrar-General in Cyprus, is home on three months' leave, and is now in London.

Mr. W. J. Mackay, Chief Collector of the Cyprus Customs, will continue to reside at Limassol until after the war. Hitherto the office of the Chief Collector has been at Larnaca.

The marriage arranged between Captain Henry Harold Rookhurst Deane, Pioneers, I.A., only son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Harold Deane, K.C.S.I., and Lady Deane, 72, Overstrand Mansions, S.W., and Mary Emily de Courcy, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Moir, St. Andrews, will take place in India as soon as a passport can be obtained.

Colonel Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, C.S.I., has arrived in Canada, where he has gone to lecture on aviation, with the object of stimulating interest in aerial matters, and more especially with a view to securing recruits for the R.F.C., both officer-cadets and rank and file. At the close of his mission Lord Montagu will proceed to India to resume his official duties there.

The first meeting between the British and Turkish delegates appointed to discuss the exchange of prisoners and the inspection of camps took place at Berne on December 3, under the presidency of M. Ador, formerly president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, now Federal Councillor and chief of the Political Department, by which the arrangements for the meeting were made.

In view of the severity of the climatic conditions it has been decided that an outfit allowance of £20 shall be issued to officers (including those granted commissions in the Regular Army before August 5, 1914) posted during the war for duty in Russia and Roumania between October 1 and April 30 in each year. This Army Order will be retrospective in the case of officers posted on or after October 1, 1916.

In a new Army Order just published, it is provided that a commission as second lieutenant on the unattached list of candidates for appointment to the Indian Army may be given to a cadet who has passed through a course of instruction at any of the Military Colleges, or to a duly qualified candidate from a University, or to a candidate approved by the Army Council on the recommendation of the Secretary for India.

It is noteworthy that during the war Indian emigrants who have found a home without the Empire have been most steadfast in their support of the British cause. The latest instance comes from Sumatra, where twenty-three Sikhs, living in various districts, have jointly subscribed one hundred and seven florins to British Red Cross funds. The subscribers were all of them of the poorest labouring class, and this fact throws the strongest light on their patriotism and self-sacrifice.

An impressive memorial service was held at St. Paul's Cathedral on December 4 for Lieutenant-General Sir Stanley Maude, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., whose death took place in Mesopotamia on November 18. A large congregation was present, representing all classes of the community, to pay their last tribute to the memory of the soldier who had rendered such distinguished service to the Empire. The King was represented at the service by General Sir William Robertson, Aide-de-Camp-General to his Majesty, and Queen Alexandra was represented by Colonel Sir Henry Streatfield.

Reuter's Simla correspondent in a message dated December 3 says:—"Lord Chelmsford and Mr. Montagu leave to-day for Calcutta, having received thirty addresses from Indian deputations and having granted sixty interviews to private individuals of all classes. Many questions relating to suggested reforms have been personally discussed with the heads of provinces who visited Delhi for that purpose. The extension of Sir Michael O'Dwyer's term of office as Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab for one year has given keen pleasure."

So far only a very restricted amount of news has got through as to conditions behind the Allied lines in Palestine. All that can be told with certainty to-day is that, in the extreme south the people are suffering from disease owing to the utter absence of any medical advice or treatment. But a good deal can be inferred from the fact that the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund has heard by cable from Bishop MacInnes that the authorities have lost no time in cabling permits for relief workers, including missionaries.

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Colonel A. C. Yate lectured before the Central Asian Society on December 5 on "British Buffer States in Asia."

A number of Serbian officers were entertained at luncheon at the House of Commons on December 5 by Major David Davies, M.P. The Earl of Derby, in proposing the toast of "The Officers," expressed pleasure at being able to pay a tribute in the name of the British Army to the whole Serbian nation, and he prophesied that sooner or later the Allies would gain a victory by which Serbia would be given full reparation for her wrongs. The Serbian Minister and Dr. A. Trumbitch, the President of the Jugo-slav Committee, replied to the toast.

The Imperial Ottoman Bank has lost another member of its staff in the war in Private W. R. Green, who joined the temporary staff of the bank soon after the war broke out, and remained with it over a year. During that period he made eight unsuccessful attempts to join the Army, and was eventually accepted by the R.A.M.C. In June, 1916, he was transferred to a fighting regiment, and since then has seen service at various fronts. He was killed on November 6. This makes fourteen from the London and Manchester staff of this bank who have been killed in the war. Besides these two are missing and ten have been wounded, and two members of the British Overseas staff have been killed.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Bimbashi L. Daniels, Sudan Government, has been granted the temporary rank of Kaimakam.

El Kaimakam A. Crauford Bey, Western Arab Corps, has been granted the temporary rank of Miralai.

Bimbashi E. C. Mylne, Egyptian Army, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General and replaced by Bimbashi B. T. Phillips, of the Equatorial Battalion.

Major Harry F. O. Thwaites, M.C., Royal Engineers, has been taken on the strength of the Egyptian Army as Kaimakam, and appointed Director, Military Works Department.

Kaimakam H. Castle Smith Bey, Inspector, Sudan Government, has been granted the rank of Miralai and appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Sultan vice Miralai W. D. Kenny Bey, seconded for special service.

The *London Gazette* of December 4 contained the first appointments in India to the Order of the British Empire. Lord Chelmsford and Lord Willingdon receive the G.C.B.E. Lady Chelmsford is appointed a Dame Grand Cross of the Order, while Sir J. P. Hewett and Sir C. R. Cleveland receive the K.C.B.E.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Ernest Dowson, late Superintendent of Indian Telegraphs, has died at Newquay, Cornwall, at the age of seventy years. His only son, Mr. Ernest MacLeod Dowson, is Director-General of the Survey of Egypt.

The death is announced, at the age of seventy-eight, of Khan Bahadur Muncherjee K. Marzban, C.I.E., who served for many years in the Bombay Public Works Department, and who was appointed on retirement Executive Engineer of the Bombay Municipality.

The death is reported, at Tokyo, on November 21, of Colonel William Ross Morton, Military Attaché at Tokyo and late Commanding Royal Engineers at Poona. He obtained a commission in 1881, and served with the Burmese Expedition in 1885, for which he received the medal with clasp.

The Hon. Frederic Henry North, who died recently at his residence in the Albany, Piccadilly, was a son of the sixth Earl of Guildford, and great-uncle of the present peer. He served, in the late 'fifties, for a short time in the Bombay Civil Service, and afterwards, for ten years, in the Diplomatic Service.

Mr. Alexander Chambers Tate, late of the Madras Civil Service, has died at Whiteabbey, County Antrim, at the age of sixty-one years. Educated at Queen's College, Belfast, and Trinity College, Dublin, he joined the service in 1879. He became Sub-Collector and Joint Magistrate at Godavari in 1894, and from 1902 till 1906, when he retired, was District and Sessions Judge.

The Baron de Kusel Bey (Samuel Selig Kusel), whose death took place on November 29 at the residence of his daughter at Dorman's Park, Surrey, at the age of sixty-nine, was born in Liverpool on June 12, 1848, and educated at Cheltenham. He was created an Italian Baron for services in Africa, having previously been created a Bey by the Khedive of Egypt in 1882 in connection with the Egyptian Expedition of that year, having been present at the bombardment of Alexandria. Baron de Kusel was formerly Controller-General of Egyptian Customs, and of the Gunpowder Department, and also Inspector-General of the Coastguards. He was Commander of the Medjidie, Osmanieh, and Nichan-ifihar, and Chevalier of the Crown of Italy. In 1915 he wrote "An Englishman's Recollections of Egypt." He married Elvira, daughter of Cleto Chini, of Leghorn and Cairo, in 1876, and leaves one daughter.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTH.

WORTHAM.—On November 30, to Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Wortham, of 36, Charek El Falaki, Cairo, Egypt—a son.

MARRIAGES.

BELCHER—GERMAN.—On November 22, in Egypt, Edward Brymer Belcher (Indian Police), Lieut., attached to the Mysore Lancers, son of the Rev. Gilbert E. Belcher, rector of Chaldon, Surrey, and Mrs. Belcher, to Muriel, youngest daughter of the late Mr. William German and Mrs. German, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch.

McIVOR—CHAPMAN.—On November 21, at Folkestone, N. W. McIvor, Canadian Highlanders, son of Mr. Norman McIvor, of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada, to Sheila Hamilton, elder daughter of Major F. R. H. Chapman, late Indian Army, of Hocknorton, Camberley, Surrey.

ROBINSON—WAKEMAN-LONG.—On November 15, at the British Consulate, Alexandria, and afterwards at St. Mark's Church, Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Robinson, to Margaret, widow of the late Judge Wakeman-Long.

TAYLOR—SEDDALL.—On November 29, at the Brompton Oratory, London, Philip S. Taylor, Second Lieutenant E.L.C., to Daisy, youngest daughter of Edward T. Seddall, late District Inspector, Royal Irish Constabulary, and Mrs. Seddall, of Athlone, Co. Westmeath.

WILKINSON—RIMINGTON.—On October 3, at Simla, India, James Vere Stewart Wilkinson, I.C.S., youngest son of Rev. J. H. Wilkinson, Kingshot, Winchester, to Lucy Agnes, youngest daughter of Mr. F. C. Rimington, of Bombay.

DEATHS.

GORDON WALKER.—On November 25, at Puckaster, West Worthing, Sir Thomas Gordon Walker, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., LL.D., aged 68.

PERROTT.—On November 13, at Cairo, Gwendolin, the most dearly loved wife of Charles Harold Perrott, Barrister-at-law.

SEARLE.—On November 28, at a nursing home in Harrow-on-the-Hill, Arthur Henry Searle, eldest son of Major-General A. T. Searle, late Indian Army, aged fifty-five.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1917.

"THE ROAD TO INDIA."

To the few people in Great Britain who, labouring under the strain of a long war, are inclined to think that the antagonism between the two groups of belligerents is susceptible of being bridged by the single plank of "peace by agreement," an article in the *Cologne Gazette* which was quoted at some length in our issue of last week must have furnished material for serious reflection. Even Lord Lansdowne, in a letter that has gained some notoriety, began by recognising the achievement of security against a repetition of the curse that has fallen upon the world as an indispensable war aim, and it was only when he allowed himself to grade what he calls the war "desiderata" in an order of importance in inverse ratio to their geographical distance from Westminster that he conveyed to his readers the impression that his idea of security meant little more than an undertaking from Germany, on a fresh scrap of paper, to mend her ways. If there were any hope that the Germans had become actuated by a new spirit, we should expect to find them rendering at least lip homage to it in the fourth year of the war. However stoutly they cling to a belief in ultimate victory, it would be thought that they had by now sufficient reason to doubt whether the game was worth the candle, and to cast around for other methods of attaining their ends without antagonising the whole world. But in the whole range of German speeches and German writings during the war it would be difficult to find any indication to support the comfortable theories of our pacifists. On the contrary, just as the war has revealed to the Allies more fully the extent of the designs that Germany has so long harboured against the peace of the world, so does it seem to have convinced the Germans that any check they are now experiencing is due, not to the nature of those designs, but to a failure to make them comprehensive enough. In such an attitude there seems little scope for peace by agreement. The subject, we believe, would not be mentioned by anyone who is capable of envisaging the world-crisis as a whole. To affect to discover water-tight compartments in German policy such as would justify the Allies in differentiating between her aims in Western and those in South-Eastern Europe argues a profound ignorance of German history and of the German temperament as moulded in the school of Prussian militarism. Only when the latter has been eliminated—by an outside agency, but with the approval of the bulk of the German people themselves—can we hope that the true lessons of the war will be appreciated in Germany.

Almost at the moment when Lord Lansdowne was penning the suggestion that the settlement of the Near Eastern question was not worth the prolongation of the war an authoritative statement was being made in Germany in regard to German aims in the East. Let it be said in passing that it does not invalidate the authority of the *Cologne Gazette* to speak for the German people that it should be the recognised organ of the Foreign Office; for those who urge an early peace by agreement do not anticipate any other signatories on behalf of Germany than the men who now direct her destinies. According to the views, then, of those who are responsible for German policy the political ambition to hold Baghdad dates back to Charles the Great, but it was only in the last few decades that the necessity for making it the guiding principle of Germany's foreign policy became imperative. The whole attitude of the article is significant. Mere abuse of Great Britain is far from its intention; it is for the most part judicial in spirit. But there is no attempt to burke the outstanding fact, that the British people possess something that the Germans covet, and which the latter must be resolved to obtain. No blame, the writer of the article is good enough to infer, attaches to Great Britain. The safety of the island kingdom depends on the sovereignty of the sea, and that sovereignty will of necessity be impaired, if Germany secures access to the Persian Gulf. Thus the "life interests" of the two Empires are bound to clash in that part of the world. A settlement in regard to Belgium, and also on most of the purely European questions, is practicable, and will be reached some day, but never, in the opinion of the *Cologne Gazette*, can there be an agreement on a question which in any way touches Great Britain's colonial possessions, least of all if thereby the connection between India and the Mother Country were to be jeopardised. The obviousness of the actual position is cited as a stimulus to German endeavour to oust the rival, and it is to be hoped that the significance of the candid appeal that is finally made to the German people will not be lost upon readers in Great Britain. For Germans "the work of decades is at stake in Mesopotamia"—a sufficiently frank avowal of German policy in that region. And in order to spur them to further effort, they are reminded that success in such undertakings attends the country whose broadest classes are convinced of the national necessity for embarking upon them.

In the light of such a declaration of Germany's aims in the Middle East, what would be the prospect that peace at this stage would achieve the future security which Lord Lansdowne admits to be an indispensable aim of the war? On this point the *Cologne Gazette* is also instructive. After making the usual reference to the fixity of British aims in the East—a contention wholly falsified by Great Britain's pre-war policy, notably by the unratified agreement with Germany of 1914—the article proceeds to discuss the extent to which those aims have been attained. In confining its remarks to war measures, it supplies a further contradiction of the statement that British policy in this direction has been long fixed. Great Britain is supposed to have worked "systematically" for the acquirement of a land route to India. But, apart from the dubious results of the Anglo-Russian Agreement of 1907, the "system" does not appear to have been put into practice until Germany's action in forcing the Turks into the war against the Entente caused the British Government to abandon its consistently friendly attitude towards them. Three sets of operations are named as being essential to the success of the British plan—the inciting of the Arabs to revolt, the occupation of Mesopotamia, and the acquisition of an "exit" from Egypt. The first of these is acknowledged to be a "tangible result"; the military occupation of Mesopotamia is said to have succeeded in so far as is necessary for British plans; but the hope is expressed that the exit from Egypt will be denied. *Fas est et ab hoste doceri* The German estimate of the British Empire's needs in regard to India is probably not at fault, although we must make the necessary allowance for the difference in the methods likely to be adopted by British and Germans in attaining the same end. Loyalty, to the German mind, is the product of subjection, and is not to be looked for in a free land. A land route from Egypt to India would not connote the same thing for the German and for the British Empire; but even the British conception of it could not tolerate a section in avowedly hostile hands. The exit from Egypt, which the Germans seem so anxious to prevent, means nothing more than that the whole country from the Mediterranean to Mesopotamia should be administered, not for purely Turkish purposes, but in accordance with the aspirations of its various peoples. Until that end has been gained, there can be no complete security for the future. And as the same holds good for each portion of the map where national feelings have been stirred, there can be no peace worth having or worthy of the sacrifices made, until a settlement that embraces all has been achieved. Only since the war began has Great Britain been able to act fully upon the recognition of her responsibilities to India. She is evidently proceeding on sound lines, but the work has yet to be completed.

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JUDÆA REDEMPTA.

(From a Jewish Correspondent.)

[*While not endorsing all the views expressed by our correspondent, we are glad to publish them as an interesting contribution to the discussion of an important subject.*]

The proposal to create a new State on a purely religious basis rings strange to modern ears. It comes like a post-dated echo of the Crusades, and is of a piece with the grateful mediævalism that has placed a wreath on Cœur-de-Lion's statue. Nevertheless, it is perfectly sound and up-to-date politics. Victorian statesmanship defended India and its approaches by maintaining a strong—but not too strong—Turkey, the integrity of whose Asiatic dominions it guaranteed. That policy became obsolete when Berlin swallowed Stamboul, and Mr. Asquith promptly announced that in Asia, as well as in Europe, Turkey had dug her grave with her own hands. But the problem remained. How were the approaches to India now to be safeguarded? Palestine is one of the hearts of the problem—Mesopotamia being the other—for Palestine, as the old Jewish kings once knew to their cost, is the highway to Egypt. Unless Palestine is secure, the Canal is in jeopardy. But, Turkish rule having collapsed, Palestine can be made secure only in one of two ways. Either Britain can annex it herself, or she can return it to its owners. Characteristically she has preferred the second alternative, and has offered it to the people with an historic claim upon its soil. The offer is one which a free people can honourably accept, but it springs from British political necessities, and its terms must be defined by those who make it. The independence which it is in Britain's interest to offer to the Jews must be unqualified. There can be no question of an autonomous Palestine under the Sultan's suzerainty or any such-like nonsensical diplomatic compromise. An autonomous Palestine would either be left unsupported, in which case the Turk would stifle it, or would be under British protection, in which case the main object of our policy would be defeated. The Palestine we are prepared to contemplate must be a second Belgium, not a second Egypt or Afghanistan. It must be a sovereign State, though its sovereignty might well be guaranteed by all the Christian Great Powers—including the at present hypothetical re-christianised Germany.

So much for the British offer. Will Jewry accept it? Influential sections of Jewish opinion have closed with it at once, despite a few muttered misgivings. The support of Hampstead and Johannesburg is no light thing, for Jewish support means substantial financial aid. But, apart from a few enthusiasts, neither Hampstead nor Johannesburg will order the furniture vans. Whatever difficulties the Westernised Jew may have to contend with, he belongs definitely to the Western world. It is the Jews of Eastern Europe who will give Palestine its new colonists, and from them no word has come or could have come. But they have the luminous intelligence of their race, and cannot fail to see that any reconstruction of Eastern Europe in conformity with the views of the Allies necessarily involves a settlement of the Jewish question. Until it is disposed of, all talk of a free Poland is a farce; there would be riots in Warsaw before the constitution was drafted. Similarly in Russia and Roumania the danger of religious outbreaks led to restrictive legislation quite out of keeping with Western ideas on individual liberty or religious toleration. The plain fact is that whereas the Jew has established himself and found his place in the sun in the West, in the East he is still an unassimilated interloper. If Eastern Europe is to know political and religious peace, some free path must be found for its Jewish population. The choice can only lie between emigration to America or emigration to Palestine.

Emigration to America will always appeal to the more venturous spirits with strong commercial instincts. But having regard to the well-developed qualities of the Jewish race, it would be the height of unwisdom to offer it a Palestine fitted only for agriculture. The country forms, it is true, a highway of trade, but the great marts lie beyond its borders. It is worth the most careful consideration whether the new Judæa should not include Damascus and Beirut. Its inhabitants will assuredly establish themselves in those cities, and a Palestine which was a purely agrarian State, and which offered no special opportunities for the marketing of goods, could never be regarded by the Jews as a truly national home.

Subject to this qualification, there seems no reason why the Jews of the Western world should not regard the new State with goodwill and reverence. They will, we trust, feel towards it much as a good American feels towards England. It will be, if we may make use without offence of a phrase lately fallen into disrepute, a spiritual home—a citadel of high traditions and in time, no doubt, of lofty aspirations. Centuries of suspicion and persecution have somewhat limited the Jewish character. In a sovereign Palestine the balance would be restored, and a Jewish university would have a message for others besides its students. The modern world knows all too little of the uncompromising moral spirit of the Hebrew prophets, and the teaching of a Jewish theological faculty would have a profound meaning for a Christendom tainted by Kultur.

One difficulty remains to be faced. It has been suggested that the establishment of a Jewish State will give a fillip to anti-Semitic feeling in the Western world, and in particular that whenever any economic friction occurs—and it will occur daily—the cry will be raised that these troublesome Jews ought to be packed off to their own country. Anti-Semitism is certainly active both in France and in Germany, and is at best latent in England. Here it is desirable to speak quite frankly. There is less goodwill to Judaism in England now than at any time within living memory. The explanation is simple. During the September air-raids the Tubes were thronged with foreign Jews. Londoners noted their behaviour with merited disgust, and the whole reputation of Jewry has suffered, not for the first time, through the curiously conspicuous misconduct of its worst members. It is only a passing phase, but it is perhaps just as well that the future of Palestine has not to be regulated in detail now. Is it altogether far-fetched to derive from this unfortunate and discreditable episode a further argument for a Jewish Palestine? What the Jew requires is a constant stimulus to a proper pride of race. Reckless individualism has been the cause of much anti-Semitic feeling. The Jew gives offence by a certain aggressive bumptiousness which he would subdue, if he remembered that to Christian spectators the whole Jewish race is represented in his person. Unhappily, the whole Jewish race has meant nothing tangible up to now. But in the world of to-morrow it will mean Palestine and the right to guard the Holy Places of Christendom. The thought that he is a member of a spiritual kingdom with an earthly seat may well guide and strengthen the Jew of the Western world in his efforts to prove himself a worthy citizen of the country to which he elects to belong.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Fighting in the Aden Hinterland.

December 4.

Lord LAMINGTON asked whether further information could be given as to the recent fighting in the Aden Hinterland. He referred to a recent article in *The Times* on the establishment of a new kingdom in the Hejaz, and added that since he last addressed a question to the Government on this matter he was told that the administration of Aden had been transferred to the Foreign Office. He was not aware of anything in the past records of the Foreign Office that would give confidence to the belief that it could successfully administer a very important outpost like that of Aden.

Earl CURZON, in reply, said that there was not very much to say about what was going on in this theatre of war. The line which was being held by our troops was the same as that held since July, 1915. It described an arc about eleven miles from Aden. Throughout this period there had been constant patrol skirmishes and small outpost actions, and the Turkish positions and camps had been continually bombarded by our guns. On November 22 the latest and most successful of these local actions occurred on a somewhat larger scale than any of their predecessors. It was at a Turkish post called Jabir, which the British forces attacked and captured and the defences of which they destroyed. The Turks were occupying a position which they took from a Chief friendly to ourselves in the early stage of the war. Between their lines and ours there intervened a narrow strip of desolate and waterless country. Their troops were distributed over a wide area, and a portion of their forces was directly in front of ours. He had no definite information as to the tribes who were on friendly terms with us before the war began, but he believed that the statement he made on the last occasion held good. As to how the Turks in the south-western corner of the Aden Peninsula maintained communication with Turkey and secured supplies, so far as the British Government knew, they had no direct communication with Turkey at all and no reinforcements of supplies and ammunition and other war material had reached them. They had only the reserves in men and material. With regard to the administration of Aden, there had been no absolute transfer. This was a matter which could not be finally determined during the war. The reason why a modified transfer was taking place was that owing to the exigences of the war it became necessary to place the charge of the troops there, as at Mesopotamia and elsewhere, under the War Office. This caused some dislocation, because the political action was directed by a different authority. It was decided to put the political charge of Aden under the Home Government, and their adviser now was Sir Reginald Wingate. When the war came to an end the future of these areas would have to be reconsidered. In regard to the whole situation in Aden, the position was one they would like to see clearer. It would strengthen our position if we could drive the enemy out, but with the calls on our forces it had not been possible to take the action at Aden which would have been desirable in other circumstances.

Mesopotamia Awards.

Mr. MACPHERSON informed Colonel YATE that the actual number of rewards conferred in connection with the operations in Mesopotamia up to the end of March last was: To Staff officers, 142; to regimental officers, 467. The last-named included "immediate" awards to regimental officers under powers delegated to the Commander-in-Chief in the field. It must be borne in mind that in many cases the reward to an officer might be in respect of services prior to appointment to the Staff. The initiation of rewards rested with commanders in the field, and the Army Council were satisfied that the recommendations of such commanders were invariably made in the best interests of the Service, having regard to the intimate knowledge which commanders possessed of the value of the services rendered by their subordinates.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Declaration of Corfu.

November 30.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to Mr. R. LAMBERT, who asked whether he was aware that the Declaration of Corfu constituted a menace to the integrity and independence of Montenegro, said:—His Majesty's Government are aware of the light in which the present Montenegrin Government view that declaration.

The Khalifate.

Mr. KING asked the Foreign Secretary whether, since the outbreak of war, Russia had any communications with this country relative to the proposals that the Sultan of Turkey should no longer be recognised as Khalif; if so, what attitude was then assumed on behalf of this country; and whether he would now declare that the Khalifate was a question for Islam alone to decide.

Lord R. CECIL: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, but his Majesty's Government have never departed from the attitude that the question of the Khalifate is one for Moslem opinion alone to decide.

Advances to Greece.

December 3.

Lord R. CECIL, replying to a question by Mr. LYNCH as to whether the Government or the Allies generally exercised any control over the money either lent or given to Greece since the beginning of the war; and, if so, to what extent and in what direction that control was exercised, said:—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part it is proposed to establish a mixed Commission to assist the Greek Government in the application of the funds provided; but the exact scope of this Commission has not as yet been definitely settled.

British Influence in Persia.

Lord R. CECIL, asked by Mr. KING whether by any agreement or understanding arrived at during the war this country has expressed its intention, or taken power, to establish British influence over that part of Persia declared to be neutral in the agreement with Russia made in 1907, said:—No definite proposals have been made in the matter, although his Majesty's Government have signified to the Russian Government that a revision of the Anglo-Russian Convention in the sense indicated will be a matter for eventual discussion between the two Governments.

Partition of Turkey.

Lord R. CECIL, in reply to a question by Mr. R. LAMBERT whether, as agreed in the Anglo-French-Russian Agreement of February 21, 1917, France was to receive at the close of the war from the Turkish dominions in Asia the seaboard of Syria, the Adana vilayet, and part of Lesser Armenia; and whether it was still the intention of the Allies, and confirmed by the Allied War Conference, to fight on till this was obtained, said:—No agreement of the nature mentioned was come to in the early part of this year. Such understandings with respect to Asia Minor as were come to between the Powers named did not involve annexations.

The Late Sir Stanley Maude.

December 4.

Mr. CHANCELLOR asked what was the ailment or disease that led to the death of Sir Stanley Maude.

Mr. MACPHERSON: I regret to state that it is confirmed that Sir Stanley Maude died of cholera.

In answer to a further question Mr. MACPHERSON said there were very few cases of cholera.

Royal Indian Marine.

December 5.

Mr. FISHER, replying on behalf of the India Office to Colonel YATE, said:—With regard to the absence of a reference to the Royal Indian Marine by name in the recent vote of thanks, the Secretary of State for India desires to associate himself with the remarks made by my right hon. friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty on November 21, in reply to a similar question regarding the Royal Marines. Part of the Royal Indian Marine was taken over, as the statute provides, by the Royal Navy shortly after the outbreak of war. Other members of the service have done admirable work in conjunction with his Majesty's land forces and in the dockyards and Marine establishments in India. His Majesty's Government appreciate fully the services rendered in these various directions.

The Disturbances in Behar.

Mr. FISHER, in reply to Sir J. D. REES, said:—The disturbances in Behar were of a local character, being confined to parts of the Shahabad district, and of the neighbouring districts of Patna and Gaza, and arose out of disagreements between Hindus and Mahommedans about the celebration by the latter of the Bakr-Id festival. At this festival it is customary to sacrifice kine and other animals. Riots occurred in several villages, in the course of which there was some destruction and pillaging of property and loss of life and conflicts with the civil police. To restore normal conditions it was found necessary to patrol the disturbed area by a considerable force of Military Police and regular troops. The Viceroy reported on October 20 that since the 14th of that month no disturbances had taken place, and that the troops were being gradually withdrawn.

Prisoners of War.

Mr. T. DAVIES asked the Under Secretary for War to give the number of prisoners of war taken on all fronts, German, Turks, and other nationalities, up to and including those reported on November 26.

Mr. MACPHERSON said the figures were as follow: Germans, 127,102; Austrians and Bulgarians, 2,092; Turks, 43,105; native soldiers and followers, 8,652; making a grand total of 180,951.

The Future of Albania.

Mr. BALFOUR, answering a question by Commander WEDGWOOD, said:—His Majesty's Government have the warmest sympathy with the Albanian peoples and would welcome any solution which, accompanied by adequate security against future strife, was of a nature to safeguard the full exercise of their national rights.

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THE SERBO-CROATIAN PROBLEM.

Mr. H. Wickham Steed delivered the first of two lectures on "Austria," at King's College, London, on December 1. He said that anyone who wished to understand the problem presented by the Austrian Empire must regard that empire as the dynastic estate of the House of Hapsburg. The mosaic of peoples which inhabited it was looked upon by the ruling house much as a cotton spinner regarded his material. It was something to be moulded and twisted into a desired form; the welfare of the peoples was only considered in so far as it seemed to be in accord with that of the dynasty.

In the course of some remarks with which he followed Mr. Steed's address, Mr. H. A. L. Fisher, president of the Board of Education, who was in the chair, said that there was a large number of problems connected with the subject of Austria on which he would like to receive some guidance; one was as to the real attitude of the Croats towards the South Slavonic problem. The Croats were born fighters, many of them mountaineers with a long military tradition; and their little villages had sent troops to the Austrian army for ages. They were Slavs, and had helped the Austrians to conquer the Magyars in 1849. The statue of their military leader of that time still stood in the market-place of Agram with his sword pointing at the Magyars. They hated the Magyars just as the Greeks hated the Bulgars. The question he would ask was: How many of the Croats now hated the Austrians? How far was there a real desire to break off from the Austrian Empire and unite with the Serbs of the Greek Church? This was one of the most interesting problems in the south-east of Europe.

THE UNITED STATES AND ROUMANIA.

Reuter's Washington correspondent announces that President Wilson has sent the following cordial assurance to the King of Roumania:—"The people of the United States have watched with feelings of the warmest sympathy and admiration the courageous struggle of your Majesty and of the people of Roumania to preserve from the domination of German militarism their national integrity and freedom. The Government of the United States is determined to continue to assist Roumania in this struggle. At the same time I wish to assure your Majesty that the United States will support Roumania after the war to its utmost ability, and in any final negotiations in the direction of peace will use its constant efforts to see that the integrity of Roumania as a free and independent nation is adequately safeguarded."

THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND.

The annual meeting of the Egypt Exploration Fund was held at the rooms of the Royal Society upon November 27, and the report and balance-sheet showed a deficit for the year of only some £70, instead of about £250 as in the previous year. Practically the whole of this sum is to be accounted for by the loss of sale of the society's valuable publications to scholars and libraries in the European countries now at war. The committee have very properly continued to publish volumes of the more important manuscripts upon papyrus that they have stored at Oxford, and the first volume of a particularly expensive work upon the Egyptian inscriptions in the Sinai Peninsula has also been issued.

An address was delivered by Dr. Bernard Grenfell disclosing some of the literary treasures among the papyri that he has recently deciphered, which will be published in Part 14 of the "Oxyrhynchus Papyri," and Volumes 3 and 4 of the "Tebtunis Papyri." He was able to mention such a series of manuscripts as will, when edited, place British papyrology in the premier position. The Tebtunis papyri are derived from the papier maché cartonage of mummies, which was manufactured out of a stiffened series of layers of old manuscripts. Generally, after careful separation and chemical treatment, the mummy case proves to have been made up of disconnected fragments. One recently examined, however, contained one large and complete papyrus, cut up into pieces but capable of being reconstituted. Alas! it was not a long-lost treasure of classic literature, but a long series of registrations of contracts of the year 233 B.C.

The "Oxyrhynchus Papyri" contains new pieces of ancient authors, chiefly poems by Pindar and orations by Lycias, and part of the later history of Greece, before Alexander, by Ephorus, also a portion of a speech by Lycurgus. Pieces of classic authors already known are also fairly plentiful, and these have an importance of their own as proving that the mediæval manuscripts that we have of the works of these authors are fairly representative of their writings, as those were accepted by scholars in Egypt some 800 to 1,000 years earlier than the existing codices.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

Auspicious as was the report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the speech of the chairman, Mr. Charles Greenway, at Monday's general meeting, throws an even rosier light on the prospects of the company. The trading profit for the year amounted to £415,827 5s. 10d., as against £171,723 1s. 4d. in the previous year, a result which he described as "eminently satisfactory" in view of the fact that this profit included only a very small benefit from the capital subscribed by the Government. As regards the present year, when full benefit will be derived from the extensions carried out with the first half of this capital, he felt confident the trading profit would be not less than £800,000, and would probably be nearer £1,000,000. It is a matter for extreme satisfaction to know that the company's present and future profits cannot be regarded in the light of "war profits," since practically the whole of the products of the company "were either contracted before the war, or, in the cases of those contracted for since, have been sold at pre-war prices."

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It will be remembered that opinion was divided at the outset as to the advisability of the Government's action in investing in the company. Even within the past twelve months unfavourable criticisms have been made in the Press. These were dealt with most effectively by the chairman, who declared that "if it were possible to assume that the Government repented of their bargain, I would undertake to find a purchaser for their 2,000,000 shares at not less than £6,000,000, and probably for as much as £8,000,000." He further predicted that this increment, which he rightly describes as magnificent on an investment which had only been locked up for an average period of eighteen months, would be only a small instalment of the increment that would be shown in the near future, when it had been possible to build refineries more commensurate with the vast supplies of crude oil at their disposal. In this connection he went on to refer to the delay in constructive work in general through the war, and said they must consider themselves very fortunate indeed to have been able to complete one-half of the programme for which the nation's money was provided by the beginning of the year.

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Another matter of interest in regard to the future profits of the company was the reference to the decision of the Government of India to substitute to a large extent oil for coal on the Western Indian railways. Mr. Greenway pointed out that it took about thirty days for the round voyage to take coal from Bengal to the West Coast of India, while it only took half that time for the round voyage from the Persian Gulf. That means, of course, that the company will have a new and growing market for its products close at hand. On the question of demand, the chairman pointed out that the contracts which they had secured now amounted to a total of no less than 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 tons. "The value to the company of this enormous volume of assured business," he added, "is immense, for it renders us absolutely independent for many years to come of all competition. Rate wars or no rate wars, we shall always be certain of some profit, no matter at what prices we may have to sell our benzine and kerosene, and we can, therefore, regard with perfect equanimity any competition that may present itself in these products." In other words, the company is now in a practically impregnable position.

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Comment on the chairman's speech would be incomplete without some reference to his description of the extraordinary richness of the company's oilfields. After stating that they had hesitated in past years to express the full extent of their belief in the possibilities of the oil territories, he went on to say that "the confirmatory evidence which we get as we proceed with our developments so exceeds our most sanguine expectations that the time has now come when we can express the opinion with a good deal of confidence that the oilfields embraced in our concession are among the most extensive and prolific of any in the world, and that Persia may even one day become as big a producer of oil as the United States." In support of this he gave some interesting details of the production of the fields, and pointed out that the production now obtainable from the field on which was situated well No. F7, which had so far yielded something like 1,750,000 tons of oil—"the only one," to quote the chairman's words, "from which we have been able regularly to produce, and, therefore, properly to gauge the extent of its producing capacity, and of the field as a whole"—was larger than the pre-war production of the whole of the Roumanian and Galician oilfields!

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Further progress is again revealed in the report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, though, satisfactory as the result is, it is not to be compared with the marked advance made in 1915-16. No doubt the slower rate of progress is to be explained by the statement that during the past year the whole of the fleet not retained on Admiralty charter was taken over by the Ministry of Shipping at Blue-Book rates, the earnings being for account of the Government. The number of available vessels was reduced by the loss of several steamers owing to enemy action. These losses have doubtless been far more than made good by recent acquisitions of other lines; while as regards new tonnage, it is stated that the two mail steamers which have been under construction for three years will be shortly delivered as cargo steamers only, and that a contract has been entered into for the building of a large mail steamer of 16,000 tons, but that her delivery is very uncertain.

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Turning to statistics, the year's net profits were £862,500, as against £780,500 in 1915-16, £404,200 in 1914-15, and £354,600 for the year before that. In other words, the net profits were just £82,000 more than those of the record year 1915-16, when the great increase in earnings was due to the acquisition of the British India and Federal fleets. During the financial year under review the control of the Union of New Zealand Company's business was obtained, but this has only affected the returns as far as the last three months are concerned, and for its full effect we must wait for the succeeding report. As to the allocation of the profits, £5,000 less is absorbed by debenture interest, and £100,000 is contributed to the provident, good service and contingent funds instead of the single allocation in the previous year of £126,000 to the reserve fund. The dividend on the deferred stock is again 18 per cent., involving this time the payment of an extra £112,000. Even so, £92,700 is carried forward, an advance of £7,400 on the previous figures.

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I am now able to give a few further particulars regarding the recent outburst of commercial activity in Bulgaria. Among the latest companies to be formed is one at Rustchuk under the auspices of the Bulgarian Donau-Bank to finance and otherwise promote trade after the war. The capital of this company is 5,000,000 leva, which has mainly been obtained from Bulgarian sources. Then the Banque Balkanique has raised its capital by 50 per cent. to 15,000,000 leva, with a view to undertaking more extensive transactions in tobacco. A new company has also been formed in connection with the tobacco trade by a number of other banking houses, including the Herzog-Kenzern, the Ungarische Bank, and the Wiener Bank-Verein. Other developments, it is reported, will include the taking over of the banking house of Meyer and Attalion at Rustchuk by a new joint stock bank with a capital of 20,000,000 leva.

COMMENTATOR.

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ROUMANIA'S INDUSTRIES.

The Past and the Future.—I.

No doubt the criticism might be, and will be, made that the present is hardly the time to discuss the industrial possibilities of Roumania. But it is just because of the present situation of the country that discussion is necessary. Reconstruction will not be the work of a moment in a country which, while taking part in the war, has kept its own territory more or less inviolate. Still less can it be so where invaded territory is in question, especially in the case of a country which must largely depend on external aid to repair the damage and to place its economic life once again on a normal footing. That is Roumania's position, and it must be obvious that the better the knowledge of her pre-war industrial situation the more certain it will be that her needs will be satisfied.

Roumania before the war was at an interesting stage of industrial development. The country had not had sufficient time to prepare for the proper utilisation of its resources, and, apart from agriculture and the production of petroleum, possessed no outstanding industry. The industrialisation of a mainly agricultural country is invariably a slow process without external assistance, and hitherto Roumania has not been able to attract sufficient foreign capital, except as regards the oilfields. The oil industry has, of course, proved an immense source of wealth, but it has been disadvantageous in one way, because, while drawing a certain amount of capital into the country for other purposes, it has, to some extent, overshadowed other industrial possibilities of the country.

Subsidisation of Industries.

From 1886 to the present day is not a far cry, and when it is borne in mind that Roumania's economic development only dates from that year, it is not surprising that greater progress has not been made. It is, on the contrary, a remarkable tribute to the energy and initiative of the Roumanian people that in that short space of time a very considerable industrial advance should have been effected. Throughout this period the most striking feature is the systematic and thorough nature of the encouragement accorded by the authorities to commercial enterprises in general. The policy of the Government has been to give consistent support to home industries by means of protective taxes, freedom from taxation, subsidies, and in other ways of this kind. The first step was taken in 1887, when a law was passed giving numerous privileges to those who wished to establish industries in the country, among them freedom from direct taxation, exemption from Customs duties on machinery and similar things, and reduced railway charges for the manufactured article. That law was considerably modified in 1912, because owing to the fact that the privileges were for a term of years it gave preferential treatment to newer concerns. On the whole, the effects of this law have been satisfactory, though in some cases it has merely resulted in raising prices in Roumania. It has at any rate given indigenous industries a chance to raise their heads, which would certainly not have been the case, had there been no obstacle to the importation of goods from the Central Powers. That, as it was, the bulk of Roumania's imports came from those quarters suggests, however, that further measures will be necessary in future which, while framed so as to encourage trade with the Allies, will place an effectual ban against the commercial penetration of Germany and Austria.

Woollen Goods.

A wide field is covered by the country's industries, which include the manufacture of woollen and other fabrics, sugar, and paper. A brief sketch of the position of some of these industries before the war will seem to illustrate the country's potentialities. In 1912 the capital invested in the woollen trade amounted to nearly ten million lei (francs). The value of the raw material used in this industry amounted to over seven million lei a year, of which just a half was provided in the country. The home product was, however, not of the best quality, and the finest wools had to be obtained from abroad, principally from Germany and France. Roumania, in turn, exported her surplus wool to Austria, Serbia and Bulgaria, the value of these exports amounting in 1912 to just over a million lei. In 1912 thirteen factories were engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods, the value of which came in that year to 14,096,430 lei, and in the following year to 15,716,691 lei. This was far from sufficient to meet home consumption, and the country has always imported woollen goods on a large scale, the imports being chiefly goods of the finest quality, and coming, needless to say, mainly from Germany and Austria. The chief need of this industry is an improved source of raw material, and this will be a difficult problem to solve, since the increased cultivation of cereals has meant a corresponding decrease in the number of sheep. There is, however, wide scope for improvement in the strain of sheep, a question to which too little attention has been paid in the past. There have, it is true, been experiments in this direction, but they have been isolated instances, and not part of a general policy. Possibly some further encouragement accorded to the industry might bring about an improvement in this direction.

Hemp and Flax.

The hemp and flax industry, which represented in 1913 a capital of 2,245,632 lei, presents somewhat similar features. Here, too, Roumania has been handicapped by the lack of raw materials, which in the year in question were imported to the value of 1,742,036 lei, while home supplies were only worth 135,217 lei. The quantity of manufactured goods also fell much below what was consumed in the country, as may be seen from the figures for 1913, when they amounted to 1,290,805 k., and the imports were 435,453 k.

Sugar.

The sugar industry is an example of the misapplication of State aid. In this case the only benefit derived from State encouragement, in the shape of bounties and protective duties, has been that the local factories—the shareholders in which were to a great extent foreigners—were able to reap larger profits, while the home consumer had to pay an unnecessarily high price for the commodity, owing to the absence of foreign competition. The consumption of sugar in Roumania has always been on a low scale; in 1913, for instance, it was only one-eighth per head of the population compared with what it was in this country. That can easily be understood in view of the price of this article of food. The main problem before the authorities after the war will be to reduce the price of sugar, and to do this they must either permit unfettered foreign competition or arrange for increased production. The former method is obviously a matter for a stroke of the pen, while the latter is likely to be difficult to accomplish.

EGYPT'S FINANCES.

Substantial Shipping in August.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 2.

The State accounts for August, just published, show a substantial surplus in the Government's favour. Revenue for the five months comes to £E7,833,782 and expenditure to £E7,281,712, as against £E6,927,214 and £E6,976,784 respectively a year ago. Thus revenue has increased by about £E900,000 and expenditure by about £E300,000, leaving this year a surplus of £E552,070, compared with a deficit of £E49,570. The position is therefore £E600,000 better than it was at the end of August, 1916.

The most important items of revenue during the month were :—Land tax, £E144,926; customs, £E209;068; tobacco dues, £E144,165—the total so far shows, however, a falling off of £E163,419; mixed court fees, £E67,545; railways, £E367,635; ghaffir cess, £E47,199; and sundry extraordinary receipts, £E136,302. The chief items of expenditure during the month were :—Irrigation, £E107,776; railways, £E227,898; War Office £E96,788; public debt service, £E115,215. With regard to the surplus this year, it is, of course, to be noted that ghaffir cess makes its appearance for the first time, but as its receipts figure for £E377,342 and the expenditure debited against it for £E288,669, this item accounts only for about £E100,000 excess of revenue, so that there can be no question as to the present position being eminently satisfactory.

U.S. PURCHASES IN INDIA.

The Government of India, says Reuter's Delhi correspondent in a message dated November 30, have opened rupee credits within certain limits in favour of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in order to finance purchases by the United States of supplies required in connection with the war. In regard to these arrangements discussions are now in progress with the United States with a view to the acquisition by them of the silver produced in the United States, of which a portion would be placed at the disposal of the Government of India, but a settlement has not yet been reached.

Viscount Goschen having resigned the chairmanship of the London County and Westminster Bank owing to the pressure of important public business at the Board of Agriculture, the Board have elected Mr. Walter Leaf chairman and Sir Montagu Turner deputy-chairman for the year 1918.

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ADEN MARKET FOR CONFECTIONERY.

Trade Requirements.

Aden's imports of confectionery amount to an average of £7,000 worth a year, thus making the market one well worth the attention of manufacturers. The position of this trade is dealt with in a recent report of the United States Consul there, Mr. Addison E. Southard, who gives the following particulars regarding market conditions :—

The bulk of the imported sweets are of various classes of hard and semi-hard mixed candies. The Arabs, Indians, Somalis, and Jews, in the order named, use considerable quantities of these candies on festive occasions, such as marriage and birthday celebrations, and on feast days in general. The Arabs who can afford it always have plates of candies in their "mabrazes" or sitting rooms for the guests who may call as well as for members of the family. A great deal of this candy is consumed by the Arabs while eating khat. The khat habit is widely and generally practised, and often in the intervals between fresh chews of khat a piece of candy is eaten.

Khat is the Arabic name for a shrub which, so far as is known, grows only in the Turkish Yemen and in the Harrar district of Abyssinia. The young leaves and tender stems are chewed. Khat has a stimulating effect upon the nerve and brain cells, and is supposed to cheer the melancholy and to give strength to the weary. It is eaten only when fresh, and is very expensive in Aden. The wealthier Arabs gather at specified times in the afternoon and at night, in either public or private "mabrazes," for khat chewing and combine with it the reading of stories or of the Koran, singing, or serious conversation. The labourer, whenever he can afford it, chews khat as he works.

Methods of Packing.

The bulk of the hard candy sold here is manufactured by a well-known firm in England. It comes packed in sealed tine of 7 lbs. capacity. There are forty of these tins to a wooden case. The price per case before the war was from $6.50 to $7, and the latest price is from $12.50 to $14.50, with limited supplies obtainable. One of the 7-lb. tins of this candy sold before the war for $0.57, and the present price is almost double. The retail price per single pound was $0.10, and has now increased to $0.20. The flavours most liked by the natives are lemon and banana, although the candies are often of assorted flavours. Hard candies of very much the same quality are also imported in 1-lb. glass containers, tightly closed with screw tops. The prices for these are naturally somewhat higher than for the bulk candy, and only the small European population and the wealthier natives buy their sweets in this form. Chocolates, toffee, and similar fancy grades of sweets are imported in pound and half-pound packages. A considerable quantity of these grades is consumed by the European and wealthier natives. All are packed in tightly sealed tins or bottles. This method of packing is highly important in order that the contents may be kept fresh and presentable in this climate.

The natives are fond of another class of confectionery known as "A B C" lozenges, which come in assorted flavours and colours. They are manufactured in England. These sweets can be sold economically in small quantities, as they are usually packed in bulk —generally in tin-lined barrels containing a hundredweight. Eight or ten pieces are given for a pice. These lozenges are somewhat cheaper to the dealer than the hard candies packed in the 7-lb. tins. He can retail them at a lower price, and also benefits by the sale of the barrel and the tin, for which he receives about 25 cents each.

Mottoes.

The "A B C" lozenges resemble in composition the little flat pieces of candy known as "mottoes," which are so popular in the candy stores in America that cater to children's trade. "Mottoes" are in the shape of hearts, squares, circles, ovals, etc., and have stamped on them, usually in red, various little mottoes. If a selected lot of short and simple mottoes in Arabic, instead of English, were stamped on these pieces of candy, it is believed they would have a fair sale in this district, as such confectionery novelties appeal very much to the average native. The lozenges above referred to are smaller than "mottoes" and have one letter of the alphabet stamped on each piece: hence the name of "A B C."

The idea of Arabic "mottoes" and Arabic "A B C's" has been suggested to local shopkeepers familiar with the trade, and they think it likely that such a confectionery novelty would meet with a good and permanent demand. This candy, while designed especially for the comparatively limited Aden trade, would undoubtedly meet with a good demand in any district having a considerable Arab population. Taking all such districts into consideration, the possible market would be large enough to be well worth entering. Local shopkeepers have an indistinct recollection of having many years ago had small shipments of Arabic "mottoes" from Germany, but so far as they know there has been nothing of the sort on the market in recent years.

The value of the locally made sweets which are consumed is estimated to be greater than that of the imported sweets. By far the most important of the locally made sweets is "Turkish Delight." The principal ingredients of this confection are sugar and American starch. Flavouring is added, and for the fancy grades almond or groundnut kernels are used. "Turkish Delight" often makes up the bulk of the Arab breakfast, and sometimes contributes largely to his other meals. There are many grades, but those most used range in price from 8 to 25 cents a pound. The best quality is known as "Hallawat-Alloaz," which, translated, means "almond cake." It is quite unlikely that imported sweets of this sort could compete with those produced locally, which exactly suit the native taste and pocket book. This confection is not manufactured in any one place on a large scale, but is almost entirely the product of the small native home and shop industries.

There are no Custom duties to be paid upon sweets imported into Aden. The commercial language is English. Quotations should be, if possible, in terms of English or Indian currency, and c.i.f. Aden. The largest importers of sweets in Aden have usually deposited 5 per cent. in advance and paid the remainder of the bill, upon arrival of the goods, by cash against documents through the local bank.

ENGINEERING NOTES

Substitute for Coal in Egypt.

THE NEAR EAST Cairo correspondent referred in his letter in last week's issue to experiments which were being carried out for some time under the Egyptian Government's auspices with the object of ascertaining whether any substitute for coal could be made out of the vegetable refuse remaining over after the various crops had been harvested. He says that these experiments have been in progress for about two years, the result being a scheme whereby gas can be made out of the vegetable matter in question, for use in engines using anthracite coal (we presume it means suction gas producers). The scheme is not described, but, probably, some alterations in the fuel container or other parts of existing suction gas plants are proposed, or a special apparatus has been devised as an attachment to such plants, by which the use of vegetable refuse as fuel can be effected. But whatever the scheme may be, the Egyptian Government has apparently found it practically efficient, for it has made arrangements to put the details of this scheme at the disposal of all owners of engines (we presume suction gas engines), free of any charge, and an official notice has been issued advising such owners that they can obtain full particulars and copies of the plans on application, and that the working of the apparatus will be demonstrated to them at the research works in Shubra. The result was that, according to THE NEAR EAST correspondent, the director of the research department has been literally "snowed under" by applications from people wishing to take advantage of the offer. Perhaps it is a hyperbolic expression, but it corroborates, in a way, what in previous Engineering Notes we stated in reference to the use of suction gas as a motive power in the East, that "in recent years the introduction of suction gas plants has offered such great advantages that their use is constantly increasing, and many factories in towns, pumping and irrigation plants, and a variety of local Oriental industries, are now met in all directions using such plants for motive power." The numerous applications which "snowed under" the above-mentioned official in Egypt verify the above statement; and the remarks we made at the time that "difficulty is experienced in their (the plants) use when and where anthracite or other fuel, which is needed, has to be imported," adding that "a suction gas plant, which could work with fuel produced and obtained on the spot appeals to every enterprising individual in those regions," are also proved correct by the numerous applications for the new scheme in Egypt.

Judicious Advertising.

We made the above remarks more than three years ago, and before the war began, when we had occasion to describe in these columns a new suction gas producer, which could work continuously upon wood refuse, such as chips, wood blocks, shavings, sawdust, bark, olive refuse from oil mills, coconut husks and shells, rice husks, cotton pods, and many other vegetable waste materials. It could also, if desired, consume anthracite, lignite (brown coal), coke, peat, etc. Indeed, the apparatus could work successfully and cheaply in all parts of the East, as we pointed out at the time. It was, like similar other producers, of British manufacture and of very simple construction. The result was that we had many applications from our

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readers from the East, and even from the United Kingdom, for further particulars and information where the apparatus could be obtained. We referred them to the manufacturers, but have not heard of the results. However, taking the present case of Egypt, where so much interest is being shown in such apparatus, it may be surmised that either these British-made suction gas producers, such as were described in these columns more than three years ago, are not appreciated in Egypt, or they are *not yet* known there! More probable the latter, for otherwise why should experiments be carried out in that locality to find out a method of doing practically what these British-made suction gas producers were successfully already doing? Is it not another proof of the inadequate methods of British advertising? For it is evident that because of such methods an invention which was of vital interest to such an important agricultural region as Egypt is was not made duly and adequately known there. British manufacturers, as a rule, are content with advertising, by preference, in their respective trade journals. And there, from year to year, their stereotyped, illustrated advertisements appear as regularly as the seasons without any change, except when names or addresses have to be altered. The illustrations occupy four-fifths of the space, whilst the wording, trimmed to a scant sentence or two, is tucked away in an obscure corner, with, apparently, no consideration of the relative importance of picture and wording. We admit that advertising in the trade journals is an imperative necessity for the manufacturer, for it keeps his name in front of the dealer, the merchant, the exporter, and importer at home and abroad, but for the general public—and we speak here with regard to foreign countries, and especially those in the East—this method of advertising is not efficient. The results of an advertisement in a strictly trade journal depend on the energy and disposition of the middleman, the commercial agent, the technical expert, etc., who see the advertisement; and, as a rule, buyers in the East prefer to do business without them. Therefore, without any intention to minimise the value of the trade journal as an advertising medium, we would suggest to engineering manufacturers and others not to overlook or underestimate the value of political and commercial journals. By natural instinct, the general public in the East is particularly interested in such publications. German and American firms, by making use of them as advertising mediums, spread their business successfully in all directions there. Now, we are trying to capture that business; but we cannot do it with the old, inadequate methods. It is said that all things wait for him who *comes*—if he comes quick enough and with the proper force; and if we mean to act only when the war is over, we may be sure to find others there. An advertising campaign is urgently needed *now* to prepare the way, but not of the stereotyped style which hits the bottom of the Consulates' waste-paper basket—a campaign to catch the interest, to hold the attention, to convince old and create new buyers in the East. Let manufacturers select publications of general interest, with a recognised circulation in the region to be attacked, and with explicit and convincing words say what they have now and what they can do after the war. Such an attack, if properly directed, will accomplish wonders, and make easier the capture of the enemy trade.

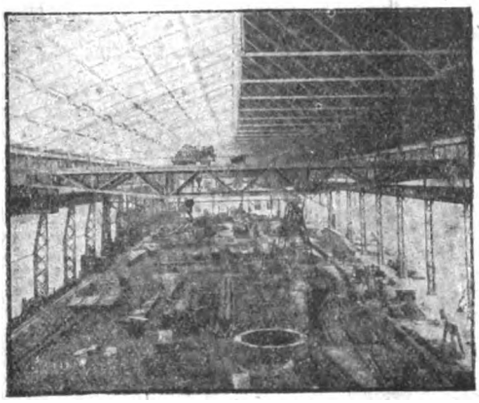
GRANT & CHINN,
The British Sanitary Engineers
of Egypt and the Sudan,
CAIRO and ALEXANDRIA.
Telegraphic Address: "TUBULAR."
Agents for SHANKS, OF BARRHEAD; and
THE BERKEFELD FILTER CO.

One-Way Ploughing Device.

A device has just been brought out which forms an important improvement in ploughing a field by a tractor. By this device two ploughs can be carried by one tractor, the ploughs being arranged so that one, on which the mould-board is designed to throw the soil to the off-side, is in operation while the tractor is traversing the field in one direction; the other, which is designed to turn the soil to the near side, being in use when the tractor is travelling in the reverse direction. The effect in ploughing a field is, of course, that all the furrows are laid one way, and blank spaces in the growing corn, where two sets of opposed furrows meet, are obviated. The arrangement is a simple one. Each plough is lifted or lowered by means of a two-throw crank-shaft. The cranks are set at 180 degrees, and one of them is coupled by chains to a point on the framework of the plough near the front end, the other to a point at the back of the plough frame. A half-revolution of the two shafts, acting in concert, raises one plough and swings it out of the direct line, and at the same time lowers the other to the operating position.

Patents in Zanzibar.

A decree has been issued by the Sultan of Zanzibar relative to patents, designs, and trade marks in the Protectorate. This decree supersedes the Indian law as to patents which was formerly in force in Zanzibar, and provides, *inter alia*, that letters patent for any invention may be granted in Zanzibar to any person holding in the United Kingdom or India a valid patent for such invention.


20 Ton Overhead Electric Travelling Crane.

CRANES
For RAILWAYS, DOCKS, HARBOURS and WORKS.
— ALSO —
HYDRAULIC BUFFER STOPS AND OTHER RAILWAY PLANT
(not ordinary Rolling Stock Buffers.) SUCH AS
Turntables, Traversers, Tanks, Pumps, Water-Cranes, Capstans, Winches.
SEAPLANE LAUNCHING APPARATUS.
Also Sole Makers of the "Stoney" Control Sluices, with Stokes' Patent Improvements. Over 1,000 already installed.
RANSOMES & RAPIER, Ltd. (DEPT. L), 32, Victoria St., London, S.W.
Telegrams and Cables: "RANSOMES RAPIER, LONDON"; "SLUICE, LONDON."

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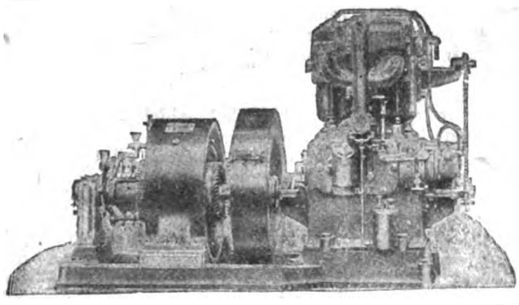
BEDFORD, OIL AND GAS ENGINES. ENGLAND.
Vertical Enclosed Forced Lubrication.
Designed for Paraffin, Petrol, Alcohol, Town, or Producer Gas, &c.

Suitable for driving:—
Dynamos, Pumps, Fans, and other forms of Machinery.
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TURKEY. EDWARDS & SONS, Dilsiz Zade Han, Stamboul, Constantinople.
EGYPT. W. H. ALLEN, SON & CO., Ltd. Cairo.

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COMPANY MEETING.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL.

An Excellent Year.

The eighth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, was held on Monday at the registered office of the company, Britannic House, 23, Great Winchester Street, E.C., Mr. Charles Greenway (chairman and managing director) presiding.

The secretary (Mr. F. Macindoe) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—The directors' report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account having been duly circulated, we will, with your permission, follow the usual course of taking them as read. I am pleased to say that there has been some acceleration—about five weeks—in the presentation of the accounts this year, but they would have been submitted a month earlier had it not been for the postal delays now occurring. In the future, subject, of course, to postal irregularities, I hope we may be able to submit them not later than in the month of October in each year.

Accounts.

I will now ask you to kindly give your attention to the printed figures. Dealing first with the balance-sheet, you will see that the paid-up capital stood at £3,250,000, being an increase of £250,000 upon the figure of the previous year, due to the payment by his Majesty's Government of a further call of that amount. This payment brought the total amount of capital provided by the Government up to £1,251,000, leaving a balance of £949,000 still due at the end of the financial year out of the £2,200,000 which they undertook to provide by the agreement of 1914. This balance they have, as mentioned in the report, recently paid. I may mention that in addition to £199,000 of Debenture stock which has been issued to the Government in respect of a portion of the payment to which I have just referred, we have issued a further £1,400,000 of that stock, bringing our total Debenture issue at date up to £2,000,000. Including these Debentures, the total capital now issued amounts to £6,000,000. Beyond the Debentures we have no liabilities outstanding, either in respect of our recent large acquisitions of shares or on any other account, excepting the contingent liability of £209,741 2s. 2d. to the Burmah Oil Company, other than the usual liabilities to trade creditors, which are more than offset by the amount due to us by sundry debtors. The other items on the debit side are self-explanatory and do not, I think, need any comment. Coming to the credit side of the account, you will see that there has been an increase of about £200,000 in the first item, this being due to additional shares which have been taken up in our subsidiary companies to provide the further capital required by them from time to time for necessary developments. The item of "Refinery, tank installations, pipe lines, etc.," also shows an increase of about £145,000, this representing the outlay on the various large extensions which were carried out during the year, less the depreciation on the whole, which has been written off. The only other item in this account requiring comment is the claim against the Persian Government for the losses sustained by this company owing to the rising of Persian tribesmen in 1915. As you will see, these losses have now been ascertained to have amounted to the large total of £402,887 3s. 1d., and a claim has been lodged against the Persian Government for the payment of this amount. The further claims of our producing companies for losses sustained by them on the fields amount to £211,602, making a total of £614,489 3s. 1d. due to us by the Persian Government, and it is perhaps superfluous for me to say that had it not been for this destruction of property by Persian tribesmen the profits of the Anglo-Persian Company during the past two financial years would, to the extent that the claims represent loss of revenue, have been correspondingly greater.

Profits.

Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see that the trading profit for the year amounted to £415,827 5s. 10d. as against £171,725 1s. 4d. in the previous year, which fully confirms the anticipations expressed by me when I last had the pleasure of addressing you. This result has been arrived at after making a very liberal allowance for depreciation, and in view of the fact, to which attention is drawn in the report, that this profit only includes a very small benefit from the capital subscribed by his Majesty's Government, I think it may be considered as eminently satisfactory. During the current year we shall be deriving the full benefit of the extensions which have been carried out with the first half of this capital, and the year is now sufficiently advanced for me to be able to say with confidence that the trading profit shown in our next accounts will not be less than £800,000, and will probably be nearer £1,000,000. And this profit, gentlemen, I would particularly like to emphasise, can in no sense be regarded as "war profit," inasmuch as practically the whole of our products were either contracted for before the war or, in the case of those contracted for since, have been sold at pre-war prices. As regards excess profits duty, this company, in common with all concerns which were in process of development on the outbreak of war, is in the unfortunate position of having a very low pre-war standard of profits. We have therefore claimed to be assessed on a capital percentage basis and this has been fixed at 11 per cent., in addition to which we shall, of course, get the allowance of 3 per cent. on new capital put into the business since the beginning of the war. I think I may safely say that there will be no liability for this duty in respect of the past financial year. What the amount may be for the current year it is impossible at present to estimate, but in any case there will be an ample sum available for the payment of the full 8 per cent. dividend on the Preference shares, as well as a substantial one on the ordinary shares. In this connection I would like to refer to some misleading references to this company which have appeared in the Press during the past twelve months. Some of these journals, quite disregarding the explanations which I gave last year that no portion of the plant for which Government capital was provided had been in operation, and that our refineries had, from quite exceptional causes, been shut down for about five months, took the profits of the preceding year and tried to show from them that the Government had made a very bad investment. Another referred to the Government having "dabbled in petroleum to the nation's cost" and to their having sunk "millions" of public money in Persia, etc. To these writers I would commend a careful study of the accounts we are now submitting and, still more, of those which we shall be submitting for the current year. From the former they will see that not only had the Government, when these comments were written, not sunk "millions," but only one million and a quarter, but also that this million and a quarter had only just begun to fructify. No one can expect eggs to produce chickens until they are hatched, but the best proof that the Government eggs in this company are in the course of being satisfactorily hatched is that if it were possible to assume that the Government repented of their bargain I would undertake to find a purchaser for their 2,000,000 shares at not less than £6,000,000, and probably for as much as £8,000,000. (Applause.) This increment on an investment of £2,000,000, which has only been locked up for an average period of eighteen months, is, I think you will all agree, a magnificent one and one that quite refutes any suggestion that the Government have by their investment in this company made a bad investment or squandered public money. But this increment is, I predict with confidence, only a small instalment of the increment that will be shown five to ten years hence when we shall have been able to build refineries more commensurate with the vast supplies of crude which we have at our disposal. (Applause.) You all know, gentlemen, the time occupied, even under peace conditions, in laying pipe lines, erecting tanks and refineries, building jetties and in carrying out the other extensive engineering operations connected with the development of a large oil refining business in a country so remote as Persia. Under war conditions, with the difficulties in obtaining delivery of steel plant of all kinds, the delays in ocean transport, accentuated by the occasional loss of essential portions of plant by the action of enemy submarines, the interruptions to work caused by the scarcity of labour, etc., the time occupied is necessarily very much greater; and in the circumstances we consider ourselves very fortunate indeed that we have been able to complete one half of the programme for which the national money was provided at the beginning of this year. The other half it will not, I am afraid, be practicable to complete for some considerable time, and in the meantime we shall have to be satisfied with only a portion of the benefit of the national investment. This portion will, however, as I have just indicated, be eminently satisfactory, and when the whole benefits are shown they will be such as to gratify the desires of any investor.

Contracts.

While on the subject of the future profits of the company, I should like to take this opportunity of announcing that the Government of India, after a long series of experiments and trial runs, which have amply demonstrated the greater efficiency and economy of oil, have recently decided to substitute to a large extent oil for coal on the Western Indian railways. This substitution will not only be of financial advantage to the railways, but it will also—and this, as you all know, is a matter of the very greatest national importance at the present time—effect a very considerable economy in tonnage, inasmuch as the time occupied in carrying coal from Bengal to the West Coast of India is about thirty days for the round voyage, as against only fifteen days for the round voyage for oil from the Persian Gulf, whilst oil as a fuel for locomotives has roughly twice the efficiency of coal. In other words, to carry the fuel equivalent of 1,200,000 tons of coal, oil will only occupy space to the extent of 300,000 tons. The great importance to the nation, at the present time of stress, of the enormous economy of tonnage which will thus be effected is too obvious to need any elaboration, but I would like to take the opportunity of remarking that this is another of the many benefits which this country is gaining from the Government's participation in the business of this company. A similar substitution will, I understand, be carried out shortly on the Mesopotamian railways, whereby a further large economy of tonnage will be effected. You will be pleased to learn that the contracts which we have secured for fuel oil and other products now amount to a total of no fewer than 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 tons. The value to the company of this enormous volume of assured business is immense, for it renders us absolutely independent for many years to come of all competition. Rate wars, or no rate wars, we shall always be certain of some profit, no matter at what prices we may have to sell our benzine and kerosene, and we can therefore regard with perfect equanimity any competition that may present itself in these products. This, gentlemen, is an extremely happy position for an oil company to be in when, as in our case, it can be sure of an ample supply of the raw material, for it renders us absolutely unassailable, and enables us to take advantage of such opportunities as may occur for advantageously marketing the balance of our products. One of the journals to which I previously referred expressed a very earnest desire to be informed of the extent to which this company has been able to assist the Navy by deliveries of fuel oil. I should like very much to give this figure, because it would greatly emphasise the national importance of the company, but I am afraid that I cannot give the information asked for without committing a serious breach of the provisions of the Defence of the Realm Act, and the divulgence of this information must therefore be withheld until the conclusion of the war, when it can be disclosed without any danger. Apart from this assistance, however, the fact that the Admiralty and the War Office have had this substantial source of supply to draw from, in addition to others, has not only been of great service to the operations of the Allies, but it has, by the

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competition which it has created, undoubtedly saved the nation many millions of public money in the lower prices at which it has enabled the Government to purchase the balance of its supplies. Though the company will, when the extensions now under contemplation are completed, doubtless be able to provide the whole of the British naval requirements of fuel oil, and also the requirements of the Government generally for all petroleum products, it would not be wise, either politically or economically, for the Government to rely upon any one country as its sole source of supply; but we shall, as you will have gathered from what I have said as to the volume of business already secured, have no difficulty at all in finding outlets for the balance of our production, apart from the great trade which awaits petroleum and benzol producers after the conclusion of the war, as the result of the extended use which is being developed by the war for spirit and petroleum products of all kinds for railway, marine, aviation, and industrial purposes.

State Participation.

Mr. Walter Long recently, in the House of Commons, said "that oil is probably more important than anything else; you may have men, munitions, and money, but if you have not got oil all other advantages will be of comparatively little value." Of this fact there can be no gainsaying. Although it has only recently come home to the minds of the people of this country, a nation which again enters into war without an ample supply, absolutely free from foreign control, of fuel oil for the service of its naval and mercantile fleet, of benzine for its motor transport and aircraft, of oil for the lubrication of th many mechanical appliances which so largely enter into modern warfare, and of aromatic hydro-carbons for the manufacture of high explosives, will be committing an act of madness. These are just as necessary for the successful conduct of a war as men, ships or munitions, and although in these days of great events and of wholesale upheavals of old political shibboleths, the national importance of the transaction is apt to be overlooked, the Minister and Cabinet who first recognised this essential fact by securing control of this company, and who thereby established an important source of supply, free from foreign or monopolistic domination of any kind, of a commodity which is necessary for our national existence, performed a greater service to this country, both financially and politically, than even did Disraeli when he concluded his historic purchase of Suez Canal shares. (Hear, hear.) A further very desirable step in the same direction is now being taken by the department which has been recently constituted under the presidency of Mr. Long in its efforts to promote the production of indigenous oil. But, although a good deal may be done in the development of production of oil from shale and coal, it is hopeless to expect that these sources of production can compete with natural oil, excepting under particularly favourable conditions, or that the quantity produced will ever meet the whole of the national requirements. And, so far as natural oil is concerned, the chances of finding it in quantity in this country are, if the opinions of geologists are of any value, so remote as to render this a very uncertain source of supply. Therefore, in addition to the steps which are being taken in connection with indigenous oil, what is wanted is an extension of the policy initiated when the Government secured a controlling interest in this company, and the formation of an "all-British" company, similarly controlled and free from foreign taint of any kind, to deal with the development of oilfields outside of the British Isles. This company might absorb all the existing British oil-producing companies and at the same time undertake the examination and exploitation, so far as concessions are obtainable, of all the known oil territories of the world not already taken up by these or other companies, but directing its attention more particularly to the British colonies and dependencies and to countries whose friendship can be relied upon. Some step of this kind is all the more essential now that the United States—hitherto the chief source of supply of the world—has come to the point where demand is overtaking production, and is beginning to have grave doubts as to whether she will be able to maintain her export trade for many years longer.

Purchase of German Companies.

In connection with the commercial aspects of the company's business, I will now refer to the important development which has recently taken place in the purchase of the shares of the German companies known as the British Petroleum Company, Ltd., the Homelight Oil Company, Ltd., and the Petroleum Steamship Company, Ltd. The two former are what is known in the trade as distributing companies, and their organisations will, later on, when our present arrangements for the sale of benzine and kerosene come to an end, doubtless prove a most valuable acquisition, as they will provide a means of disposing of our output of these products at much better prices than we are realising at present, for without such an organisation oil companies have necessarily to surrender to intermediaries a large portion of the profits realised on the sale of their products. These companies have, unfortunately, owing to the arrangements which have been made by the Board of Trade for the regulation of petroleum supplies with a view to economising man power and tonnage, had to abandon their share of the benzine trade of this country for the period of the war. They are, however, continuing their trade in kerosene, obtaining their supplies from the same sources as before, and will in the meantime make all necessary arrangements for resuming their business in benzine after conclusion of the war on a scale that will ensure their securing a substantial share of the trade of the United Kingdom. In this connection I may mention that the company's production of benzine is now at the rate of about 150,000 tons per annum, and will, by the time our extensions are completed, probably amount to 600,000 to 700,000 tons per annum. This may appear to be a very large figure compared with the United Kingdom's pre-war trade of less than 400,000 tons per annum, but with the very large increase in motor transport of all kinds which will certainly take place in this country and in Europe generally after the conclusion of the war, and with the entirely new demand which will have been created by the great development in aviation, I have not the slightest doubt that there will then be an offtake for all the benzine and all the benzol which the world will be able to produce. You have all probably read of the enormous increase in the consumption of benzine which has taken place in the United States during the past few years. The consumption there has now gone up to 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 tons per annum, or to about six times the total pre-war consumption of the United Kingdom and Europe, the population of which is vastly greater, and with the new aviation demand which is now being created America's requirement will no doubt in the future be very much larger. The same ratio of consumption will, given the necessary supplies of spirit, sooner or later be developed on this side of the Atlantic, and as it will be quite impossible for the United States to meet this demand, even if she can spare any at all for export, it is obvious that there is ample room in these markets for all the spirit that can be produced elsewhere for many years to come.

Fleet.

The purchase of the shares in the Petroleum Steamship Company, Limited, has given us an addition of nine tankers to our fleet, which, as mentioned in the report, now numbers 22 vessels of a deadweight capacity of 130,915 tons. In addition to these, we are managing nine other tankers of a deadweight capacity of 74,500 tons, bringing the total number of boats now being run by us up to 31, of a deadweight capacity of 205,415 tons. This fleet, though large, will not nearly suffice for our future requirements, and will need to

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be augmented considerably whenever it may be practicable to purchase or build additional tonnage.

Pipe Line.

Our new 10 inch pipeline was completed in January last, and has since been working very satisfactorily. Unfortunately, however, a serious fire at our pumping station at Tembi in July last, which was, I regret to say, accompanied by the loss of the life, under particularly heroic circumstances, of our chief engineer there, Mr. R. L. Lindsay, has partly deprived us for the time being of the use of our smaller line, but we are still able to deliver to Abadan all the oil that our refineries will be capable of dealing with until our extensions are completed. That the whole station was not destroyed was entirely due to the great bravery displayed by Mr. Lindsay, who, when the outbreak took place, rushed through the flames to almost certain death to close down the valves, and to the aid given him by one of his assistants, Mr. Still, who very ably and at great risk to his life seconded Mr. Lindsay's efforts. You will be pleased to learn that this great courage and devotion to duty has been recognised by his Majesty by the bestowal on Mr. Lindsay of a posthumous decoration of a gold Albert Medal, the civilian equivalent to the V.C., and on Mr. Still of the ordinary Albert Medal, and also that these services have been liberally recognised by the company. (Applause.) The necessary repairs at the Tembi station are being carried out with as little loss of time as possible, and we are also at the same time arranging to erect the additional pumping stations necessary to bring the capacity of the lines up to a total of 3,000,000 tons per annum.

Refineries.

As mentioned in the report, the refinery extensions to which I referred in January last have not yet been completed owing to the loss at sea of some of the plant and to the delay under present conditions in replacing it, but we hope to get them in operation in the course of a few months. Further large extensions now require to be taken in hand immediately to meet urgent war requirements. The plant for these has already to a large extent been ordered, and to meet the additional capital outlay which will be incurred on them it is proposed to make an issue about a fortnight hence of a further 1,000,000 Participating Preference shares. These shares, which will rank for dividend as from October 1 last, will be issued at a premium, and at the conclusion of this meeting I shall submit to you the resolution necessary for carrying this increase of capital into effect.

Fields and Production.

As regards the fields which are being developed and tested by our producing companies, you will have seen from the report that these continue to show most satisfactory results. In past years we have hesitated to state the full extent of our belief in the great extent and richness of our oil territories, but the confirmatory evidence which we get as we proceed with our developments so exceeds our most sanguine expectations that the time has now come when we can express the opinion with a good deal of confidence that the oilfields embraced in our concession are among the most extensive and most prolific of any in the world, and that Persia may even one day become as big a producer of oil as the United States. One evidence of this is that in the field from which we are now obtaining our crude we could, had we the refineries to deal with it, now obtain a production of something like 4,000,000 tons per annum from the wells which have so far been carried down to the main horizon. These wells, nearly the whole of which have necessarily to be kept shut down until we can deal with their oil, are pretty widely scattered over the field, and so far as can be judged all the intervening territory is equally rich, since the gas pressure is constant throughout the field. I have several times previously referred to well No.F7, and you will be interested to learn that this well, which has so far yielded something like 1,750,000 tons of oil, still continues to produce as freely as ever, with practically no diminution in the gas pressure. This well, I may mention, is by no means exceptional, since many others which we have opened and tested appear to be just as prolific, but I quote it as it is the only one from which we have been able regularly to produce, and therefore properly to gauge the extent of its producing capacity and of the capacity of the field as a whole. The measure of the richness of this field can be better appreciated, gentlemen, when it is remembered that the production now obtainable from it is larger than the pre-war production from the whole of the Roumanian and Galician Oilfields, to obtain which production a total of something like 2,000 wells had to be worked and a capital of over £40,000,000 was employed. But this is not the only field which we have to rely upon for our supplies. Adjacent to it we have, as I mentioned at the last meeting, proved another field, which promises to be just as rich, and we have recently received a telegram reporting that another well which has been sunk on it has practically proved an additional square mile of productive territory. In the second outside field to which I referred last year the test well has now been carried down to 2,195 feet, and is passing through favourable strata. In the third outside field oil has been struck with strong gas pressure and, although it has not yet been practicable to test the capacity of this field, there is ground for anticipating that in it we have secured another valuable addition to our reserves of oil. This last field is, I may mention, situated some hundreds of miles nearer to the mouth of the Persian Gulf than any of the other fields so far tested by us, and is in close proximity to a deep water harbour, and, as there are several other good anticlines in the neighbourhood, we are hopeful that this may prove to be a field of the greatest importance. A further outside field which is now about to be tested is reported by our geologists to be of larger area than, and as likely to be just as rich as, the one from which we are now obtaining our production. In order that you may better appreciate the extent of the oil territory included in our concession I have had a map hung up for exhibition, and after the meeting I shall be pleased if shareholders will examine it, and I shall be glad to give them any explanation they may desire regarding it. From what I have said now and on former occasions you will, I think, be able to appreciate that, so far as supplies of crude oil are concerned, there is, as far as can be judged, practically no limit to our potentialities. The only limits are (1) refineries and (2) outlets for our manufactured products. The first of these is, in these days of shortage of steel, our principal difficulty, but we shall lose no opportunity of pushing on with the erection of further refineries until we are in a position more adequately to deal with the enormous supplies of crude which we have available. As regards the second limitation, namely, outlets for our products, there is, as I have already indicated, little to fear.

High Grade of Oil.

One other point of importance in connection with our crude which I should not pass over is that it is of an exceptionally high grade and much superior to the average of the oils produced on the American Continent. It contains a very large percentage of benzine and kerosene of the best quality, excellent lubricating oils, fuel oil of unusually high thermal efficiency and a good percentage of first-rate paraffin wax. This means that our crude is much more valuable than that of most of the producing fields of the world, whilst its cost of production—inasmuch as it is all obtained from flowing wells of big volume entailing the minimum of field expenditure—is much lower. These advantages, I may say, far more than compensate for any disadvantage at which we may be placed in freight as compared with fields which may be more favourably situated geographically for supplying the European markets.

War Services of Staff.

Before concluding my remarks, gentlemen, I would like again to draw attention to the work of our staff both in London and in Persia during the past year. I have already referred to the magnificent services rendered to us by the late Mr. Lindsay and by Mr. Still, but these are only characteristic of the devotion to duty which has been displayed by all, and which is inspired by the knowledge that they are serving a company in which the Government is the predominating partner and in work which is of vital importance to the nation in the prosecution of the war. The company has earned the distinction—a unique one, I think, for a joint stock concern—of a "mention in despatches," but the word "company" in this case is only a synonym for our staff, who have in many directions, and often at considerable risk to their lives, rendered services of a very valuable character to the authorities throughout the period of the military operations in Mesopotamia. Among other things they have rendered a large amount of assistance in the shipbuilding which has been going on in the Gulf, more particularly in the erection and fitting of the gunboats now operating on the Tigris, a large number of which were built in the company's yards.

Political Situation.

In this connection I have much pleasure in stating that the political situation in the part of Persia in which we are working remains in the same state of tranquillity as when we last met, and that we are able to carry on our operations in every direction without let or hindrance of any kind. I am also pleased to report that our relations with the Persian Government and with the local chiefs continue to be of a most friendly character. Gentlemen, I now beg to move: "That the report of the directors, balance-sheet and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1917, be received, approved, and adopted." I will ask Lord Inchcape kindly to second this motion. Before putting the resolution to the meeting I shall be glad to answer, to the best of my power, any questions you may desire to put. (Applause.)

The Right Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.: I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The Chairman: Have any shareholders any observations to make?

Mr. A. R. Ricardo: May I ask if the loss owing to the destruction of pipelines by the Persian tribes is being recouped by the company by withholding the royalties due to the Persian Government?

The Chairman: Yes, that is so. We are not paying any royalties until that claim has been met.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Dividends.

The Chairman: The next business before the meeting is the declaration of dividends, and I now beg to move: "That an additional dividend of 2 per cent. on the Preference shares, making 8 per cent. for the year, be paid in respect of the year ended March 31, 1917, such dividend to be paid on January 31 next, together with the 3 per cent. interim dividend then falling due, and that a dividend of 6 per cent. per annum on the Ordinary shares in respect of the same year be paid on the same date." In moving this resolution I would like to draw attention to the appropriations of £50,000 and £100,000 respectively, which have been made to the "Preference share reserve fund" and to the "General reserve fund." The first of these appropriations has been made as the nucleus of a fund to be established for the protection of the Preference shareholders, in accordance with the terms of our original prospectus. The second has been made with the object of building up a fund for the purpose of amortising the cost of our concession and other properties. Both of these appropriations, which I have no doubt we shall be able to augment considerably in the near future, will, I am sure, meet with your approval. I will now ask Mr. Cargill kindly to second this motion.

Mr. John T. Cargill seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Directorate.

The Chairman: The next resolution which I have to move is for the election of directors. Before proceeding to this matter, however, I would like to take the opportunity of referring to the great loss which we have sustained since we last met in the death of our esteemed colleague, Mr. W. Knox D'Arcy. As you all know, it is to Mr. D'Arcy's enterprise and far-sightedness in securing and exploiting the Persian oil concession that the Anglo-Persian Oil Company owes its existence to-day. But what many of you probably do not know is that it is entirely due to his strong spirit of Imperialism that the concession now remains in British hands, and it is a matter of the very greatest regret to us all that he should not have been with us for a few years longer

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to see a fuller realisation of the expectations which he had formed as to the great future which awaited this company. Mr. D'Arcy, like that other great pioneer, Cecil Rhodes, with whom he had many traits in common, was a man of large heart and great integrity, and in his death we have to mourn the loss of a valuable colleague and an esteemed friend. I will now pass on to the subject of the resolution. Since we last met we have elected Mr. F. W. Lund and Mr. Frank C. Tiarks as members of the Board, and their election now requires confirmation. Everyone who knows these gentlemen will, I am sure, agree with me that by securing their co-operation we have materially strengthened the Board, and therefore I have no doubt that you will cordially support their re-election. We are advised that the election of Admiral Slade as an ordinary director also needs confirmation, and this appointment will likewise, I am sure, be agreed to unanimously. The directors retiring by rotation are Mr. John T. Cargill, Sir Campbell K. Finlay and Mr. H. E. Nichols. They are all eligible for re-election, and I have no doubt that you will wish that we should continue to avail ourselves of their extremely valuable services. I now beg to move :—"That the election of Mr. F. W. Lund, Mr. Frank C. Tiarks and Admiral Sir E. J. W. Slade as members of the Board be confirmed, and that Mr. John T. Cargill, Sir Campbell K. Finlay and Mr. H. E. Nichols, who retire by rotation and are eligible for re-election, be and are hereby re-elected members of the Board." I will ask Sir Hugh S. Barnes kindly to second this motion.

Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman : The next business of the meeting is the election of auditors, and I shall be obliged if two of the shareholders present will kindly propose and second the necessary resolution.

Mr. FitzAdam-Ormiston : Gentlemen,—I have pleasure in proposing the net resolution :—That Messrs. Brown, Fleming and Murray be re-elected as auditors for the ensuing year at such fee as may be determined by the Board."

Mr. W. A. Buchanan seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

The Chairman : This, gentlemen, concludes the business of the ordinary general meeting.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

The Chairman : We will now proceed to hold the extraordinary general meeting, of which notice has been given, and I will ask the secretary to read the notice convening that meeting.

The secretary having read the notice,

The Chairman said :—Gentlemen, I do not think the resolutions which are to be submitted to this meeting require much explanation. As I have already mentioned at the preceding meeting, the additional capital is being created to provide the funds necessary for further extensions, which are to be carried out immediately in order to meet urgent war requirements of fuel oil and other products. Although undertaken at the moment to meet these urgent war requirements, the plant will, it is scarcely necessary to say, be of permanent utility, as it will be of the same character as that already installed, and will after the war serve to produce the various commodities for which we have entered into more permanent contracts. With regard to the second resolution, I would explain that the object of this is to maintain the majority of votes now held by the Government. They now hold 2,001,000 votes out of 4,000,000 With the proposed alteration they will hold 4,001,000 votes out of 8,000,000. The great advantages of the Government association are so obvious that they need no explanation, and I am sure you will support this resolution most cordially. I now beg to propose the first resolution, namely : "That the board be and they are hereby authorised to increase the capital of the company to £5,000,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 additional Preference shares of £1 each, ranking in all respects pari passu with the existing Preference shares of the company." I will ask Lord Inchcape to second this motion.

Lord Inchcape seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman : I now beg to propose the second resolution, namely : "That the articles of association of the company be altered by cancelling the first sentence of article 70 and by substituting therefor the following sentence :—'Every member shall have one vote in respect of each Preference share held by him and two votes in respect of each Ordinary share held by him.'" I will ask Mr. J. T. Cargill kindly to second the motion.

Mr. Cargill seconded the motion, which was unanimously agreed to.

The Chairman : That concludes the business of the extraordinary general meeting.

PREFERENCE SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING.

The Chairman : We will now proceed to hold the Preference shareholders' meeting and I will ask the secretary to read the notice convening that meeting.

The secretary having read the notice,

The Chairman said : Gentlemen,—The resolution to be submitted to this meeting is self-explanatory. The only point in connection with it in regard to which shareholders would, perhaps, like some explanation is as to the method which will be followed in allotting applications for the new capital. The board have not yet settled this, beyond deciding that preference of some kind will, of course, be given to existing shareholders. One or two Preference shareholders have written suggesting that they are entitled to an allotment pro rata to their existing holdings, but I would point out that the Ordinary shareholders, who have gone for many years without dividends while the Preference shareholders have had theirs guaranteed, are also entitled to some consideration in this matter, and to the extent of their interest in the company the board will have no alternative but to pay some regard to their wishes in the matter of allotments. With this explanation I now beg to propose : "That this meeting of the holders of the Preference shares of Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, hereby consents to the increase of the capital of the company to £5,000,000 by the creation of 1,000,000 additional Preference shares of £1 each, ranking in all respects pari passu with the existing Preference shares of the company." I will ask Mr. J. T. Cargill, who represents the principal Preference shareholder, to second the resolution.

Mr. Cargill formally seconded the resolution, and it was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman : Gentlemen, I have to thank you for your very kind attendance.

The proceedings then terminated.

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COMPANY REPORTS.

P. and O.

The report of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company states that, after making provision for depreciation, bringing the provident good service fund up to £200,000, and adding £50,000 to the contingent fund, thus bringing it to £500,000, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £85,329 brought forward, of £790,642. The directors propose to deal with this balance as follows :—Five per cent. dividend on the Preferred stock, £152,000 ; 12 per cent dividend and 6 per cent. bonus on the original Deferred stock, free of income tax, £486,66[illegible] (of which 2½ per cent. on Preferred stock and 6 per cent. on Deferred stock was paid as an interim dividend in May last) ; 6 per cent dividend and 6 per cent. bonus on the Deferred stock recently created, free of income tax, £59,255, leaving £92,712 to be carried forward. The dividends and bonus now recommended will be payable on and after the 18th inst. Debenture stock to the extent of £106,300 has been redeemed during the past twelve months, but the company retains the power to re-issue this. During the past year the whole of the fleet not retained on Admiralty charter has been taken over by the Ministry of Shipping at Blue-Book rates, the earnings being for account of the Government. The company's fleet has been reduced by several steamers during the year, owing to enemy action. The directors are able to state that the loss of life involved was very small, thanks to the discipline observed. The two mail steamers which have been under construction for three years will be shortly delivered, but they are being finished meantime as cargo carriers only. A contract has been entered into for the building of a large mail steamer of 16,000 tons, but her delivery is very uncertain. The arrangement referred to in the notice of meeting of June 18, with regard to the offer made to the Ordinary shareholders of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, Limited, whereby the company acquired the Ordinary shares of that company, having been approved at the meeting of stockholders on June 27, has been carried out, and shareholders holding 98 per cent. of the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand shares have already accepted the offer. In consequence of the requisitioning arrangements referred to in a preceding paragraph, the directors have agreed, as a temporary war measure, to restrict the service as from July 1 to a fortnightly line to and from Bombay. This, of course, involves a modification in the amount of the subsidy, which has been agreed with the Post Office. The mail service has been worked regularly, but at a great additional cost. The directors availed of a recent opportunity to acquire a further freehold frontage in Leadenhall Street adjoining the company's office. The board has also purchased the long lease of the Hamburg-America office, which was built by that company in Cockspur Street, and the West End branch will be transferred to these premises as soon as they are released from temporary Government use. Since the close of the company's financial year the directors have purchased the shares of the Hain Steamship Company, Limited, which came into the market owing to the death of the founder of the line. This fleet comprises some 27 large up-to-date cargo steamers, with a gross tonnage of 108,787 tons, and the purchase money, which will be in cash, will be provided by the company in conjunction with the British India Company. The British India Company has acquired the shares of the Nourse Line, which owns six steamers, with a gross tonnage of 23,496 tons. The vessels are of recent construction, and were built specially for service in the Tropics. The Nourse Line has a valuable trade in the East, which will work in well with the British India services.

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

The report of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company for the year ended March 31, states that the gross earnings of the entire system worked by the company amounted to Rs5,19,73,685, as compared with Rs4,67,76,169 ; while the working expenses amounted to Rs2,65,25,544, or 51.04 per cent., as compared with Rs2,46,39,028 or 52.67 per cent. With an increase in the gross earnings of Rs51,97,517 and in working expenses of Rs18,86,516, there was an increase of net earnings of Rs33,11,001. The parcels traffic continues to show very substantial increases. The receipts have risen steadily from Rs9,53,000 in 1908 to Rs23,39,000 in 1916-17, the increase during the year being Rs5,34,000. The increase in general merchandise was accompanied by a decrease of 126,584 tons in weight. This decrease was in grain, minerals, oilseeds, cotton and spices, and was to a large extent due to the inability to provide rolling stock for a considerable quantity of traffic offering. There has been considerable enhancement in the port-to-port rates between Calcutta and Bombay and Madras. The gross earnings of the company's and State lines amounted to Rs4,64,06,975, being an increase of Rs48,69,150. The increase in coaching earnings was Rs20,63,497, in goods earnings Rs27,67,552, and in miscellaneous earnings Rs38,111. The working expenses amounted to Rs2,36,54,819, an increase of Rs17,96,995, the result being an increase in the net earnings of Rs30,72,165. The working expenses of the entire system amounted to Rs2,65,25,544, or

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51.04 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with Rs2,46,39,028, or 52.67 per cent. The share of the surplus profits of the company's and State lines, less Indian income-tax, amounted to Rs34,04,857, which has been paid by Government and remitted at 1s. 4 7-32d. per rupee, realising £230,093. These results are abnormal owing to restrictions of expenditure. The arrears of renewals which are accumulating will have to be dealt with when different conditions prevail, and will seriously increase working expenses, thereby decreasing the net profits. The reserve fund is, however, being strengthened to enable the company to maintain as far as possible an equal distribution of dividend. Surplus profits for the whole year realised £236,164, and the total receipts were £245,473, compared with £184,817. The directors recommend a payment on January 1 of a final dividend of 25s. per cent. from the stockholders' revenue account, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent., making the total distribution for the half-year £3 per cent., all subject to English income-tax.—Meeting. 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., 12th instant, noon.

Ellerman Lines.

The report of Ellerman Lines, Ltd., for the year ended December, 1916, states that the dividends on the two classes, preference shares and the preferred ordinary shares, have been paid to September 30, 1916, and it is proposed to pay a final dividend of £100,000 on the deferred shares. £750,000 is placed to reserve, making the reserve and guarantee funds £1,650,000, all of which is invested in Government securities.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

Hyderabad (Deccan) Company.—An interim dividend of 1s. per share, less income tax, will be paid December 10. Holders of share warrants to bearer should present their coupons No. 24 for payment at the National Bank of India, 26, Bishopsgate, E.C., on or after that date.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, have declared an interim dividend on the Ordinary shares of 5 per cent., less income tax at 5s. in the £, in respect of the year ending 31st instant, payable on and after 20th instant.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Gemsah production for week, 608 tons (last week, 19 tons); Hurgada production for week, 1,958 tons (last week, 3,419 tons).

Maikop Combine.—Production of crude oil for week ending November 17, 24,718 poods (399 tons).

BULGARIAN FINANCE.

A telegram from Sofia, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent in a message dated December 5, states that the Bulgarian Minister of Finance, speaking in the Sobranje, gave a very favourable account of the financial situation of the country. As regards the future, he reported that, in spite of the great increase of the public debt, the economic resources of unified Bulgaria would suffice largely to cover it.

The *Chicago Tribune* recently contained a striking article by Major H Maitland Kersey, D.S.O., managing director, Canadian Pacific Ocean Services, Ltd., entitled "Britain Points the Way to Victory." It is admirably calculated to give the people of the United States an insight into what Great Britain has done and is doing with increasing energy to wage a successful war.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

We have had this week a good deal of activity in certain directions, and, so far as land shares are concerned, the alterations in prices have in most cases been towards a higher level.

In Government stocks, Egyptian Unifieds are again ¼ up at 84 with sellers very scarce, and the same remark applies to Egypt 3½ per cent. preferreds. In Bank shares, Agriculturals are 1-32 easier at 6⅛, and Land Banks are a trifle lower at 7, sellers. Otherwise there is no change to record.

In railways, small business has been done in Delta Lights round the current price of 6 3-16. As regards land shares, there have been some fairly large transactions in Aboukirs without altering the price, which remains round 21. Allotments have been in persistent demand for Egyptian account with a very fair amount of business doing up to 3⅜, a rise of ⅛. Behéras are ⅛ up at 13⅛, Egypt having come in a buyer and absorbed all the shares offering round 13.

Delta Lands, although unchanged, look a firmer market, as the price in Egypt has improved to a level which may at any moment permit purchases on this side. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts have risen 6d. to 8s. 3d., thanks also to buying orders from Egypt, where the improvement in the various holdings of this concern has evidently began to attract attention. In Gharbieh Lands some business has again been done round last week's price of 35s., with further buyers, but sellers are now asking 37s. 6d. New Egyptians have again been the centre of large transactions, the bulk of the buying coming from Egypt, where the shares have reached a level distinctly above that current here; and the price has improved fractionally to 15s. 9d. after business as high as 16s.

Sidi Salems have again been bought on local account, but the price remains unaltered. Union Foncières have been quite a feature, and on large buying orders from Egypt have improved ¼ to 2⅜. In United Egyptian Lands there has been a certain amount of business doing up to 1s. 3d. In miscellaneous shares Markets have remained unchanged at 27s. 9d., and practically without business, although an interim dividend of 1s. per share—the same as last year—has been declared payable this month. Salts and Sodas have been largely dealt in between 35s. 9d. and 37s., closing 3d. down at 36s. 3d. Khedivial Mails have been a weak market and have reacted 1s. 6d. to 37s. 6d. on some pressure to sell on an unwilling market.

In Greek securities, apart from some small transactions in Rentes at 43 and in 1914 at 74½, there is nothing of importance to report, and prices are all unchanged, with the exception of Monopolies, which are ½ up at 52½.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) fell 6d. to 27s.-28s., and Ural Caspian declined 1-32 to 1-1⅛. Otherwise prices showed an upward trend.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

Since the outbreak of war applications have been received at the Department of Commercial Intelligence from a large number of firms in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad who wish to get into communication with British manufacturers or producers of various classes of goods which have previously been obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Applications have been recorded, says *The Board of Trade Journal*, for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (among other) articles. British manufacturers or producers of these articles now in a position to supply are invited to make application for the names of the inquirers:—Corrugated paper; die-casting machines (manufacturers wanted); maple or hickory skewers, spoons and forks, cheap tin and zinc (for India); strontium carbonate (producers wanted).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended October 31.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Oct. 21-Oct. 31	9,834	11,375
April 1-Oct. 31	113,334	137,770

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Nov. 30	Present Price
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	83⅝	84
Do. Pref. 5½ %, 1890	88	72	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	52	52½
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	43
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	55	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	65
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74½	74½
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	85	84
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	68½
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅝	6⅝
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7½	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14xd	14
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	4⅛	4⅛
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	7	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	17 1/16	17
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅜	6⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72½	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1 1/16	21/-	21/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅜	3⅜
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13
Do. Pref.	4⅞	4 7/16	4 7/16
Daira Sanieh	2/2	2/6	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	13/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	7/9	8/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅞	1⅞	1 1/16
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	15/7½	15/9
Sidi Salem Co.	1/16	26/7½	26/7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2⅛	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/1½	1/1½
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1 1/16	27/9	27/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	1/16	36/6	36/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	39/-	37/6
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅜	3⅜

ALEXANDRIA EXCHANGE.

CLOSING PRICES ON NOVEMBER 10.

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

National Bank of Egypt	L.E.	16⅜
Tram. d'Alexandrie	Frs.	—
Alexandria Water Co., Ltd.	L.E.	12½
Soc. Anonyme du Béhéra	L.E.	—
" priv.	L.E.	—
Lots Turcs, oblig.	Frs.	—
Bons de Panama	Frs.	—
Cassa di Sconto e di Risparmio (New)	Frs.	86
" Priviligiée	Frs.	—
Cheikh Fadl	Frs.	89
Urbaines et Rurales	L.E.	—
Comptoir Fin. et Com. d. Egypte	£	—
Building Lands of Egypt	£	—
Union Foncière d'Egypte	L.E.	—
Société des Immeubles	L.E.	—
Bonded Warehouses	L.E.	—
Unifiée	L.E.	—
Privilégiée	L.E.	84⅜
Land Bank of Egypt		74½
Nungovich Hotels	£	6⅜
Agricultural Bank of Egypt	£	4⅞
" Fondateur	£	5 1/16
Khedivial Mail S.S. Co. Priv.	£	—
" Ord.	£	—
Filature Nat. d'Egypte		33/9
Alex. and Ramleh Railway		13
Egyptian Delta Light Railways	£	5½
Soc. An. des Eaux du Caire	Frs.	6
" Jouissance	Frs.	107
Egyptian Markets	Frs.	170
Crown Brewery d'Alexandrie Priv.		—
" Div.	Frs.	—
Brasseries d'Egypte Priv.	Frs.	—
Wadi-Kom Ombo	Frs.	—
Egyptian Salt and Soda	£	5
Crédit Foncier Egyptien	£	37
" Fondateur	Frs.	725
" 1886 Oblig.	Frs.	836
" 1903 "	Frs.	358
" 1911 "	Frs.	267
United Lands	Frs.	276
Assoc. Cotton Ginners	P.T.	—

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Nov. 23.	1917. Week Nov. 22.
Cattle markets	1,059	428
General markets	350	467
Receipts (£)	1,409	895
Total for year	48,766	50,371

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
November 29, 30, Dec. 1	700,000	660,000
December 2, 3	420,000	340,000

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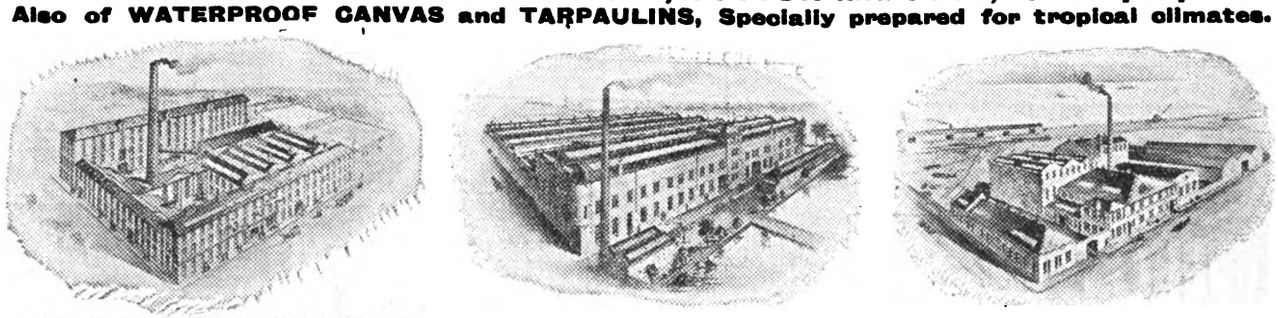

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 345.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The surrender of Jerusalem is the great episode of the week. In the military operations that have to be undertaken before Palestine and Syria are wrested from the Turks, the stage that has brought General Allenby to Jerusalem is a comparatively short one. But the capture of the Holy City by British troops has a significance which cannot be measured merely in terms of its military aspect. It is an event which has profoundly stirred the whole of Christendom, and more than any declaration, however solemn, of war aims serves to link the Allied cause with the triumph of righteousness and justice. In Great Britain itself the moral effect may be appreciated less than in other countries, for the public mind is so fixed upon winning the war that it does not allow itself to set much store on any incident which does not seem to bring the end of this stupendous struggle definitely nearer. But the deliverance of Jerusalem from the dominion of the Turk fulfils a trust that may be held to have been specifically laid upon the English people seven centuries ago, and it has been carried out in a manner which is at once worthy of British military traditions and does credit to the religious instinct of the nation.

The German explanation that the city was abandoned because of its sacredness and because it was worthless from a military point of view, needs no comment. More interesting is the statement that when the Pope heard the news, he retired into his private chamber and remained on his knees in prayer for some time. The capture of the Holy City by a Christian force cannot fail to have moved His Holiness deeply, and it may be noticed that it will eventually raise certain large questions of ecclesiastical polity, which the Pope, as head of the Catholic Church, will, no doubt, help towards a decision. Jerusalem was, of course, connected with the Eastern Church before the Great Schism; but it has also been under Latin rule. And at the present moment, when the Russian Revolution has so profoundly modified the position of the Orthodox Church, it is possible that the Vatican anticipates an increase in its influence over the destinies of Eastern Christendom. That the Vatican appreciates the importance of the situation is shown by the statement of the Cardinal Vicar, that this is one of the most memorable dates in Christian history, and the order for public prayers of thankgiving in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome.

General Allenby's proclamation to the inhabitants and the steps which have been taken to safeguard the holy places have been judiciously thought out. The Moslem area round the Mosque of Omar is being guarded by Indian Moslems, and none who are not Mohammedans can pass the cordon; at Bethlehem and Rachel's Tomb guardians have been placed, and the hereditary custodians of the Wakf at the Gates of the Holy Sepulchre have been asked to continue at their posts.

The year 1917, whatever may be said as to the fortunes of war in Europe, has been brilliantly successful for the British arms in Asia. The capture of Baghdad and Jerusalem within a twelvemonth will raise our prestige higher than it has ever stood before in the East, and it must be remembered that as our prestige has risen, that of Germany, which has been built up during the past twenty years in the Near and Middle East, has declined, while that of Russia has collapsed altogether. Military success is the foundation of prestige, but it needs something more than military success to maintain prestige, and wise political action is a capable second. Happily, the recent proclamation as regards the future of Palestine is an indication that in political action we have not altogether lost the faculty of vision. We can compare that statement with any of the German Emperor's speeches with equanimity.

In Mesopotamia further small actions have resulted in our favour, and it is interesting to note that here, as in Palestine, the German Press has made no attempt to minimise the real nature of our success. While they continue to repeat, what is no doubt the truth, that the war will be lost or won in Europe, they are constrained to admit that, so far as they are concerned, the war is already lost outside Europe. It is significant that Turkey has hailed the prospect of peace with Russia with enthusiasm, but it is nothing to the enthusiasm with which she would greet a general peace.

As to that, she is admittedly in a difficult position. Peace with Russia would not relieve the Ottoman Empire of anything like the heavy burden that it would take from the German and Austrain Empires, since Russia has not held up many Turkish troops of late, and for the last few months the spectre of a Russian occupation of Constantinople cannot have kept many Ottoman statesmen awake. On the other hand, if it be true, as

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is reported by a correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph*, that one of Germany's peace terms to Russia has been the demand for Austria to have full control of the Ukraine and the northern Black Sea ports, Turkey may well have preferred the old Russian Empire, ambitious but inefficient, which she knew, to the monstrous aggrandisement of her old enemy at Vienna with which she is threatened. For it may be taken for granted that in addition to this expansion Austria has not forgotten her old ambition to possess Salonika.

The statement of the reasons why the United States have not declared war on Turkey and Bulgaria issued by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives is, in brief, that Turkey has long been impatient of German control, and that Bulgaria does not share the colossal ambitions of Berlin, but has entered the war for a limited objective of her own. Both statements are, of course, true; what remains to be seen is whether Turkey and Bulgaria will take advantage of President Wilson's almost open invitation to make a separate peace implied in his distinction between the Central Powers and their satellites. There is this distinction between the two unfortunate puppets, however, that Bulgaria stands to gain, and Turkey stands to lose in any case. Whether the Allies or Germany win the war there will still be a Bulgaria, and that kingdom will in effect be more independent in the event of an Allied than a German victory; but, if the Allies win the war, Turkey will no longer have full control over the unhappy subject races in her dominions, while if Germany wins the war, she will no longer have control over even her own destinies.

Germany apparently still has faith in Turkey, since a further war credit of £T20,000,000 has been voted by the Senate at Constantinople, which has been loaned by Berlin, and it is stated that for twelve years after the war Germany will require no interest on these advances. Even if she did, Turkey could not pay; but she will, of course, have to pay in other ways—the way in which the aphis pays the ant for protection, by being sucked dry. Recent figures have shown that the Turkish revenue is not much more than sufficient to pay her own ordinary expenditure and a little over; but if Germany could gain control over even what remains of the Turkish Empire, she could afford to write off the loans and interest altogether and still call the bargain a good one.

Repudiation has, of course, been suggested, but it is becoming increasingly doubtful whether repudiation is a practical policy in these days, and the last week has put the question to an amusing test. The Leninites have threatened to repudiate their very considerable debt to France and England, and in that airy manner to cut one of the Gordian knots that hinder the coming of the Anarchic millennium. It would undoubtedly be an awkward thing for us, if they were to do so, but some of the more sober German papers have themselves discountenanced the idea almost as emphatically as we have. Germany is no doubt perfectly willing to finance Russia on terms laid down in Berlin, but she has an uncomfortable feeling that folk who repudiate their debts to Allies may one day play the same trick with their new friends, and to enforce payment would mean another war, or the heavy expense of Germany keeping a permanent garrison in Russia, or perhaps collecting the Russian revenue herself.

Unfortunately the collapse of Russia has temporarily involved the eclipse of Roumania. Not the slightest blame attaches to our brave Allies in Jassy, who have fought a gallant fight and may fight again yet; but it was certain that the Leninite will-to-impotence would gravely compromise the smaller nation. Deprived of half her territory and isolated on all sides, her position has long been extremely difficult, and her army is at the moment left in the air, although help may yet come from the Kaledin-Korniloff combination.

It has been rumoured that Germany has offered Roumania a separate peace, the terms being that she should resign the Dobruja to Bulgaria and receive in exchange Bessarabia. It is difficult to credit this report; in any event it is evidently not the full truth. That the Dobruja is destined, according to the German plan, for Bulgaria, is of course a commonplace, but that Germany would be willing to compensate her enemy with the more valuable province of Bessarabia, which Roumania has desired for many a long day, is unlikely. It is far more probable that Austria would put in a claim for this territory. In any event, the rumour is silent as to the destiny of the occupied province of Roumania and Bucharest; likewise as to the dynasty. After the language the German Emperor has used regarding the "traitor Hohenzollerns" and the "recreant King Ferdinand," it is hardly likely that he would negotiate peace with him on the basis of Bessarabia, even if he consented to negotiate with him at all.

That Austrian statesmen are ready for a policy of renunciation, as some too ardent souls in this country believed when Count Czernin made his speech a few weeks back, has been disproved by his later actions. The Foreign Minister of the Dual Monarchy evidently spoke with his tongue in his cheek, since the preparations for the offensive against Italy were already far advanced when he made his professions; and in his statement two or three days ago the matter was entirely dropped. Austria, being no longer engaged with Russia, is to help Germany on the Western front, and obviously she is to have a *quid pro quo* in the shape of territory. Since Bulgaria has already loudly pegged out her claim to Serbia and Macedonia, it seems natural to assume that Austrian compensation would be sought in Italy as a matter of "restoration," and in Southern Russia as a matter of expansion. It is possible, of course, that the latter step would be justified to a sceptical world as a measure of "national reunion"—the reunion of the Ruthenians under one subsidiary kingdom.

There would be nothing surprising in this claim. The German negotiations with the Leninites (whom we will not call the Russian Government) have revealed that Berlin is in an annexationist mood, and Prussia cannot very well expect to keep all the spoils for herself and deny her neighbours any—especially as Count Czernin has been at pains to remark that in some respects the position of Austria is more satisfactory than that of Germany. The Leninites were surprised, or profess to have been surprised, at the blunt German demands, and threatened to bombard the German lines with pamphlets. But they did not break off the negotiations, and it may be confidently predicted that they will not do so. They will be broken themselves first. The really important fact in the Russian situation is not the bluster of Lenin and the pronouncements of Trotsky, but the junction of Kaledin and Korniloff. The spirit of resistance is not yet quenched in the south-east of Russia, as it is too evidently in the north, and while that is so the situation in the Balkans, desperate though it be, may still be saved.

Count Czernin in his speech made some remarks on the future of Albania, which are well worth putting on record as an indication of the official Austrian view. He declares that in the part of Albania occupied by Austria, "We are trying, in *consistent continuation of our policy*, to produce a feeling of homogeneousness in the nation as well as one of State consciousness, and to create a basis for self-government and the country's cultural progress." The Austrian Foreign Minister has either forgotten the history of his country and the attitude of Vienna towards smaller nationalities for centuries, or else he is developing that type of cynical humour for which Austrian statecraft is famous. The latter alternative seems preferable.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, Nov. 9.

The Palestine Victory.

The one topic of conversation in the clubs, cafés, and bazaars is the wonderful victory in Palestine. The advance against Gaza had been awaited by the public for some little while, and rumours, more or less circumstantial, had been gaining in circulation as to the forces General Allenby had collected together at Khan Yunis; but it was never thought that the advance once started would be so rapid, nor that it would be made at such a small cost in casualties. Judging by what was experienced in the last attacks on Gaza, it was expected that the casualty list would be exceedingly heavy, and in anticipation most elaborate preparations had been made in the hospitals and convalescent homes in Cairo, Alexandria, and the Canal zone for the reception of the wounded. One can, indeed, scarcely credit that so much has been accomplished, that Gaza and Beersheba have fallen, that the enemy has been driven in headlong flight to the Jerusalem-Jaffa line, and that so many Turks have been accounted for so quickly and at such a small cost in men. (As a matter of fact, many of the casualties have been so slight that the men have since been able to return to their units in the field.) Everything appears to have been thought out and prepared with remarkable foresight and care, and the plan was undoubtedly executed with the same precision and ability. So far few details have come through of the actual fighting; but from what one hears the success of the operation, which ranks certainly amongst the most remarkable this war has witnessed, is due as much to the gallantry of our men as it is to the excellence of the staff work. The men of the London and Welsh regiments appear to have covered themselves with glory at several points, if one is to believe the version of some of the Australians, themselves no mean judges of fighting qualities, though there is little doubt from the details that have come through that all arms bore themselves with equal gallantry and steadiness.

The success of this offensive has had a tremendous effect in Egypt. Our recent victories on the Western front made quite a favourable impression on the Egyptians; General Maude's triumphant operations in Mesopotamia likewise impressed people; but the effect of those successes has been as nothing compared to that created by the news of the fall of Gaza and Beersheba and of the rout of the Turks. It is no exaggeration to say that our victorious advance into Palestine, whilst it has confirmed the reputation for field work and for economising as much as possible in lives with which General Allenby came here, and whilst it has raised "Allen Bey," as he is known to the indigenous population, enormously in their estimation, has at the same time incalculably increased our prestige and has gone a long way towards counterbalancing the unfortunate impression created by the Italian reverses. Indeed, this victory in Palestine has in that respect come very timely, and British is, so to speak, very much at a premium compared with other European stock.

That our offensive will have an important and far-reaching influence on the general campaign against the Turks is freely recognised in all circles out here. The fate of Medina is regarded as sealed, and a further advance on the part of the Shereefian forces is looked for with the result of finishing Turkish rule throughout the Hejaz.

Perhaps not unnatúrally the Syrian community is most jubilant at the news from Palestine. They see in the success of this initial operation the prospect of the speedy liberation of their suffering compatriots and the possibility of their being able in the very near future to give them the material assistance which they require and which it has so far been impossible to afford them. They evince unbounded confidence in the result of the present offensive, whilst expressing deep gratitude to the British for what they are about to do for their country.

THE DELIVERANCE OF JERUSALEM.

After just 400 years, now at last the Holy City passes out of the hands of the Turks. The long dark night of Turkish misrule, which so rapidly reduced the City from its former splendours, has now passed away for ever. Passed, too, for ever is that intolerant spirit in which the old Crusaders in 1099 captured the City, and showed no mercy for Jew or Moslem. To-day, under the British flag—be the occupation long or short—the rights of Moslem or Jew, of Greek, Latin, and Protestant, will all be preserved with sympathy. To millions all the world over the news of the deliverance of Jerusalem will be more real and a matter of greater joy than any news during the whole of this long, weary war.

In spite of a great deal that is new and tawdry, of much that is insanitary and unclean, Jerusalem to-day retains very much that must appeal to the religious man, to the historian, and to the antiquarian. No modern construction or "improvements" can hide the geographical features—the hills around Jerusalem. The valley of Hinnom in the west and the valley of the Kidron in the east still limit the site of the City as in ancient times. The Valley el Wad, known in the days of Josephus as the Tyropœan Valley, still divides the City's site into two mountain ridges. In the centre of the eastern ridge lies the hill, now entirely covered by the great Temple platform, known to travellers as the Temple area, but to the Moslems as *El Haram esh Sherif*, the noble sanctuary. In the Moslem world it enjoys a sanctity only second to that of Mecca. It is good news that from the very first the inviolability of this site has been secured by putting it into the hands of Indian Moslem guards. The vast platform enclosed to-day within the walls which stand on the foundations of those erected by Herod the Great, when he wished that his Temple should outrival that of Solomon himself, is mostly a level paved area, but in the centre rises the Dome of the Rock, the most beautiful building in the Near East. This was erected to cover the irregular massive outcrop of rock on which by tradition Abraham was in the act of slaying Isaac when God withheld his hand, and on which stood the brazen altar in the Temple of Solomon. At a later age, when Christians held this site, the high altar was built over the rock, so that it has during the ages been a place of worship for the three great principal religions. To the south of the Haram lies the great El Aksa mosque, which stands on the site where the Knights Templars had their great high quarters in Crusading days. In the centre of the eastern wall is the Byzantine gateway generally known as the Golden Gate, now walled up and never to be opened, according to local tradition, until a Christian conqueror enters by that route. At the northern end of the Haram, where stand to-day the Turkish barracks, once stood the great Antonia, the site according to tradition of Pilot's Judgment Hall.

Along the street leading from here down into El Wad, and then up the stepped street to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre runs the Vale of Via Dolorosa with its real stations of the Cross along the route. By this road countless pilgrims have made their way, praying at each shrine and sometimes carrying on their shoulders a great wooden cross, in remembrance of Him who carried the Cross for them. In the midst of the Christian quarter, surrounded by numerous chapels and all within one enclosure, stands a small chapel over the Holy Sepulchre itself. This site, although perhaps without much positive evidence for its authenticity, has been the most sacred site, the object of the prayers and tears of countless millions of followers of Christ during many centuries. The tomb itself, even if genuine, has been largely destroyed. The building over it is in appearance more like a kiosk than a church. The domed circular building enclosing it all has little of architectural pretensions, and yet the spot still draws the hearts of millions from every continent of the world. It is impossible for anyone with a really broad and sympathetic spirit to view without emotion the profound religious

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devotion of the Russian peasantry or, may be, the pious French Catholics as they approach the spot. To them at least the spot is very real, and to them to worship here is the greatest privilege that earth can give. To the Jews for long centuries Jerusalem has been a place of mourning and their chief shrine "a wailing place." There outside the Temple area, where the great embossed stones of Herod's platform rise up in magnificent display, at all hours of the day a crowd of Jews from all countries may be seen going through their service of mourning for the glories of the Jerusalem that is no more. Let us hope that to them, too, the fact that Jerusalem is now delivered from the black night of her oppression will turn the mourning into joy.

The majority of the 80,000 inhabitants of Jerusalem are Jews. They have greatly increased during the last decades. They crowd the ancient City within the wall and their "colonies" are spread out on all the hills around, especially over the hills to the north of the City. They are of all classes. The majority are orthodox and keep the letter of the Talmudic Law with strictness, but recently an increasing number of reform Jews connected with the Zionist movement, particularly educationalists, have come to the City. The Jews of Jerusalem come from all lands. There are Polish or Ashkenazim Jews of every part of Europe, Spanish (Sephardim) Jews from Turkey and the shores of the Mediterranean, Moghrabee Jews from all along the coast of North Africa, Yemenite Jews—in physique like Arabs—from Southern Arabia, Syrian Jews from Aleppo, Damascus and Beirut, Baghdadi, Persian, Georgian, Bokhara Jews, and others. They are a varied collection, speaking many languages, wearing many varieties of costume, following many national customs—yet all are united in the ideal of Zion. They represent the great turning of the nation Zionwards, which is one of the most romantic movements of the present day. It is not only the Jews who represent many nations. The Christians, too, come from all lands and represent practically every division of the Catholic Church. Even the most modern and strange sects are to be found represented in the Holy City. It is the city to which gravitate "cranks" of all kinds, who find in the mysteries of the Prophetic Books abundant reasons for justifying their residence in Jerusalem.

The old City stands within its embattled walls, almost as perfect to-day as they were when built by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century. These walls are built mainly upon the foundations of earlier walls, and still give the City an air of grandeur and picturesqueness. This can be seen to most advantage in the wonderful view of the City from the top of the Mount of Olives. There, looking across the Valley of the Kidron, the City lies spread out with her four-sided ancient walls, the Haram area with the Dome of the Rock lying fully open eastwards, and the numerous churches, church spires, and minarets rising among the masses of grey stone buildings, are set off in places by occasional trees. South of the southern wall, where once stood the most ancient part of the City, lies the site of the Zion of David—the hill now covered with gardens and trees. At the foot of this hill in the valley of the Kidron lies the Virgins' Fountain, called by the Arabs Ain Umm ed Deraj, literally the Spring of the Mother of the Steps, so called to-day because of the thirty steps by which the way leads down to the water. Once this spring gushed out from the hillside as the spring Gihon, the site where Solomon was crowned king, and from here Hezekiah laid his rock-cut aqueduct, which can be seen to-day, and still conducts the water to the Birket es Silwan or the Pool of Siloam, the lowest of the Valley el Wad.

For the tourist who has patience to study and is not content to take merely a superficial view Jerusalem must ever be a charm. Those who like myself have lived there have found a fascination growing year by year; few who leave there but long to return. For the student of history and archæology the City must ever be unique, and no fewer than four societies—English, American, French, and German—connected with exploration or archæological study are established in the City. It is a city of hotels and hospices; of hospitals, of which there are fifteen under various nations and religions; and of schools, of which there are very many, especially amongst the Jewish population. Undoubtedly before long we shall see here fulfilled one of the great problems of Zionist ambition, the establishment of a great Hebrew University.

In the past Jerusalem has been to a sad degree a city of contention, of quarrels among the churches, quarrels between the religions, quarrels between the various nationalities, all struggling to obtain an influence beyond their right. Jerusalem means "the Abode of Peace," and if by the taking of Jerusalem we might see established here a city of peace, a city of peace for itself, a city of union among the nations, a city of sympathetic mutual appreciation among the great religions of the world and the sects of Christendom, then we might indeed feel that the deliverance of Jerusalem was not a minor event, but the greatest outcome of the fearful disasters of this universal war. E. W. G. M.

ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, November 11.

King Constantine's Intrigues.

The publication of King Constantine's secret telegrams to Berlin has naturally been the subject of much comment in the Ententophile papers, and they have not spared the ex-King and Queen in their scathing remarks.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs has sent the transcript of the telegrams to the President of the Chamber, asking him to convey it to the High Court which is to try the members of the Skouloudis and Lambros Cabinets. He explains the manner in which the telegrams were sent and how they had been ciphered from an old code taken from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The *Patris* says:—"Let these telegrams be read in any way one likes, there will not be found in them a single paragraph, phrase, or proposition in favour of Greece or in the interests of the Greeks. All the anxiety shown was to serve the interests of Germany. Such a thing is comprehensible to a certain extent in the case of sovereigns from a different land having no attachment or sympathy with the country, who were unable to appreciate the wishes of the people; but what must be said of the advisers, diplomatists, and Ministers who are identified with these telegrams and who for two years have been the instruments of tyranny and of the violation of Hellenic honour?" The *Nea Hellas* declares that one would never have imagined that all the secrets of the country would have been communicated to Germany, as they were. All the military secrets and all the details of the army and its movements were communicated to the German staff, and Greece had become a protectorate, or, rather, a vassal State of Germany. The *Proodos* points out that it is perfectly clear now that Constantine more than once thought of attacking General Sarrail's army in the rear, and if he did not do so, it was from reasons independent of his will.

M. Venizelos's Tour.

The departure of M. Venizelos was kept a great secret, and his arrival in Rome was the first indication many had that he had left Athens. Hopes are expressed that much will result from his visit to France and England from a political point of view, and that the relations between Greece and the Allied Powers will be further strengthened. The hungry look forward with much anxiety to some more satisfactory arrangements being made to provision the country and to relieve the present deplorable situation. Foodstuffs arrive very slowly, and Greece seems to be living from hand to mouth. Owing to the want of fuel the train services are much reduced, and the means of bringing produce from the provinces are, therefore, insufficient to meet the requirements of the capital. Steps are being taken, however, to increase the output of lignite. Further, the Government have taken over all available Greek steamers, so as to make the best use of them, and a Commission has been formed to control all transport by land and water. The Ministry of Supplies from time to time fixes the prices at which most commodities are to be sold, with the view of preventing profiteering; but not much success has attended its efforts so far, inasmuch as hoarding and hiding are difficult to overcome. Olive trees, as is well known, abound in Greece, yet olives and oil are extremely difficult to obtain in Athens. Rice, macaroni, dried vegetables, sugar, and coffee are all rationed by tickets at intervals. The electric power difficulty appears to have been overcome for the present by obtaining wood from the burnt part of Tatoi forest, but certain restrictions on lighting are maintained.

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CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

The carob crop has been a disappointing one, as was anticipated in most districts. The Troödos season was extended far into October, and those who were able to avoid the plains did well, as the heat of October this year was, as sometimes happens, oppressive. There has been no lack of supplies, though prices are kept at a high level.

By Orders in Council dated October 11 and 15 the High Commissioner has ordered the suspension of certain taxes imposed under the Locust Destruction Expenses Law, 1881. At the time of the British occupation the scourge of the locusts which affected important parts of the cereal-growing areas called for prompt attention. An Ottoman law was in force, but this required drastic amendment. A new measure was passed empowering the High Commissioner to give directions by Order in Council for varying or amending its provisions. In the same year another law was enacted to provide by taxation for the expenses of the campaign against the pest under new rules and methods. The Treasury might advance money up to £30,000 to be repaid by duties, rates, and taxes. All classes were laid under contribution, even officials being taxed, a step which was generally condemned as uncalled for in view of the small salaries paid in Cyprus. Very large sums were collected annually, the expenses rising to a very high figure, and only falling after many years as the locusts decreased. A large surplus accumulated, and came in process of time to be regarded as available for other purposes. When it was decided in 1898 that a railway should be constructed and a harbour formed at Famagusta, a happy thought occurred that a part of the Locust Fund should be appropriated to both these purposes. A law was passed to authorize the application of a part of the fund to meet a portion of the interest payable on capital outlay and loans for those works, and sinking funds in connection therewith. Locusts have thus contributed to the only railway and the only harbour, such as they are, in Cyprus! It has often been suggested by islanders, not unreasonably, that it would have been more appropriate to the objects of the law if the surplus fund were applied to the destruction of some of the other serious pests that afflict agriculture, rather than to railways and harbours. The authorities thought otherwise. The relief now given relates to the tax levied on house property, tithe-able produce, sheep and goats, which is suspended for one year from March 1, 1918, and that on trade profits and incomes, to be suspended till further notice. Information respecting the locust campaign of this year will be welcome.

ANGLO-ROUMANIAN SOCIETY.

INAUGURAL MEETING.

Last Friday, at the Mansion House, London, there was held the inaugural meeting of the Anglo-Roumanian Society. The Lord Mayor presided, and among those present were the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, Lord Hugh Cecil, Sir Edward Carson, M.P., Lord Dunedin, the Roumanian Minister, A. F. Whyte, Esq., M.P., the Serbian Minister, the Brazilian Minister, M. de la Chaussée, representing the Italian Ambassador, Ronald McNeill, Esq., M.P., the Earl of Bessborough, Sheriff Rowland Blades, Sheriff F. Hepburn, Sir Arthur Evans, Sir William Grey-Wilson, Messrs. Annan Bryce, M.P., R. M. Burrows, E. W. H. Barry, Howard Corbett, J. E. Hodder-Williams, Hugh A. Law, H. Locke, A. W. A. Leeper, E. D. Madge, G. H. Mair, R. W. Seton-Watson, and Professor Gerothwohl.

In opening the proceedings, the Lord Mayor stated the objects of the Society as being to promote closer relations between the British Empire and Roumania by mutual study of the life, literature, and economic conditions of both countries, to support and to make known Roumania's just aspirations generally, and to spread a knowledge of Roumania, its political and geographical position in the Near East, and its importance for the welfare of the British Empire and for the maintenance of peace in Europe.

Sir Edward Carson addressed the meeting, and took the occasion solemnly to pledge the British nation and the British Government to the Roumanian cause. He said that he did not believe that the soul of any member of the community of the United Kingdom had become so degraded that he would wish for the termination of this war without the assertion of the liberty of this small and gallant race, and that the British Government had never swerved in its determination to carry out its duty towards Roumania. Roumania had come into the war not willingly, but because she was driven into it in order to maintain her very existence. She had suffered terribly, and the one nation to whom she was entitled to look for assistance—Russia—was unable to help her because of internal anarchy. Yet she had been true to the Allied cause. Referring to recent peace proposals, he said we were bound to renew to Serbia and Roumania our most solemn pledge that their war was our war, and, addressing the Roumanian Minister, he said: "I repeat to you, sir, the determination of this Government that we will go on to the end with you until we have reached the common object for which we have entered into this war; and I say this further, that if there is to be any compromise outside that which I lay down it would not be the present Government which represents his Majesty at the moment that would make such an ignominious peace." Later in his speech he stated that Serbia, Roumania, and Greece ought to be able, with our help, to build up a fabric which would help not only for the liberty of their peoples, but would greatly help in the solution of the problems of the Near East, and he concluded by stating that the people of this country would never come out of this war until, with the concurrence of the Allies, they had come to a satisfactory peace.

Lord Hugh Cecil moved a resolution expressing the meeting's desire for close relations of friendship and goodwill between this country and Roumania. He said the fate of Roumania depended on the issue of the great struggle now being waged all over the world, but most of all in Western Europe. We fought for two things, security and honour, but neither security nor honour would be ours if we did not restore to Roumania all that she had put in jeopardy by joining in this war. (Applause.) speaking of the future, he said that he hoped that after the war we should cultivate closer relations of friendship with those who had fought by our side. By this, he said, he did not only mean closer relations of friendship between the two Governments, however valuable these might be, but a closer intimacy between the peoples, such as would enable a large and wealthy country like our own to assist a country in the early stages of development in which Roumania would find herself after the war.

Lord Dunedin, who seconded the resolution, recalled some of his own experiences in Roumania. He said that when he first went there in 1872 there was no access to the country by railway from Western Europe. The easiest way was by Constantinople and Varna to Rustchuk, where you crossed the river to Giurgevo, whence the only railway in Roumania took you to Bucharest. At that time Roumania was not yet a kingdom, and as a united principality it was only six years old. In those days any commercial enterprise that was launched in Roumania was sure to be assisted by England. The English made the first Roumanian railway and the first Roumanian tramway, and they had made a beginning with the Roumanian oil industry. In later years all this had been changed, and the fault was ours. We had neglected Roumania, and so we had become nothing in Roumania and Germany had become everything. But the war had made a clean sweep now of German influence.

Mr. A. F. Whyte also supported the resolution, which was then put, and carried unanimously.

The Roumanian Minister proposed a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. He said the Roumanians would never forget the support they had found in this country and the confidence the British nation had shown in them. They had to struggle against the heaviest possible odds for the accomplishment of their national ideal, which was the unity of their race and the liberation of their brethren now under a foreign yoke. Only a united Roumania, Serbia, and Greece could frustrate the expansion scheme of the Central Powers in the Near East.

Lord Bessborough seconded the vote of thanks, and read some extracts from letters from MM. Bratiano and Také Jonescu. M. Bratiano's letter said, among other things, that Roumania did not regret the sacrifices through which she had created her national unity, for, as the result of the final triumph, she would be sure to find a legitimate compensation in the prosperity of a greater Roumania, determined to develop a full life of intense work, and to share equal political rights to her loyal sons of every region and religion. M. Také Jonescu said that national unity had from all time been not only the dream of Roumanians, but the positive aim of all their efforts. There was not a Roumanian who was not imbued with the truth that so long as their race should not have obtained national unity it would not be able to take its proper place among the other races of the world.

The vote of thanks was heartily accorded, and the Lord Mayor briefly acknowledged the compliment, reminding the Roumanian Minister of the pledge that Sir Edward Carson had given of the enduring sympathy and unfailing support of this country.

A MAP OF PALESTINE.

Messrs. Edward Stanford, Limited, have published an excellent map of Palestine (scale, 8 miles to 1 inch), showing very clearly the mountainous character of the country. An inset of the country round Jerusalem (scale, 2 miles to 1 inch) brings home to one something of the difficulty confronting General Allenby in his capture of the Holy City. As it is to be hoped that the Palestine campaign is still in its early stage, the map (price 2s. 6d.) should prove invaluable to the elucidation of the further movements of the expedition.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONQUEST OF PALESTINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—Surely the use of the word "infidel" in the Lord Mayor's message to General Allenby is not to be taken according to its historical significance. There is a tendency in some quarters to regard the British operations in Palestine as a crusade, a term that denotes conflict between Christian and Moslem bodies. From the point of view of British Imperial interests nothing could be more unhappy, if only on account of the respect due from this country to genuine Mohammedan sentiment. For while Turkey is our enemy, the Khalifate itself has passed, by consent of the best Mohammedan elements, from the Ottoman Sultan into Arabian hands, and the supreme issue at the moment is how the Turk can most effectually be prevented from regaining access to the holy cities. It is probable, therefore, that the interests of the faith are best served by British ascendancy, for the Moslem world, as it emerges from the dominion of the Turk, seems bound to seek new political associations for its security; and what nation is more likely than Great Britain, with its great Mohammedan ties, to find acceptance?

That the Palestine Expedition, which has a purely military end, residing chiefly in the better protection of the Suez Canal, should be given a religious setting is most undesirable, and in this connection it may be interesting to quote the words of Professor Vambéry (a good friend of England in his time), when giving the writer his views some years ago on the question of the neutralisation of the Holy Land. He remarked the great revival that had taken place all over Islam, and he considered that that must be taken into account in dealing with the political status of Palestine, and particularly by England, the greatest Mohammedan Power in the world. For England, he observed, had won an Empire by wisdom and justice, and it was by that means she could and would retain it. Now that Islam has succeeded in detaching itself from its Ottoman connections, the counsel given by this distinguished traveller has even greater weight; and all reference, therefore, to infidelity in this connection is unfortunate, since it fails to take into account the transformation that has come over the Moslem world since the war began.—I am, etc.,

DOUGLAS M. GANE.

106, Leadenhall Street, E.C., December 12, 1917.

JUDÆA REDEMPTA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—With reference to the article "Judæa Redempta," on page 633 of your last issue (December 7), I think it well to warn your readers that the views set forth in that article not only do not correspond to the claims of Zionism, but are in direct conflict with them. No responsible Zionist has ever dreamt of asking the Arab cities of Damascus and Beyrouth to be included in the new Judæa; these towns have never been Jewish and Jews have neither historic claims nor any other interest in them. Zionism, which is only the Jewish expression of the demand for national justice, could never associate itself with such a manifestly unjust demand.

It is also untrue that the Jews of Eastern Europe have not manifested their approval of the British Government's recent declaration. Owing to the present disorganisation of the postal services in Russia, Russian Jews have received the text of the declaration only after a delay of about three weeks; but as soon as they received the text enthusiastic demonstrations of gratitude to the British Government took place in all the important Jewish centres of Russia. In Petrograd a delegation of the Central Committee of Russian Zionists have presented to Sir G. Buchanan a written address expressing their deep gratitude to the British Government. All over Russia thanksgiving services have been held in the synagogues.

In Odessa, as may be gathered from the Press, the news of the British Government's declaration caused the greatest excitement. A great demonstration of all Jewish organisatons, including Jewish refugees from Roumania, was organised. A crowd, estimated at 150,000, occupied the streets for a radius of half a mile round the British Consulate, and a procession over two miles in length marched past that building, playing alternately the British and Jewish National Anthem. An address, signed by the chief of the Zionist movement in Odessa, was handed to the British Consul-General, asking the latter to express heartfelt thanks to King George, the British Government, and the British nation from all the Jews of Odessa.

From Salonika, again, enthusiastic telegrams have been received by the Foreign Office.

As to your correspondent's advice not to make of Palestine a purely agrarian state, nobody has ever entertained such an idea. There is no such thing in the world as a purely agrarian state. In the new Judæa, just as in any other economically sound state, there must and will be a normal sub-division of the activities of the people between agriculture, industry, and commerce. The necessary marts will be created by our efforts in the country, without encroaching upon the territory of our Arab neighbours, with whom we wish to live in harmony and peace.

As a conclusion, I should like to quote the remark made last Sunday in Manchester at a great Jewish thanksgiving meeting by Dr. Weizmann, the President of the English Zionist Federation, that "we should beware of the zeal of some of our 'friends' rather than of the attacks of our opponents." Surely the warning is most timely.—I am, etc.,

S. TOLKOWSKY.

57, St. Gabriel's Road Cricklewood, N.W.2.

THE SERBIAN SOCIETY.

The Serbian Society of Great Britain has issued a report on its activities during the first year of its existence, and it is evident from this record that the society has not only justified its formation, but is also in a position to perform much useful work in the days ahead. In a letter issued with the report the Executive Committee state:—

When the society was formed knowledge of the importance of the Serbian and Southern Slav questions was small, and the gulf that divided Italian and Southern Slav opinion wide indeed. The gulf has not yet been entirely bridged, but it has narrowed appreciably, and is daily narrowing, thanks in part to the force of events and in part to the work of enlightenment and persuasion which the Society has been able to undertake.

Apart from the work of propaganda and conciliation, the society has endeavoured and will endeavour to make known the sad plight of Serbia, and to enlist the support of the British and Allied peoples for the Serbian nation. The sufferings of Serbia are beyond description. Tens of thousands of her inhabitants have been deported to Hungary and Austria, where they have been left to starve. A fate even more terrible has befallen some 10,000 Serbian women and girls, who have been carried as slaves to Asia Minor. The enemy is aiming at nothing less than the extinction of the Serbian people, whose numbers are already sadly reduced in consequence of his inhuman policy. In these circumstances the society feels bound not to slacken its efforts and appeals to you for help in continuing them.

As the war draws to its close, and the question of the peace settlement acquires greater and more immediate prominence, the importance of the aims of the society becomes clearer, and its claims upon the support of those who are convinced that only a just European settlement can ensure a lasting peace grows more pressing and definite. The Executive Committee therefore appeals earnestly to you not only to continue the support given in the past, but to strengthen its hands by extending the membership of the society among your acquaintances.

In view of the urgent need of funds to carry on the work of the society, the Executive Committee has decided to raise the minimum annual subscription to one guinea. The office of the society is at Queen Anne's Chambers (Room 39), Westminster.

THE CAPTURE OF JERUSALEM.

Message from the King.

The following telegram was sent on December 10 by the King to General Sir E. H. H. Allenby:—

"The news of the occupation of Jerusalem will be received throughout my Empire with the greatest satisfaction, and I heartily congratulate you and all ranks on this success. Such an achievement is a fitting sequel to the hard marching and fighting of the troops, as well as to the organisation by which the difficulties of supply, transport, and water have been overcome. I rejoice to think that by skilful dispositions you have preserved intact the Holy Places.—GEORGE, R.I."

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

DIPLOMATIC SIGNPOSTS.*

Professor Egerton calls this admirable little volume "A Rough Outline." It is rather a mosaic of British foreign policy in Europe, and necessarily outside of Europe, as seen by a skilful artist, piecing his facts together so that the finished slab shall preach a lesson. This lesson might very well be expressed thus: If you look on your country's story with the narrow eyes of party you will never realise that it is a great and noble country, constantly confessing its mistakes, constantly endeavouring to shed them, and continuously anxious to do justice to civilised and uncivilised peoples. Judicial impartiality is the keynote of the volume, and it is this virtue which makes it a convincing defence of British foreign policy, even for the most envious foreigner. It is entirely free from brag or boast. It insists with great fairness on the points of view of other Powers when in conflict with, or anxious to meet, our own. It sketches, for instance, very deftly Russia's desire for a weak Turkey and England's insistence on a strong anti-Russian-buffer Turkey, both countries being sinners against the general conscience of Europe which considered the Turk unfit to rule anywhere, and still to-day so considers. In the last chapter on "Sea Power and Neutrals," in a brave endeavour to sift the ever-present sands of Belligerent *versus* Neutral rights, Professor Egerton, with no little relish, quotes "the Prussian statesman Haugwitz, who said that the sea dominion of Great Britain was a hard thing to bear, but that the land dominion of Napoleon was a harder." The book, by apt quotations from speeches, memoranda, letters, and diplomatic conversations, gives us cameo sketches of "the folk that matter"—Frederick of Prussia, the Tsars Alexander and Nicholas, Napoleon, Chatham, Pitt, Fox, Burke, Addington, Wellington, Canning, Melbourne, Palmerston, Lord John Russell, Gladstone, Disraeli, Salisbury, Chamberlain, Cromer, Napoleon III., Thiers, Ferry, Bismarck—the whole with the artistry that hides the labour and holds the reader, always wiser now that the great war has shattered the many dreams and schemes of secret diplomacy.

Every schoolboy, Macaulay's included, may read this book with profit. Space permits of only one excerpt, and we select it as showing the author's calm grasp of essentials.

"The final concert, not of Europe only, but of the world, to which we must look forward as the ultimate goal, however slow and laborious may be the road to its attainment, can only be reached by attending to the old truth that 'Precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little.'

It may sound a paradox, but it is probably true that in the present temper of the world the best prospect of durable peace lies in the existence of strong alliances of Powers, ready to wage a defensive war on behalf of each other's interests, if attacked. It is highly probable that, had England been joined in a close alliance with France and Russia, so as to necessitate her intervention, Germany might have held back Austria from precipitating the great war, though whether, without a change in the German spirit, that would have been in the long run a blessing either to Great Britain or to Europe must remain very doubtful. Consider the force that would reside in a federation of the English-speaking nations of the world were such a combination to become possible, especially as that federation would be in close connection with the Allied Powers in the great war. Next to converting the temper that desires war, the best thing is to make war so dangerous a game that even those inclined to wax wanton will consider carefully before they embark upon it."

The book may be fittingly described as a series of diplomatic signposts along the high road to the greatest of all wars. It has an excellent index.

*"British Foreign Policy in Europe to the end of the 19th Century." By H. E. Egerton, M.A. (Macmillan.)

THE INDIAN EDUCATIONAL PROBLEM.*

The republication of these papers, which first appeared in 1911, is justified by the importance of their subject, not merely to India, but to the British Empire as a whole. Mr. James is well known in India, and his practical experience in the educational service gives him a right to be heard. He has succeeded in giving within small compass a clear history of the development of educational ideals and practice during the last century, and his book will serve as an introduction to anyone who wishes to understand the present position. Some of his contentions may be open to criticism, but we think that his main conclusions are not subject to dispute. India needs much more education, and, what is still more important, a vast improvement in the quality of the education now provided. Mr. James keeps strictly within the limits of his subject, and consequently he does not discuss at length the controlling factor of finance; the question is whether India can pay for what she needs, or whether she must wait till the increase of the national income brings these new benefits within her reach. That question has to be decided by statesmen, not by educational reformers, but the reformers are perfectly right to press their claims, and the book before us puts their case lucidly and effectively.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Crown of Hinduism. By J. N. Farquhar, M.A. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. 6d. net.)

A Vedic Reader for Students. By Arthur A. Macdowell, M.A., Ph.D. (London: Oxford University Press. 8s. 6d. net.)

The Church in the Furnace. Edited by F. B. Macnutt, Senior Chaplain to the Forces, Canon of Southwark. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 5s. net.)

The Story of the Salonika Army. By G. Ward Price. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 6s. net.)

We regret that in our issue last week the name of the author of 'The Great Crime and its Moral" was incorrectly given as Willimore. The author is Mr. J. S. Willmore.

An excellent short history of Jerusalem, with a brief account of its principal places of interest and the ancient churches, is given in a short work by the late Colonel Sir Charles Watson, K.C.M.G., C.B., entitled "The Story of Jerusalem." It is published by Messrs. J. M. Dent and Co., or may be had from the Palestine Exploration Fund (4s. 6d. cloth, 5s. 6d. roan).

*"Education and Statesmanship in India." H. R. James. Longman 4s. 6d. net.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. December 14	1917. December 1	Friday	1336. Saphar 29 Rabia I.	5678. Kislev 28
15	2	Saturday.....	1	29 Tebet
16	3	Sunday	2	1
17	4	Monday	3	2
18	5	Tuesday	4	3
19	6	Wednesday	5	4
20	7	Thursday	6	5

Mme. Take Jonescu has arrived in London from the country.

Over £3,700 has been collected in Victoria in aid of Armenia.

Dr. Momtschilo Nintschitch, Serbian Minister of Public Works, has left Corfu for France.

A shipbuilding branch of the Indian Munitions Board will shortly be inaugurated, with headquarters at Calcutta.

The report of the Commission on the Army Medical Services in France, it is understood, will be completed shortly.

Monday will be the anniversary of the birthday of Alexander, Prince Royal of Serbia. He will be twenty-nine years of age.

To-day is the anniversary of the birthday of Prince Paul, the third son of ex-King Constantine. He was born at Athens in 1901.

The Greek Minister of Finance has applied to the Courts for the seizure of the property of the ex-Prime Ministers Skouloudis and Lambros.

Judge Kershaw has returned to Egypt after a long visit to the United States and the Far East, and has resumed his duties in the Native Court of Appeal.

It is stated that the second and final report of the Dardanelles Commission has been signed and presented. An interim report was issued some months ago.

Police and other administrative measures have been decreed in Greece against subjects of enemy countries, except Armenian subjects of Turkey, who will be treated as refugees.

On November 25 a memorial service for General Maude was held in the Citadel, Baghdad. His grave is in the centre of the British Cemetery to the north of the city, and near the old Turkish cavalry barracks.

The Parliamentary correspondent of the *Times* says that Borton Pasha has been appointed Military Governor of Jerusalem. He was Postmaster-General of Egypt. M. Picot is the head of the French Political Mission.

The Queen, accompanied by Princess Mary, visited the galleries of the Fine Art Society, 148, New Bond Street, on December 8, to view the pictures of Egypt and Nubia by Mr. A. O. Lamplough, and the collection of early Persian art. Princess Beatrice also visited the galleries.

A telegram from Adis Abeba, dated October 31, says that Lidj Jassu, the deposed ruler of Abyssinia, was not killed in the battle near Dessie. It is reported that he is now in the Dankalis country, but with very few followers. Magdala has surrendered to the troops of the Abyssinian Government.

Mr. J. L. Garvin presided at a concert at the National Liberal Club on Monday night in aid of the Lord Mayor's Fund for Armenian refugees, and in the course of a short speech on the history of Armenia said that of the two million Armenians living when the war began probably half had by now been destroyed.

The Serbian Minister (M. Yovan Yovanovitch), speaking at Whitefield Tabernacle on December 9, said all his nation had ever asked for was freedom—freedom in every sense, inside and outside. They were a democratic race, whose whole history was a long record of conflict for freedom, independence, and democratic principles. Serbia must be made stronger in the future in order to be a rampart against any future aggression by Germany.

The Serbian Press Bureau states that the Bulgarian Red Cross Society has informed the International Red Cross Committee that Serbian prisoners of war in Germany and Austria-Hungary are permitted to correspond with their families in the part of Serbia occupied by the Bulgarians; that prisoners and interned civilians are allowed to send photographs; and that correspondence between the civilian population in occupied Serbia and the members of their families is permitted.

Mr. B. W. Stainton, whose acquaintance with Persia dates back many years, has recently left England for that country.

The Greek Minister, who was confined to his room through illness towards the end of last week, is now much better, and has resumed his diplomatic duties.

Severe winter weather prevails all over Greece. For the first time for many years the ground in Athens is covered with snow. The scarcity of fuel is becoming alarming.

Major W. S. R. May, late Assistant Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, has been appointed Financial Adviser to the Mesopotamian Administration, and will leave for Mesopotamia shortly.

The Maharajah of Nabha has given the British Government three lakhs of rupees for war expenses, 100 horses for Army use, and the loan of his houses at Simla, Ambala, and Lahore for the wounded.

The advance in Palestine has put fresh heart into the efforts of the Syria and Palestine Relief Fund organisers. It is felt that this is the psychological moment for an appeal to the whole nation for the relief of the vast flood of distress in the Holy Land. Sunday, January 27, 1918, will be set apart in the churches throughout the country for this purpose. The appeal is impersonal to many, yet it comes from a land in which Christ first taught the transcendent spiritual value of charity to the stranger.

Lady Jane Taylor was presented with a testimonial on Saturday afternoon at 101, Eaton Square, the residence of Viscountess Barrington, in recognition of the philanthropic work she has undertaken in the course of a long life. Lord Halsbury, in presenting Lady Jane Taylor with a cheque for £1,000, referred to the various schemes which Lady Jane had initiated or organised. These included the Egyptian War Fund to assist the families of those engaged in the Egyptian Campaign of 1882, which later became the Imperial War Fund.

The *Times* correspondent at Tangier, in a message dated December 6, says:—"I am requested by representative Jewish residents of Tangier to express on behalf of the whole Jewish population of Morocco their highest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the action of the British Government in Palestine. The Jews of Morocco were only lately freed from the political and social disadvantages under which they have lived, and this promise of the British Government awakens new religious hopes and aspirations among this long-suffering and worthy people."

A memorial service for Dr. Elsie Inglis was held on December 6 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. Princess on December 6 at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll was represented by Lady Frances Balfour, and the Diplomatic Corps by members of the French, Italian, and Russian Embassies, and the Legations of Serbia, Roumania, and Belgium. The Foreign Office was represented by Mr. Balfour, Lord Robert Cecil, Sir Walter Langley, the Hon. H. Nicolson, Mr. W. H. S. Martin, and Colonel Buchan, and others present were Sir Arthur Stanley on behalf of the British Red Cross Society, Commander Helmsley from the Ministry of Shipping, and Mr. O. Pelly Dick from India House.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Bimbashi J. D. Mathews, Artillery, has been transferred to the Department of Ordnance.

Major Arion, the Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in London, has been promoted to Colonel.

Major-General Sir R. G. Egerton, K.C.B., K.C.I.E., Indian Army, has been gazetted temporary Lieutenant-General.

Mr. W. P. D. Clarke, Second Inspector, Berber Province, has been transferred to the Blue Nile Province in the same capacity.

Kaimakam W. F. Bagshaw Bey, of the Ordnance Department, Egyptian Government, has been appointed Assistant Director to that Department.

Engineer-Commander W. Scott Hill, R.N., formerly of the Sudan Government Steamers' Department, has been appointed First Assistant to the Engineer Manager, H.M. Dockyard, Rosyth.

The King has granted to the following Sudan Government officials his authority to wear decorations conferred upon them by the late Sultan of Egypt—Second Class of the Order of the Nile: Mr. E. C. Midwinter, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., late Captain, Royal Engineers, General Manager, Sudan Government Railways. Third Class of the Order of the Nile: Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) H. D. Pearson, R.E., Director of Surveys. Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile: Mr. A. P. Bolland, Commercial Secretary; Mr. R. Hewison, Assistant Director of Agriculture; Mr. C. F. Rydes, Province Judge. Fifth Class of the Order of the Nile: Mr. H.Evans, Superintendent of Trams and Ferries, Khartoum Province.

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OBITUARY.

SIR SWINTON JACOB.

The death of Colonel Sir Swinton Jacob, K.C.I.E., C.V.O., on the 4th inst., recalls a long and honourable record of service in India of unusual interest. Sir Swinton was a soldier, but he earned his reputation as an engineer and architect. This, though remarkable now, would not have been considered peculiar in former years. In the days of the East India Company civilians sometimes became soldiers; the hero of Arcot and of Plassey was a civil servant, and much more often military officers adopted civil careers. But Sir Swinton could hardly be called a company's servant; it is true he obtained his commission to the Bombay artillery from Addiscombe in 1858, but the Mutiny of 1857 had sealed the fate of the company, and in the following year the government of India was transferred to the Crown.

Sir Swinton's short career as a soldier was uneventful; he only once saw active service, in an expedition against the Arabs from Aden, and then he was offered the post of resident engineer to the Jaipur State, in Rajputana. He confessed he had qualms about accepting this appointment; he had not received an engineering education, and in a native State he would be his own chief, with no technical authority over him. Nevertheless, owing to innate love of his work and very exceptional ability, he achieved conspicuous successes. He was so successful with his irrigation schemes in Jaipur that he was subsequently invited to advise on similar works for the whole of Rajputana. But it is unnecessary to dwell on his talents as an engineer, because it is as an architect that his name will always be so widely remembered. The splendid examples of Mogul and Hindu buildings around him aroused his natural artistic instincts, and he became the first pioneer architect to adapt the Indo-Saracenic style to the requirements of modern life in India. The beauty of his designs in Jaipur soon attracted attention elsewhere; the French Government conferred on him the insignia of Officier à l'Académie des Beaux Arts, and his services were sought not only in India, but outside the Empire. The many beautiful public buildings, the palaces, memorials, and churches constructed to his designs are now among the sights of India; and it was owing to his high reputation that he was called into requisition for the architectural features of the two great Delhi Durbars of 1903 and 1912.

Sir Swinton's career in India from first to last extended over a period of forty-seven years, during which the country had seen eleven Viceroys, and never was a British officer more loved by all who knew him. Jaipur is one of the places which visitors to India never fail to see, and there Sir Swinton and Lady Jacob were always so helpful and hospitable that they made many friends. He had been greatly successful and greatly honoured, but his reputation had been obtained by the intrinsic value of his work, not by any forcefulness of character or personal ambition, and to the last he maintained his simple, almost boyish, disposition. He never built walls around himself; he was always accessible, sympathetic in trouble, and ready to make the griefs of others his own. And now that he has passed away there are many who will miss the host who never failed in the geniality of his welcome.

CAPTAIN GEORGE NORMAN BERNEY.

Further particulars now received from his Colonel and others in reference to the death in action of Captain George Norman Berney, of the Herefordshire Regiment, show that he fell in a sanguinary battle on November 6 at Khuweilfeh, situate on the way to Hebron, the Levitical City of Refuge west of the River Jordan, which has since been occupied by our troops. In this engagement Captain Berney and his company gained high distinction and complete victory, after desperate hand-to-hand fighting in thick mist. It resulted in the capture by them of many guns and prisoners. His Colonel has written to say:—"Had he lived he would most certainly have received some distinguished reward."

It may be of interest to note that in a letter just received, believed to be his last, consisting of a few lines which Captain Berney wrote home very shortly before he fell, he mentiond that his company had been in action "with success" on the previous day, and reaffirmed in the following words the intense admiration he had always expressed for his comrades:—"The men were fine. It is a privilege to lead them." As the farewell message of a soldier to soldiers there can be nothing grander than this simple tribute, with the inspiration it conveys.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

MACDONALD.—On December 3, at Mains of Mulben, Keith, the wife of Bimbashi G. G. Macdonald, Egyptian Army, of a son.

COLLINS.—On December 5, at 23, Amherst Road, Ealing, the wife of Bernard Abdy Collins, I.C.S., of a daughter (Diane Eleanor).

DEATHS.

GRIFFITHS.—On December 5, at Sherborne, Dorset, Linnette, wife of John Griffiths, formerly Principal of the School of Art, Bombay.

SNOW.—On October 27, Mary, the beloved wife of Walter Snow, Navigation Department, Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son (Egypt), Limited, Boulac, Cairo.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1917.

THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IN INDIA.

Indian politics are dominated for the moment by the investigations of the Secretary of State, who is visiting the country in order to study the situation for himself and to discuss it on the spot. His mission is one of far-reaching importance, and the efforts of the Government have been directed for some time past towards the creation of a political atmosphere which should conduce to its successful prosecution. The need for a change of atmosphere cannot, unfortunately, be denied: owing to a variety of causes, the political classes, whose position has been greatly strengthened by the reforms of the last ten years, have of late been in the worst possible temper; they have, indeed, gone so far as to dally with an elaborate scheme of what is called passive resistance, and though they have put this particular project aside, their general attitude has been such as to render almost hopeless the idea of any cordial agreement on the numerous and complex questions which await solution. The attempt to change this atmosphere was abundantly justified, but its necessity should not blind us to the dangers incident to the undertaking: in India, even more than in other countries, an artificial atmosphere is apt to be a distorting medium, viewed through which inconvenient facts become blurred, the sharp edges of existing divisions lose their distinctness, and the roseate hues of harmony merge insensibly into the dense clouds of wilful obscurantism. It is, therefore, matter for satisfaction that just at this moment some exceptionally awkward facts have obtruded themselves in such a manner as to ensure recognition; their obtrusion has made Mr. Montagu's task more difficult, but at the same time has distinctly increased the possibility of its successful accomplishment. We propose to glance briefly at two of these intruders.

A serious outbreak of lawlessness in Bihar has shown the error of the view so fondly cherished by the politicians that the deep religious cleavage between Hindus and Moslems had been finally bridged by the agreement of their self-styled leaders on a common line of political action. For some months we have had scornful references to this ancient bogey, as sanguine people were disposed to regard it; we have been told that all religious dissensions had disappeared, and that the two communities had become fused in a single nationality; then came a local dispute about an old, old subject—the ritual sacrifice of cows—which Indian Moslems hold to be *de fide*, while Hindus regard it as the most impious sacrilege, and the hard facts of the situation came promptly into view. The peace was broken; in a moment the countryside was in a blaze, and nearly one hundred villages were looted before order was restored by the exertions of the British troops. The incident itself is in no way alarming: in India almost every day in the year brings equal possibilities of disturbance, and if the possibilities are realised on only one occasion out of a thousand, the reason must be sought in the efficiency of the much-maligned administration, which has learned by long and hard experience the right ways of preserving the peace. Only now and again is the administration momentarily at fault, and the result is an outbreak of the kind we have described: reduce the efficiency of the administration, and the number and importance of such outbreaks will assuredly increase. Such an incident, then, while it is not alarming or even surprising, carries a lesson which in India cannot safely be overlooked: Hindus and Moslems are not, in fact, united: the old-standing quarrel may blaze up at any moment, and it is only the strong and impartial British administration which protects the people from the bloodshed and rapine so familiar in the annals of the past. These facts are by no means pleasant, and every lover of India must long for the day when they will be no longer true; but at present they are terribly true, and no change in the political constitution can be contemplated which fails to allow for their existence.

The second fact which we have selected for notice is the reappearance in the political world of the representatives of British commercial interests. For some years past the great merchants and manufacturers of Calcutta and Bombay have manifested too little interest in the affairs of India, but this attitude is now a thing of the past, and at public meetings as well as in the Imperial Legislative Council the claim has been temperately but firmly asserted that British capital and enterprise are entitled to reasonable consideration in connection with the impending changes in the constitution. The claim is one which many Indian politicians would gladly ignore: they dream that the transfer of power to their own hands would make no difference in the social or economic world, and they particularly dislike being reminded of the almost inevitable reactions. India, however, cannot yet live without oversea capital, and the interests of capital cannot be ignored while so many of the inhabitants of the country depend upon it for their daily bread. The cautious and level-headed men who control British capital in India look at the words and deeds of the prominent politicians, and of late they have found but little to reassure them in the prospect. For years they have heard the politicians clamour for the "right" and the "honour" of defending their native land; they have seen the ridiculous fiasco resulting from the grant of this claim, when in the course of two months precisely 300 Indians out of the entire population offered themselves for enrolment; and they have deduced the obvious conclusion that such demands are advanced merely as counters in the political game. More recently they have watched with rising indignation the movement towards passive resistance at a time when the Empire is fighting for its life: the legal distinction between such conduct and active treason is doubtless perfectly clear, but men of business look rather to the moral and practical aspects of the case, and they feel that Imperial interests are seriously endangered by the predominance in the Councils of men who can even consider such a project. They see, in short, a group of nimble-witted men playing the political game for itself, and without regard to the vital and permanent interests of the country or the Empire, and they are exerting themselves to secure for this view the prominence it unquestionably deserves. Entrust the future of India to such men as these, and there is the gravest danger that the fertilising stream of capital will be checked in its course, to the detriment of Indians of every rank in life, but, most of all, to that of the peasants and workmen whose future depends on the economic progress of the country.

The emergence of such facts as we have indicated is indeed inconvenient to politicians at the present juncture. They have proclaimed the unity of India, and Indians proceed to demonstrate their disunion in the traditional fashion: they have hoped for a Golden Age, and they are warned that they may have to reckon with a starving proletariat. The current of constitutional reform would flow much more smoothly, if such rocks and sandbanks did not interrupt its course, and sanguine persons are apt to think that, if they shut their eyes very tightly, the obstacles which they cannot see need not be taken into account. But, however much we may sympathise with such aspirations, we are forced to recognise that the impediments exist. They are not necessarily permanent, and all who love India hope for the day when they shall have disappeared; but for the present they are there, and the attempt to ignore them can lead only to disaster. It is well, therefore, that the fact of their existence should be demonstrated once more. The pathway to reality is beset with such difficulties, and we have little doubt that the Secretary of State and his advisers will recognise the significance of the incidents to which we have referred.

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SALONIKA.*

Salonika is *par excellence* the city of refugees, and of all the remarkable coincidences of the Great European War, one of the most curious has been the gradual assemblage of the most international Entente force in this most international of cities.

More than 50 per cent. of the total population consists of Jews, who are mainly descendants of those Jews who were expelled from Spain in the fifteenth century. There are Bulgarian, Serbian, and Turkish quarters in the town, and a Greek colony recently increased by the advent of refugees from Bulgaria and Asia Minor, and by Greek officials and their entourage introduced since 1912. There is also a considerable French and Italian colony, largely confined to the more well-to-do classes. Of indigenous population in the ordinary accepted sense, there exists only the descendants of the Jews to whom St. Paul preached.

In Salonika, as in all their non-Mohammedan territories, the Turks rather encouraged a promiscuous internationalism, provided the hard crust of Turkish officialdom was maintained. The existence of this internationalism possibly explains why the Greeks, though they had been hard at work hellenising since 1912, had made comparatively little progress by the end of 1915. When there is a population with a definitely national spirit to be won or broken, the problem is at least concrete; but when it is necessary to start by inculcating non-nationalism as opposed to pan-nationalism, the task is more complicated. In Salonika in 1915 every influence was in the other direction. Though the number of Spanish subjects was insignificant, the main language spoken in the town was the pure Spanish brought by the Jewish refugees after the fifteenth century, and retained by their descendants. French was the next predominant tongue, and Turkish, Greek, and Serbian could also be heard. Each community kept its own customs and its own ideals. The Jewish shops closed on Saturdays and Festivals, the Greeks on Sundays, if at all. The Greeks and Jews both used their own ancient calendars, and the other inhabitants the modern. Even a common method of fixing the time did not prevail. The Turkish population had their own system as distinct from the Greek official time which resembled the European. With the advent of the Allied armies, the complication was further increased by the addition of two more horologies, the naval and the military, and hence in making an appointment, the common practice was for the two parties to fix their watches and arrange to meet at a given hour by the agreed time.

Internationalism was further stereotyped by two facts. In 1912, when the cession of Salonika by Turkey appeared imminent, large sections of the population enrolled themselves as citizens of Austria, and such other countries as permitted it, of which Great Britain was not one. Even those Salonikans who did not take the plunge had under the Treaty of Athens until November, 1917, to decide whether they would remain Greek citizens. The consulates were kept busy enrolling new subjects. The enrolment was not regarded as implying any particular allegiance. It merely constituted a kind of protection against absorption into the Greek nation. Again, education and culture were largely foreign. For some years French schools and French culture had predominated, and only in very recent times Austrian schools of mushroom growth had sprung up under the able leading of the Austrian Consul-General, who took no pains to conceal his political motive.

As for the newspapers, there can be few towns with so limited an educated population where journalism flourishes so rampant. Each nationality and each section publishes not merely its own paper, but a series of editions daily. For the larger section of the reading population newspapers are the only form of literature. Not that they contain news, for the supply of this is meagre, and, as in every city of the East, news travels with a speed far outstripping that of any paper. The real appetite is for argument, recrimination, and discussion around the strangest of perennial topics, not to which nationality does Salonika belong, but by which nationality would Salonika prefer to be absorbed. This prevailing attitude of mind is well illustrated by the title chosen by a Salonikan author of a recent book giving the history of the town—" La Ville Convoitée " (" The Coveted Town ").

In 1915, when the Entente armies landed, the political mentality of the average Salonikan was much like that of one of the mythical beauties in ancient drama courted by various national suitors, with a newspaper chorus. It will be readily understood that this condition renders the subject peculiarly sensitive to new impressions. Here one misconception should be removed. The arrival of a foreign army was no new experience to Salonika, nor did the people regard the outbreak of the European War in any way as the cataclysm which we in England were bound to consider it. To the Salonikans the war was merely a stage in the natural evolution of events, a further act in the drama which began in 1908 with the Turkish revolution and continued with the two Balkan Wars.

The landing at first caused a certain amount of anxiety. A population which had experienced the exactions of the old Turkish régime, followed by the equally burdensome contracts of the Young Turks, in which Government debts were liquidated only by promises, and then witnessed the arrival of the Greek forces, which resulted in a miniature battle between Bulgars and Greeks in the upper part of the town, may be forgiven, if its welcome to an unknown army was none too cordial. Particularly is this the case when, as in Salonika in 1915, the agents of the Central Powers were as numerous and far more active than those of the Entente army. The population may well be excused for their bewilderment. It appeared as if the Fates intended Salonika to present the extreme limits of pan-nationalism.

The Entente army had its lines of communication on a railway which was originally Austrian, and had recently been taken over by the Greek Government, whose hostility to the Entente Powers was thinly veiled and broken only by occasional lapses into neutrality. German and Bulgarian agents moved about openly in the town, which was full of Entente troops. The people were diverted by hearing daily of the petty administrative obstacles raised by the Greek officials and the means by which with infinite patience the Entente armies overcame them. Within a very few weeks of the landing of the Allied armies the population of Salonika had begun to perceive two extraordinary differences between this conglomerate army and anything which they had previously experienced or imagined.

The first beginnings of a great moral lesson were being disclosed. They could readily recognise that the landing force consisted of two nationalities—French and British—differing considerably in externals, in habits, and in speech. With the French type they were now more or less familiar, as they had absorbed much of French culture. Of the British they knew nothing, or less than nothing, for the number of English-speaking Salonikans was insignificant. Now, in their past experience, Salonikans had known many forces composed of different nations, from the Macedonian gendarmerie to the Armies of the Balkan League, and had seen them, though starting on apparently good terms, inevitably give way to intrigue, if not to open rupture. Salonika waited for the usual signs of friction, as likewise did the emissaries of Constantine. Every influence was set to work by the Greek officials to foster rivalry and jealousy. First, one of the Entente Armies was praised and every facility placed at its disposal. Then this Army was harassed and hindered at every turn, while the other was taken into favour. One day the French were said to be gentlemen, and the next day they were incomprehensible, and it was the British who were easy to understand. Still, to the growing wonder of the town, where every move was public property, the Allied Armies kept on the best of terms.

The lesson was pushed home when, in addition to the French and British, came the Serbian and Italian

* The author of this article left Salonika before the disastrous fire took place, and refers to conditions as they were in the earlier stages of the allied occupation.

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Forces. Then it was found that the Entente Armies, unlike any considerable force that had previously visited the Balkans, were well behaved and did not loot, and further, marvellous to relate, that large purchases were made by them and paid for in cash. Moreover, the Entente military police interfered little, asked for no favours, and even when employed in tasks giving such obvious opportunities for plunder as the expulsion of the consuls and agents of the Central Powers, they came away empty-handed. The lesson was particularly striking, because just before the arrival of the Allied Armies the town had been flooded with terrible accounts of the excesses of the British soldiery. The stolid impartiality of the ordinary British soldier particularly caught the local imagination. Under the Turkish régime, in a street row between a Turk and a Greek, the Turkish police battered the Greek much as in dealing with a dog fight a man tends to treat the other man's dog as the aggressor. The tradition had survived under the Greek régime until 1915. The contrast of the Entente methods could not fail to produce a sensation. The British soldier even stereotyped his impartiality by coining the Turkish "Heide" and Greek "Embros" into a composite "Heide-bros" to translate the British "move-on." At the Vardar gate, where all roads entering the town converge, traffic was regulated by French, Serbian, Italian, and British police working in the utmost harmony and with complete success.

Another great change soon followed. Prior to the arrival of the Allied Armies, Salonika was almost like a beleaguered city from the land side. Villagers came into the town occasionally, but few townspeople ventured into the country. The rail was almost the only safe means of egress, and few knew the country except from the railway carriage. The main cause was not the absence of roads, but the unsettled condition of the country. For a picnic on the adjacent mountain of Hortiach, it was necessary to obtain the protection of a kavasse from the all-powerful Austrian Consul-General. Even with the advent of the Greek régime of 1912, the condition of unrest had not disappeared, partly owing to the methods of the Greek police, who differed only from the Turks in the nationalities to whom they extended their protection, and in being somewhat more active. This condition of isolation continued largely through 1916.

In the meantime, the population of the country-side which had reason to dread the passage of troops, soon learnt that the "Entente" force was something new to them. Crops were carefully respected, the soldiery were disciplined and considerate, and instead of spreading havoc, or at least levying a toll, brought undreamt of wealth to the village. Bulgar, Turk, and Greek were treated on the same terms, and all that was required in return was abstention from active assistance of the enemy.

By the beginning of 1917, the effects of the new régime had begun to make themselves felt. The lands were cultivated as they had never been before. Villagers were able to pass from one place to another even with valuables without fear of molestation. One instance of many may be quoted to illustrate the enormous increase in prosperity due entirely to the new feeling of security. The old Turkish Government tax of 10 per cent. of the harvest had been continued by the Greeks and farmed out. In 1917, in a district through which a large body of troops were constantly passing, the tithes stood for nearly twice what they did in 1916. No greater compliment could be paid to the good discipline and good behaviour of a fighting force. Reports of the change gradually spread to Salonika, and the townspeople began to venture out into the countryside, in many cases for the first time. The process has been assisted by the excellent roads constructed by the Allied Armies where before only mule tracts existed. These are, perhaps, the most momentous changes resulting from the occupation of the Allied Armies. The town and the countryside have been rescued from their state of isolation, and paradoxical as it may seem by being dragged into the vortex of the war, the Turk, Bulgar, and Greek villages have experienced for the first time some of the blessings of peace.

One incidental result of the participation of so large a British force is interesting. In Salonika, and still more in the country, the British were a mere myth. They have now become a reality. As everywhere, the British equipment has been the subject of universal admiration; and thanks to the exemplary behaviour of the troops, the British character has been seen at its best, and appreciated.

The very large sums which have been expended in the country have enabled formerly poor villages to store quite considerable savings. Naturally the present is not a time when the opening of new channels of trade can be considered. But it is to be hoped that when the time comes British commerce will be ready to take advantage of the new fields in Macedonia in the opening of which the British Army has had a share.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Awards to Officers. Dec. 4.

Colonel YATE asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether it had been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State that in the list of rewards granted to officers in connection with the recently published Mesopotamian despatch dealing with the operations there up to the end of March, 1917, of the 287 rewards given 147 were awarded to officers of the Staff and only 140 to the regimental officers; and whether steps would be taken to give the regimental officers their due share in these rewards in future.

Mr. MACPHERSON: The actual number of rewards conferred during the period referred to was—to Staff officers, 142; to regimental officers, 467. This latter includes "immediate" awards to regimental officers under powers delegated to the Commander-in-Chief in the field. It must be borne in mind that in many cases the reward to an officer may be in respect of service prior to appointment to the Staff. In regard to the latter part of the question, the initiation of rewards rests with commanders in the field, and the Army Council are satisfied that the recommendations of such commanders are invariably made in the best interests of the Service, having regard to the intimate knowledge which commanders possess of the value of the services rendered by their subordinates.

Colonel YATE: Does the hon. member not think that it comes hard upon some regimental officers when they see men promoted who may not have been under fire for twenty-four hours, while others who may have been for weeks and months under fire get nothing for it?

Mr. MACPHERSON: That may be so; but if my hon. and gallant friend will read my answer he will see that the proportion to regimental officers is very much greater than to Staff officers.

Brigadier-General M'CALMONT: Is the hon. gentleman aware that this is a matter about which there is a great deal of feeling throughout the Army, and will he in future take the opinion of regimental officers instead of always relying on Staff officers for information of this kind?

Mr. MACPHERSON: Hon. members have made it clear to me that there is a good deal of feeling, and I will certainly look into it.

The Roumanian Armistice. Dec. 10.

Mr. BALFOUR, asked by Mr. KING whether he could make any statement as to the position of Roumania; whether the Government and the Allies continued their material support of our Roumanian Allies; and whether supplies could still be sent to the Roumanian front, replied: I cannot with advantage say anything more than that the gallant Roumanian army has been obliged, by circumstances beyond its control, to conclude a military armistice.

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THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Pan-Turanian Movement.

The possibility of a disruption of that vast political system known as the Russian Empire provides a writer in *The Round Table* with the text for an informative article on "Turkey, Russia, and Islam." While the German Government plans for itself a glacis of vassal States and fosters anarchist and separatist movements in European Russia, the military oligarchy of Turkey, he points out, are cherishing yet wider ambitions of aggrandisement. They mean to revise the historic rôles. Russia is now to be the "sick man," and the Turks are to "free" the Turkish-speaking and Mohammedan people from democratic Russia. To indicate how serious these aspirations are and how dangerous they might become, the article gives an exhaustive account of the Pan-Turanian movement, from which the following extract dealing with the rise of Turkish nationalism is taken*:—

"The consciousness of nationality, like the word 'Pan-Turanian,' has come to the Osmanlis from Europe. The Ottoman Empire began as the very opposite of a national State. It is not called after any people who inhabit it, but after the prince who founded it—Osman. It is true that Osman and his tribe were Turks, but they were only one out of a dozen Turkish States in Anatolia, and their Turkish neighbours were their worst rivals and enemies. They built up their power by conquests in Europe. Their best taxpayers were Christian subjects, their standing Army Christian converts, their most loyal supporters apostate Albanians and Slavs, who changed their religion but kept their language. Till a century ago the Turkish nationality contributed practically nothing to the Ottoman State except the literary and official language of the governing classes, and that language was so diluted with Persian and Arabic that it had little left in common with the vulgar Turkish of the Anatolian peasantry. The bulk of Anatolia was a comparatively late acquisition of the Empire. It was a neglected region, to a large extent practically independent, under local feudal chiefs.

"During the last century, however, Anatolia has taken the place of the Balkan Peninsula as the 'home country' of the Ottoman Empire; for while the Balkan provinces have been breaking away, the Asiatic provinces have been brought more and more under central control. The same Sultan who lost Greece broke the power of the feudal aristocracy in Anatolia and Kurdistan. The process of disintegration in Europe reached its climax in the Balkan War of 1912-13; the process of centralisation in Asia Minor has been completed by the Committee of Union and Progress since the treaty of Bucharest, and especially since Turkey's entry into the European War.

"The most significant change has been in the composition of the Ottoman Army. The Janissaries, a hereditary professional army descended from forced Christian converts of all races, were destroyed in 1826. The modern Turkish Army is organised on the nineteenth century European basis of conscription from the civil population. Down to 1908 the conscripts were nominally drawn from the whole Mohammedan population of the Empire, and since the Revolution Christians and Jews have been made liable as well. But the Government never got hold of the nomads and mountaineers; the settled Arab population was not good military material nor easily mobilised on the most threatened frontiers, which till the present war were those in Europe. Both before and after 1908 the Mohammedan Turkish-speaking Anatolian peasantry have been the staple of the Ottoman conscript army—its most amenable recruits and its toughest soldiers—and the Anatolian upper classes have more and more supplied the centralised Empire with its officers and officials. Thus, when the conscious Turkish national movement began, the Ottoman State was already resting on a practical foundation of Turkish nationality.

"The cultivation of national consciousness by the Ottoman Turks was partly an imitation of older nationalist movements in Europe and partly the spontaneous product of similar conditions. Like most European nationalisms it started by being cultural rather than political. The first nationalist society was founded at Salonika in 1909, in the comparatively free atmosphere that prevailed during the first three years after the Young Turk Revolution. The founder of this society was a provincial notable—one Ziya Bey, of Diarbekir, who had come up to attend a Congress of the Committee of Union and Progress. Diarbekir is a Turkish enclave in Kurdish and Armenian territory, and it is characteristic of nationalist movements that their most fanatical leaders come from the debatable borderlands.

"Ziya Bey's group started a campaign to purge the literary Ottoman language of its Arabic and Persian borrowings, and to replace these by old Turkish words which had never been admitted into Ottoman literature. This might seem a fantastic aim, for it is only through the adoption of foreign words, idioms and rhythms that Turkish has been given literary form at all. Yet submerged languages in Europe have been revived in circumstances of almost equal difficulty, and this 'Pure Turkish' movement claims to have had complete success. The Turkish writers of the traditional school were routed, and the use of Arabic was even attacked in the ecclesiastical field. The Nationalists wished to translate the Koran, Friday Sermon, and Khutba (Prayer for the Khalif) into Turkish, and to remove the Arabic texts from the walls of Turkish mosques; but they had to drop this part of their programme, which was far in advance of ordinary Turkish opinion.

"This phase of Turkish Nationalism lasted from 1909 to the Balkan War of 1912-13. It was a doctrinaire imitation of the linguistic Nationalism of Europe, impossibilist, and unpolitical. The chief source of information about it is a book on 'The Turkish and Pan-Turkish Ideal," by Tekin Alp,* a pseudonym which is believed to cover the name of a certain Salonika Jew.† This is a good illustration of the artificial origins of the movement, and it throws some light also on its prospects of success. For the Salonika Jews are inseparable from the Committee of Union and Progress, and one of their number would hardly have taken up Pan-Turanianism so strongly unless he thought it had found favour in the eyes of the Committee. Tekin Alp evidently feels it politic to identify himself with the Nationalism of the ruling race in Turkey, as the Jews in Hungary have identified themselves with Magyarisation. But his book has to be used with caution; for though it has been written since the Committee of Union and Progress have taken up the Pan-Turanian idea, it is impossible to tell how much (if any) of its contents represent their policy. On the whole it is safer to take "Tekin Alp" as representing the doctrinaire school of Ziya Bey, and to judge the Pan-Turanianism of the Committee solely on the evidence of their political actions since the Balkan War.

"The Balkan War made Pan-Turanianism practical politics. The shock of that disaster penetrated to wider circles than had been affected by the academic movement of the previous years, and seems to have kindled a genuine desire for national regeneration among all educated Turks. A number of societies, with local branches in Anatolia, the Caucasus, and Turkestan, were founded to promote education, physical culture, the emancipation of women, and other really constructive aims; and from this time onwards the Government lent its support. The Ministry of Evkaf or Religious Endowments has made grants out of its enormous funds for the multiplication of national schools; there has been a scheme for reforming the Medressés—the reactionary Mohammedan ecclesiastical seminaries; and during the present war the Government has challenged the whole existing ecclesiastical order by sweeping legal reforms which will bring much of the former domain of the Sheriat (Sacred Law) under the civil jurisdiction. The Sheikh-ul-Islam resigned over this, but he was and remained an active 'Unionist,' and the *fait accompli* was accepted by his successor. It is possible that both were acting in collusion with the Government—calculating that this formal protest would be a safety-valve for discontent among the humbler members of the ecclesiastical body.*

"All these activities were inspirations from Europe, like the crusade for a pure Turkish language, but they were of a much sounder kind. The Osmanlis seem to have been impressed by the example of the Balkan States, which had built up their strength by internal reforms till they were able to beat Turkey in war. Unfortunately they also borrowed from Europe another idea—irredentism.

"'Observers,' Tekin Alp writes, 'who like myself are Macedonians, and like myself had ample opportunity of gaining an intimate knowledge of the irredentist propaganda of the Bulgars, Greeks, Serbs, and Vlachs, are able to judge the significance of this national ideal, and how sweet and inspiring it is to go through the greatest dangers for such a cause'—and he proceeds to sketch the life history of several young Macedonian Christians who, before the Balkan War, had sacrificed everything to work for their national unification. This may, of course, simply represent Tekin Alp's personal philosophy, but it is probably true that the Balkan War did influence such public opinion as exists in Turkey in this direction. During the century ending in the year 1912-13 the centre of gravity of Turkey had actually shifted from Europe to Anatolia. After 1913 there was a corresponding change in the national consciousness. The Turkish nation abandoned the tradition of being a dominant race in Europe, resolved to develop its own latent possibilities in Anatolia, and conceived the ambition of making up for lost alien subjects by attracting to itself the scattered branches of the Turkish race outside the Ottoman frontiers."

* *Turan*, it is pointed out, is a Persian word meaning in Persian mediæval poetry the steppes and deserts of Central Asia, in contrast to the settled country of Iran or Persia; Pan-Turanianism, however, in its origin is both artificial and European.

* Published in German by Kiepenheuer, Weimar, 1915.

† By residence only and not by race, to judge by his fore-name. His residence in Macedonia is proved by allusions to the book itself, where he actually calls himself a Macedonian.

* See *Zwei Kriegsjahre in Konstantinopel*, by Harry Stuermer, ex-correspondent of the *Kölnische Zeitung*. (Payot et Cie., Lausanne.)

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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I pointed out recently that South Africa would be a serious competitor in the future as regards the production of Turkish tobacco. The report of the Tobacco Company of Rhodesia and South Africa, Limited, for the year 1916-17, which has just been issued, fully confirms this view. This company had under cultivation 1,013 acres, 603 acres being under tobacco, the yield being 214,041 lbs. of Virginia, and approximately 62,000 lbs. of Turkish leaf, the latter item showing a marked increase on the 19,196 lbs. for the previous year. The company is now extending its operations, and the acreage under Turkish tobacco for the coming season has been considerably increased.

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The annual report on the Cyprus Blue Book for 1916-17, reference to which is made elsewhere, throws a very interesting light on the effect of war conditions on the economic life of the island. Thanks to the war, an extraordinary demand is stated to have arisen for Cyprus produce, with the result that the inhabitants are enjoying a period of exceptional prosperity. It is not to be expected that conditions due solely to the war can have any degree of permanence. Fortunately, there are other and more solid grounds for confidence in the future of Cyprus, notably in connection with the mining industry, which seems to offer excellent prospects of development in the near future.

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A number of important matters were dealt with by Lord Inchcape in his speech at the meeting of the P. and O. Steam Navigation Company, notably the question of freight rates and the possibility of State-owned shipping after the war. On the latter subject he said:—"I may be wrong; but I am sanguine enough to hope that no Government will be so ill-advised as to kill the ship-owning industry of the British Empire, and to try and work it as a Government concern; and I go further than this, and I say if they attempt to interfere with it or to control it, while they cannot control that of other countries, they will land it in ruin." Referring to the submarine menace, he said that he did not take the view that it had ceased to be serious; it was, he said, graver than a couple of years ago.

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The report of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Limited, for the past year discloses somewhat less favourable results than were recorded in the previous twelve months. That is not a matter for surprise, as 1915-16 was a record year for the company in every way. The gross profits reached the highest figure ever recorded, and the ordinary dividend was 25 per cent., as against the previous highest declaration of 10 per cent. It would be possible also to make too much of the fact that these results have not been equalled, for it must be remembered that for both periods the trading profit was reckoned after the deduction of all war taxation. Obviously the incidence of this item would be most severe in the period under review, and it may justifiably be assumed, therefore, that the trading profit has not declined to anything like the extent it appears to have done. As to the operations of the company, it is stated that a number of vessels continue to be used in various capacities in the services of the country, while others have gone on running between Egypt and the United Kingdom, which suggests that what business may have been lost in one direction through war conditions has been at least compensated elsewhere.

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Turning to figures, the gross profit for the year was £51,500, as against £85,700 in 1915-16 and £53,400 in 1914-15. The net profit amounted to £24,100, as against £52,000 in 1915-16 and £19,700 in 1914-15. As, however, £28,600 was brought forward, the amount available for distribution was only about £12,000 less than in the previous year. Out of this sum an ordinary dividend of 20 per cent. is being paid, and £21,700, or £6,900 less than before, is carried forward. For the rest it may be noted that £18,000 is allocated to depreciation, as against £24,000, and the insurance fund is now £68,700, the latter item being an increase in the year of £24,100; while the value of the company's steamships is estimated at £120,400, or just under £50,000 less than last time. In the circumstances this can only be regarded as a most conservative estimate. On the whole shareholders have no reason for dissatisfaction with the report.

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The Non-Ferrous Metal Industry Bill, which passed its second reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday, is an economic measure of the utmost importance for the future safety of the Empire. Put briefly, the object of the measure is to ensure that for a period of five years after the war the trade shall be free from the slightest trace of German influence and control in order to give our traders time for such organisation as will enable them to hold their own in the metal trade against any competition. That is its *raison d'être*, but the Bill, when passed, as it will be shortly, will also serve the very useful purpose of reminding the enemy that the control of the greater part of the raw materials of of the world is in the hands of the Allies, and that, as Mr. Bonar Law put it, we realise our power commercially, and when the time comes will not hesitate to use it.

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The position with regard to the metal trade can best be explained by saying that before the war Germany's position with regard to it was on a par with her interest in the Calcutta hides trade, which was discussed in these columns two weeks ago. In other words, her influence was supreme in the trade. A group of German metal companies—the most important of them the Metallgesellschaft of Frankfurt—practically controlled the world's metal markets, and the organisation named had interests in undertakings in the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire, as well as in the United States. The ramifications of these interests were very complex, and, therefore, not easy to be controlled Their ascendancy was, however, beyond question, as was proved by the Lead Convention which they established, giving them the control of the lead trade of the world. And the Bill is essential because it will prevent any such ascendancy in the future, and will ensure to the Empire the control of its own raw materials.

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I learn that underwriting arrangements were in progress on Wednesday in connection with the new issue of £1,000,000 of preference shares by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. It is understood that the price of issue will be 22s. 6d. per share.

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Judging from the little information that is available, conditions in Bulgaria just now are far from pleasant for the masses of the population. The shortage of supplies and other factors have sent the cost of living up by leaps and bounds, and the resources of the public are now severely strained by the purchase of the bare necessities of life. In general it may be said that the war has only benefited a very limited clique in the country, and while a few men have amassed fortunes by means of army contracts and profiteering the struggle has spelt misery for the bulk of the inhabitants. It is to be hoped that this process will be accentuated, for the greater the effect of the economic pressure the sooner Bulgaria is likely to discover that she came in on the wrong side.

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The current issue of the *Chamber of Commerce Journal* contains some striking criticisms of Government control and restriction of trade. It is urged that the merchant community, in particular, has been singled out for exceptional treatment, which has had the effect of seriously diminishing supplies. According to recent official returns there are now, it is pointed out, more than 10,000 controlled firms, and the control system, it is maintained, has operated in the direction of seriously reducing the activities of importing merchants. Leaving out of the question the necessity of extending emergency legislation for a brief period after the war, the idea of having the present system of control for three years is described as "a severe shock" to those who hope for the extension of British trade and industry.

COMMENTATOR.

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Cyprus Trade in 1916-17.

Prosperity of the Island.

The year 1915-16 was one of marked prosperity for Cyprus, and it is gratifying to learn from the recently-published White Paper containing the annual report on the Blue Book for 1916-17 that the past year has also been an excellent one for the island. While the war has had detrimental effects in various countries, in Cyprus its influence has undoubtedly been beneficial. This has been principally due to the fact that Cyprus is in a position to export a considerable amount of surplus produce, and war conditions have made it an easy matter to dispose of this on satisfactory terms. Carobs, raisins, potatoes, mules, and donkeys have found ready purchasers in Egypt and elsewhere. The position is, perhaps, best summed up in the words of the report, that it is probably true to say that at no time for many hundreds of years has there been so great a demand as at present for the various products of Cyprus. The resultant prosperity is reflected in the revenue return, which, allowing for unsold tithe grain, is again the highest on record. It has also been reflected in a variety of other ways. Vine growers, for instance, are now freeing themselves from debt, and are devoting their new capital to the work of development; market gardeners, who have been similarly affected, are increasing the area of cultivation; and in general it is true to say that the economic life of the island is on the up grade. Whether this prosperity will survive the war is another question, and one into which we need not enter. It must suffice to say that at the moment Cyprus presents a most pleasant picture of progress.

Finance.

The local revenue was £332,584, as against £363,692 in 1915-16, and £290,110 in 1914-15. To this has to be added the Imperial grant in aid of £50,000, making the total revenue £382,584. On the other side, local expenditure came to £318,378, which is increased by the Island's share of the Turkish debt charge to £411,177, leaving a deficit on the year of £28,593. That would appear an unfavourable result, but it is only nominally so, for tithe grain to the value of £70,000, which had not been disposed of, is not included in the revenue account. Allowing for that sum, the total revenue for the year instead of being £31,108 below that of 1915-16 shows an increase of £38,892. The financial situation in general must be regarded as very satisfactory, especially as eleven out of the nineteen sources of revenue showed an increase over the previous figures.

Imports and Exports.

The value of imports in the period under review was £967,780, as against £588,019 in 1915-16, and £496,744 in 1914-15. The increase on the previous year was, therefore, no less than £379,761, as against an increase in 1915-16 of £91,275. The imports were composed of raw materials, £79,093; live animals, food, drink, and narcotics, £412,077; and manufactured articles, £476,610. As in the case of the Sudan, the trade was mainly with the Empire. Thus the United Kingdom and other parts of the Empire were responsible for imports to the value of £817,497, or 84.5 per cent. of the total. Greece comes next with £59,405, or 6. per cent., then Italy, with £29,604, or 3 per cent., and France with £15,831, or 1.6 per cent.; while the imports from all other countries amounted to £45,443.

The export trade also showed an increase, though not on such a remarkable scale—being £708,446, as against £650,490 in 1915-16, an increase of £57,956. The exports were composed of live animals, food, drink, and narcotics, £563,982; raw materials, £115,578; and manufactured articles, £28,886. Of these exports the United Kingdom's share was £163,988, while other parts of the Empire took goods to the value of £352,212. The balance was distributed as follows:—Greece, £85,906; France, £71,265; Italy, £12,854; United States, £9,467; Roumania, £15; and other countries, £12,739.

Industries.

The opinion is expressed in the report that there are indications that after the war the mining industry may regain some of the importance which it possessed in classical times. In this connection it may be recalled that reference was made last year to the considerable amount of prospecting and development that was then in progress. The Cyprian Mining Company's asbestos mine at Amiantos was worked throughout the year, and its output was a record one. The exports from this mine were 25,812 cwts., valued at £14,681, the figures for the previous year being 21,979 cwts., valued at £9,509. Men were employed at the mine for a total of 75,145 days, and women for a total of 26,123 days. Much work was also done at the Skouriotissa copper mine by the Cyprus Mines Corporation, but it is stated that the difficulty in obtaining freight made it necessary to defer the exportation of ore, and retarded the completion of the corporation's railway and pier works at Karavostasi. So far 2,500 feet of tunnel, crosscuts, and drifts have been bored, and 2,014 tons of ore extracted. During the year men were employed by the corporation for a total of 29,007 days, women for 10,021 days, and boys for 4,755 days. Fifteen tons of magnesite were extracted from the Akamas mine of the Cyprus Development Company, and were exported to the United Kingdom. Finally, 4,702 tons of terra umbra, to the value of £7,821, were exported during the year, as against 3,890 tons valued at £4,991 exported in the previous year. The quantity of gypsum exported amounted to 3,147 tons, valued at £1,814.

The past year was a good one for the wine industry; 1,230,400 gallons of ordinary Cyprus wines, valued at £78,932, were exported chiefly to Egypt, and exports of the heavy dessert wine, known as "vin de Chypre," amounted to 12,042 gallons, valued at £1,233. Exports of vinegar came to 162,739 gallons, valued at £3,049, and of spirit to 43,638 gallons, valued at £6,865. Other exports of home produce and manufactures included cigarettes, cordage and twine, cotton and woollen manufactures, and sumac leaves.

There was no sponge fishing in Cyprus waters in the year under review, but exports of the previous catch amounted to 1,138 okes valued at £2,590.

Communications.

The report states that the length of railway lines open for traffic during the year was 76 miles, and the length of lines maintained 81 miles. The work on the branch lines from the copper mine at Skouriotissa to the main line and thence to the sea near Karavostasi was continued until April, 1916, when the earthwork and masonry were completed. Since then the work has been at a standstill owing to the difficulty of obtaining materials and rolling-stock. The gross earnings of the railway in 1916-17 amounted to £19,914, and the expenses to £16,608, giving a profit of £3,306, as against a surplus of £1,919 in 1915-16, and of £1,617 in 1914-15. Train services, it is added, have been reduced as far as possible owing to the rise in the price of fuel.

Other features in the report will be dealt with in a subsequent issue.

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

The Controller of the Foreign Trade Department has issued a new list of additions to the Statutory list of firms of enemy nationality or enemy association with whom persons in the United Kingdom are forbidden to trade. Copies of this list can be obtained at a trifling cost from the Superintendent of Publications, H.M. Stationery Office, Imperial House, Kingsway, W.C.

ROUMANIA'S OIL FIELDS.

German Exploitation.

Judging by the comments of a writer in the *Rheinisch-Westfalische Zeitung*, there seems to be considerable dissatisfaction in Germany that it has not been possible to make more use of the Roumanian oilfields. The writer roundly declares that Germany does not seem to be any better off as far as the supply of oil for domestic use is concerned for having captured the Roumanian fields, and says that the shortage of petroleum is as serious as ever.

According to the latest estimates, there are some 700,000 tons of petroleum and its various products available for use in Roumania at the present time—roughly, the equivalent of four and a-half months' production in peace time. The Germans have now occupied the fields for about twelve months, and, in view of the remarkable thoroughness with which the British Military Mission carried out the work of destruction of the oil wells and refineries, this result can hardly be held to justify the comments of the German critic. That the enemy hopes that the production will be increased still further is indicated by the fact that there is talk of the construction of a pipe-line from Ploesti via Predeal, Kisuyszallass and Kiskernye, to Oderberg. This line, which would cost something like 15,000,000 marks, would, it is estimated, reduce the cost of transportation from its present cost of 2,100 marks per 10 tons to 50 marks. It is, however, extremely unlikely that the Germans will be able to undertake this ambitious project during the war.

NEWS FROM ALL SOURCES.

Estimates of the Egyptian crops show that all cereal crops are excellent. Rice is 23 per cent. and ground nuts 15 per cent. above the normal.

Of the loan to Greece from the Entente, it has been decided to devote, besides the sums destined for the Army, 100,000,000 drachmai (about £4,000,000) to needs of national economy, and an equal amount to road-building.

Mr. H. W. Lander, of Alexandria, has been appointed to the post of Manager of the Salonica Cigarette Company at Alexandria.

Sir Edward Hain, Chairman of the Hain Steamship Company and of Edward Hain and Sons, St. Ives and Cardiff, left a fortune of £630,000.

The Government of India commenced the issue of one-rupee currency notes in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay on December 1, and will, it is understood, follow shortly with two and a-half rupee notes.

RICHES OF BURMA.

Under Government auspices, the minerals of Burma—or, at least, those specially valuable for war purposes—are now being vigorously worked. After the war the development of these and of Burma's minerals generally will, the British Empire Producers' Organisation understands, be still more vigorously undertaken. The country has, in fact, enormous mineral riches, but prospectors are badly wanted, and large tracts of country are still unexplored. On the agricultural side, too, developments may be expected. An expert from the Federated Malay States has recently been examining the Tavoy area with regard to cinchona cultivation on a large scale. Cinchona, the source of quinine, is already being grown to some extent in Burma, but the present scheme is for the cultivation of 60,000 acres. Throughout the British East the lead obtained by the Dutch with their extensive cinchona plantations in Java will certainly be challenged in the future. The prolific bamboo forests are another as yet but partially exploited source of wealth in Burma, the great economic importance of which has certainly not been adequately recognised hitherto. For this lack of vision the administration of Burma as a mere province of India itself an actual unit of Empire is probably to a certain extent responsible.

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TIMBER PRODUCTION NEAR TREBIZOND.

Erection of Saw Mill.

Plans have been made for and work has already been started on the construction of a sawmill at Surmeneh, a small town on the Karadere River, twenty miles from Trebizond, says the United States Consul at Trebizond, Mr. W. L. Jenkin, in a report dated August last. The enterprise is being carried on under the direction of Signor Valatzi, an Italian, to whom a concession was granted by the former Russian authorities, and later ratified by the present Provisional Government, to cut down the timber on both sides of the Karadere River for a distance of eighty versts inland. The concession provides that by the end of the present calendar year 40,000 trunks must be sawed and delivered to the Voenni Stroitelvstvo (Army Construction Management) at a stated price. Any surplus may be sold to private purchasers. Although it is not anticipated that sawing operations can be commenced before November, the trees are being cut down and the bark removed while the sap is still in the trunks. About 400 workmen are employed at present. It is estimated that approximately 200,000 trunks can be cut and sawed yearly. Three trunks are said to be required for one cubic meter of sawn timber. The wood is mostly pine and beech. The machinery is being brought from Russia proper, but is not of Russian manufacture, having been imported there before the war from either England or Germany.

The Indo-British Association, which was inaugurated at a recent meeting at Cannon Street Hotel, has opened offices at 2 and 3, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C. 2, and all interested in Indian affairs can obtain particulars of membership of the association on application to that address.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Demand for Piece Goods for Egypt

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The tone of the market has continued quieter. Prices have advanced, but comparatively few buyers have been prepared to follow, and progress has been checked. The wages question has been settled for six months. The trades unions officials have accepted an advance of 15 per cent. on condition that the payments to unemployed workpeople continue on the same level as during the last three months. The Cotton Control Board has reduced by 50 per cent. the levies upon spinners and manufacturers who work more than 60 per cent. of their machinery. Recent healthy reports relating to the Egyptian cotton crop have been confirmed, and there is every probability of an output of nearly 6,500,000 cantars. Egyptian yarns have attracted rather less attention, but prices have again gone against buyers. In piece goods for Egypt a fair amount of inquiry has come through, but the turnover has been smaller than in recent previous weeks. It is understood that arrangements are being made for sending goods to Greece through Alexandria. India has bought fair lots of grey shirtings, chiefly for Bombay. Only retail sales have been put through for China. Not much has been done for South America. American yarns are again dearer on the week, and supplies of most counts and qualities are very scarce. Fresh buying has been on smaller lines. Bundles for India have not attracted much attention, but the undercurrent of demand for France keeps up well.

The *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung* states that during the year ended September 30 last nearly 400,000 prosecutions were undertaken for infringements of the food regulations in Prussia.

COTTON SPINNING IN 1917.

Big Profits.

Mr. Frederick W. Tattersall, of Manchester, has prepared an analysis of the stocktaking results of Lancashire cotton spinning companies for the twelve months ended November 30, 1917. Particulars are given of fifty concerns, and it is of interest to note that all the companies have made a profit. The total paid-up share capital of the fifty companies amounts to £1,885,347, with a loan capital of £1,067,387. The total profit of all the mills, after paying interest on loans and allowing for depreciation, amounts to £254,236, being an average profit per company of £5,085, as compared with £4,034 per company in the previous year. The profit on share capital works out at 13.48 per cent. per annum, as compared with 11.22 per cent. per annum in 1916. The profit on share and loan capital combined is 8.61 per cent. per annum, against 7.30 per cent. per annum in the previous year. The present total value of machinery and plant of the fifty mills amounts to £2,108,273. The spindles in the factories total 4,578,147. The experience of spinners during the past year has been better than in any twelve months since the beginning of the war, and the trade position at the moment is more profitable than for many years back. It is expected that the stocktaking results to be announced at the end of this month will show very big gains.

A statement was issued by the India Office on Tuesday night showing the form in which the balance of the gold standard reserve was held on November 30:—In India, nil; in England, cash placed by the Secretary of State for India in Council at short notice, £6,000,521; British and Colonial Government securities (value as on September 30), £21,965,653; British Government securities since purchased (cost price), £5,657,068; total, £33,623,242.

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ENGINEERING NOTES

Engineering Prospects in China.

Now that British engineering firms are realising the importance of early organisation for the forthcoming trade struggle, any reliable information concerning their line of business in foreign markets is, of course, of much interest to them, especially when such information refers to markets presenting special features of attraction like Egypt and China. In an address before the Engineers' Club in Manchester, Mr. S. W. McGregor, referring to the commercial aspect of engineering in China, asserted that the future of that country's engineering is linked up much more largely than is generally supposed with the development of its railways and mineral resources. The Chinese Government at the present time are considering the standardisation of the railway lines, and many thousands of miles are ripe for construction. The mineral resources of China, Mr. McGregor says, are enormous, but, with few exceptions, they are practically unworked. How immense a field exists for the investment of capital in the exploiting of China's undeveloped minerals it is easy to imagine, as well as the splendid business in machinery which must follow this development. At present a considerable proportion of China's trade in engineering and machinery products is in the hands of American and Japanese firms, although before the war Great Britain did 30 per cent. of China's business in engineering and metal requisites, Germany coming second with 23 per cent., Japan third with 21 per cent., and Belgium fourth with 11 per cent.

Egypt as a Market.

With regard to Egypt as a market, it is reassuring to find that prosperity continues to mark our operations in that country. War or no war, the Egyptian Administration are determined to make the country prosperous, and they are meeting with continuous encouragement. One very striking indication of this is afforded by the excellent results which are attending the working of the Sudan Railways. According to the report for 1916, although the expenditure advanced from £E382,204 in 1915 to £E522,204, the Administration was enabled to earn a gross revenue of £E824,957, in comparison with £E592,683 in 1915. These figures are exclusive of repairs, which on some sections are badly needed; but there is no question that if the Sudan Railway were permitted to control their affairs as a separate department, instead of being included in the whole of the revenues of Egypt, the income would have been sufficient last year to provide at least the greater part of the money for the necessary re-equipment.

Motor Cars in Morocco.

According to the *Exportateur Français*, there are great possibilities in the motor-car market in Morocco, and this journal suggests the following as essential points in regard to the type of motor-car required for that country:—1. It should have an exceptionally strongly-built chassis, with clearance of 12 ins. 2. The body should be strongly built and as simple as possible. 3. The diameter of the wheels should not be more than 35 ins. 4. It must be obtainable at a reasonable price.

American Motor Cars in India.

From time to time we have pointed out in these columns the systematic activity of the American engineering firms in the Near and Far East, and the surprising results they have achieved in those markets. From Southern Russia to Asia Minor, from Persia to India, from Egypt to Japan, the expert American traveller and the convincing style of American advertising have done wonders from a business point of view during the last ten years. Of course, the war, which has driven the Germans out of those markets, has given the Americans a good opportunity of increasing their connections in the Eastern markets. However, after the war there will be plenty of business for both British and Americans in the East, if the Germans are kept out of it. A noteworthy proof of American energy in India is the large increase in the import of motor-cars from the United States, and the decrease in the imports from the United Kingdom. In a review of the trade of India in 1916-17 by the Department of Statistics it is shown that the number of motor-cars imported since the pre-war year 1913-14 were:—

	From the United Kingdom.	America.	Other countries.
1913-14 ..	1,669 ..	868 ..	343
1914-15 ..	1,350 ..	510 ..	145
1915-16 ..	787 ..	2,136 ..	198
1916-17 ..	489 ..	4,169 ..	120

The total imports increased in value to Rs. 1,54 lakhs from Rs.94 lakhs in the preceding year. Of this increase Rs.10 lakhs were accounted for by higher prices and Rs. 50 lakhs were due to an increase in the volume of the trade. The imports from the United States were valued at over Rs.1,22 lakhs and those from the United Kingdom at approximately Rs. 25 lakhs. The average declared value (*i.e.*, excluding duty) of British cars was Rs. 5,004 and of American cars Rs. 2,935 as against Rs. 4,133 and Rs. 2,440, respectively, in the preceding year. The comparative cheapness of the American car is striking, and this fact should be borne in mind by the British manufacturers in the forthcoming trade struggle. Orientals have always shown a marked preference for British made goods, but also a natural weakness for cheapness and bargains, and a good appearance often induces them to overlook solidity. It is a point that helped German methods.

Rubber Substitute.

The scarcity of rubber has apparently been got over in some way in Germany by the production of substitutes, which seem to be very suitable for certain purposes. According to a German paper, a good deal of attention is being paid at the moment to various forms of animal plant and mineral substances for the manufacture of tyres. In place of rubber, flax and hemp are being used. These are soaked in rubber, paraffin wax, or celluloid. Tyres are also made of a series of layers of calico steeped in rubber, or of strips of leather specially treated. In place of plant fibres, mineral substances are also in use. For instance, asbestos, which is mixed at a certain heat with balata rubber. It is also stated that air tubes for tyres are being made in Switzerland from Japanese silk paper soaked in a form of wax

COMPANY MEETINGS.

P. AND O.

The Government and the Shipping Industry.

The seventieth ordinary general meeting of the proprietors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company was held on Wednesday at the offices, Leadenhall Street, under the presidency of the Right. Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., the chairman of the company.

The Secretary (Mr. Frederick John Abbott) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said:—Ladies and gentlemen, in submitting our accounts and report for the past year, which I presume, as usual, you will take as read, as they have been in your hands for the past ten days, I am afraid part of what I have to say will not be very comforting to the shareholders. In the first place, I must express our deep regret at the loss we have sustained in the death of our colleague, Sir William Adamson, who had been a member of the board of the P. and O. Company for twenty-four years. Sir William's ripe experience and sound judgment had always been placed at the service of the company, while his unfailing courtesy and kindly disposition endeared him to all his colleagues. We have, I regret to say, also lost a young colleague, who joined us within the last three years, Mr. William Mackinnon. He had been serving in the Army since the outbreak of the war, and was killed in France six months ago while leading his company into action.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SHIPOWNERS.

When the war broke out the Government and the shipowners met together, and it was agreed that all ships required by the State for naval and military purposes should be chartered to Government at practically pre-war rates, and what is known as the Blue Book was framed accordingly. The vessels not required for Government service were left free to prosecute their ordinary work. This went on till the beginning of 1917. Tonnage was diminished by War Office and Admiralty requirements and by war losses, and freights rose in consequence—not by the action of the owners, but by the law of supply and demand. Then the Government went further, and suggested that they should also charter all the free steamers, and that the owners should work these ships on Government account, taking only the Blue Book rates of hire and handing over their surplus earnings to the Government, the idea being that tonnage would be saved through not being employed promiscuously. The suggestion was adopted by the shipowners, and the arrangement has gone on now for the past eight or ten months.

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The fixing of rates of freight is no longer in the owners' hands—it is in the hands of the Ministry of Shippings, and the owners, at any rate, have the satisfaction of knowing that they are making nothing out of the war.

Recent Acquisitions.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the company held on June 27 last, it was decided to purchase the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand, with its fine fleet of seventy-four steamers, with a tonnage of 237,860 tons. This transaction went through without a hitch, and the company is now proprietor of 99 per cent. of the shares of the Union Company. No doubt, the remaining 1 per cent. will come in before long. A few weeks ago we had the opportunity of acquiring the Hain Steamship Company, which came into the market owing to the death of Sir Edward Hain. The fleet consists of some twenty-seven well-built cargo steamers, twenty-three of which are in commission and four under construction, the gross tonnage being 108,787 tons. The price paid for the shares of the company was a high one, but carried with it certain assets in addition to the ships, and while the shareholders in the Hain Steamship Company have realised their shares at a very satisfactory price to themselves, we hope that we, too, may have no reason to be dissatisfied with the terms of the purchase. We have also acquired within the last few weeks a small company known as the Nourse Line, which owns six modern high-class steamers of good speed, with a gross tonnage of 23,496 tons. These vessels are well adapted for trade in the tropics, where they have hitherto been employed. Four of the ships are of an average age of nine years, and two are completely new vessels. The price paid for this company was a moderate one, looking at the present and prospective cost of steamers, and we believe this transaction will also prove a satisfactory one for the P. and O. shareholders. A considerable proportion of the steamers we have lost have been of the cargo type, and the acquisition of the Hain and Nourse steamers, with a tonnage of 132,283, will be of material assistance in filling the blanks.

The value of the vessels we have lost has to a certain extent been recovered, but it would be impossible to replace them for their insured values, even if we were at liberty to build new ships, which we are not, the yards being occupied by what are known as standard ships for the Government. Owners are precluded from replenishing their fleets which have been denuded by enemy action. After the war, however, the individual effort which has built up the merchant service of this country, if left unfettered, will be equal to the occasion, and our mercantile marine will rapidly secure again the foremost place in the world.

Shipping after the War.

Attempts have been made to get some declaration of policy from the Government as to their attitude to shipping after the war. This is only natural, in view of the fact that Government has embarked in the building of merchant ships. We are frequently assured that there is no intention of nationalising shipping, but, so far, no official pronouncement has been made. The nearest approach to this is a remark recently made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that the amount now being invested in standard ships will come back to the Treasury after the war when the ships are sold.

We constantly hear eulogies passed on the services which the mercantile marine has rendered to the country during this war. We see it reported that Germany and other countries are to help shipowners to rebuild their fleets, and at the same time we observe a disposition on the part of a certain section in this country, notwithstanding all that shipowners, by their enterprise and energy, have done for the nation, to wrest their business from them and to work the shipping industry as a national affair. No wonder there is considerable unrest on the part of owners. No wonder fleets are being sold. The wonder is that anyone can be found to have the courage to buy them! Possibly we have been foolish in laying out your surplus funds in adding to your fleet. Possibly it might have been wiser to distribute the amounts realised for the ships that have been lost and to wind up the business. Against private competitors we can hold our own, but against a State-owned concern that is not possible, and if the organisations and the business which private individuals have built up by years of work are to be filched from them by the State, there is an end to all security of property. (Hear, hear.) I may be wrong, but I am sanguine enough to hope that no Government will be so ill-advised as to kill the shipowning industry of the British Empire and to try to work it as a Government concern; and I go further than this, and I say if they attempt to interfere with it or to control it while they cannot control that of other countries they will land it in ruin. (Hear, hear.) We seek for no Government assistance, we ask for no contribution from the taxpayer beyond a fair remuneration for services rendered in the carrying of mails, but we want no Government interference with our business when the Defence of the Realm Act is no longer necessary. (Cheers.)

Suppose shipping were nationalised, naturally all the other industries of the country would follow. It would be against all recognised public policy to make a profit out of industries conducted by the State, the revenue from income-tax would disappear, we should be living on each other. I make bold to say that the 5 per cent. Loan, which now stands in the neighbourhood of 93, would be nearer 50, and repudiation would be on the horizon. If nationalisation is proceeded with, Government will have to buy up the P. and O. and its allied concerns, and we shall have to seek an outlet for our capital and activities in some other field. If and when that occurs, there will not be much room for private enterprise in this country, Government officials will have swallowed everything, and will be suffering from an attack of indigestion! (Laughter.)

I am glad to say that the relations between ourselves and labour have continued to be perfectly friendly.

Pre-War Orders for New Vessels.

You will doubtless remember that some three years ago, just before the war broke out, we had ordered two new mail vessels. The construction of these was stopped by Government requirements, and they will not be delivered for another six months. In the meantime their character has been changed, as we were only allowed to proceed with their construction on condition that their passenger accommodation was left out in the meantime and that they were finished as cargo vessels. Other two refrigerated ships which we had contracted for have been placed on one side under Government orders to make way for standard ships, and a fifth vessel which we arranged for a year ago has not yet been begun.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the staffs and agents of the P. and O. and British India Companies ashore for their loyal and efficient co-operation during the year, and would reiterate what has been said in the report as to the splendid services which have been rendered by all our men afloat in very trying conditions. No words can express what the country owes to our merchant seamen for their services to the nation during this war. (Hear, hear.)

Accounts.

Turning to the accounts they are submitted in the simple form which you were good enough to approve a year ago. The result of the year's operations justifies the directors in proposing to the shareholders the same distribution as in the two previous years. I am afraid the accounts for 1917-18 will not be as good as they were in the years which preceded the war, but in existing circumstances we must submit to sacrifices. If we succeed in the current year in covering expenses, in providing for depreciation and contingencies, and in again having a balance sufficient without encroaching on our reserves to give the shareholders the proposed modest dividend on the large amount of capital actually employed in the business, we shall be thankful. Meantime, the cash resources of the P. and O. Company and its allies, which in ordinary course would have been put into new ships, have been lent to the Government to help to finance the war. These resources will be available to pay for new tonnage when we are permitted to build new ships. If it should be evident that such a time is never to come again, and that it is the intention to wipe out private enterprise and to turn the British Mercantile Marine into a State Department managed by officials tied up with red tape, then we shall distribute our rescources among our shareholders, after making proper provision for our employees, make our bow, and let the curtain fall on what has hitherto been the supremacy of British mercantile shipping on the seven seas. (Hear, hear.) I will now propose: "That the accounts and report be adopted," and will ask Mr. Rathbone to second the resolution. but before putting it to the stockholders I shall be glad to answer any questions which they may desire to put forward.

Mr. William Gair Rathbone,—I have the pleasure of seconding the resolution.

The Chairman then proposed "That a dividend for the half-year ended September 30 last of 2½ per cent. on the Preferred stock, less income-tax, and a dividend of 6 per cent., with a bonus of 6 per cent., on the Deferred

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stock, free of income-tax, as recommended in the report, be now declared, and that payment of the same be made on and after the 18th inst."

Mr. Herbert Brooks.—I have very much pleasure in seconding the resolution.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—I now beg to propose "That Henry Neville Gladstone, Esq., be re-elected a director of this company."

Sir Montagu Cornish Turner.—I have much pleasure in seconding that.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—I have also to propose "That Sir Walter Roper Lawrence, Bt., G.C.I.E., be re-elected a director of this company."

Mr. Ernest Haliburton Cunard.—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman, the directors, and the staff of the P. and O., and its allied companies, moved by Mr. Thomas Dence, and seconded by Mr. Arthur Pitt, and carried unanimously.

BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY CO., LTD.

The fifty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the stockholders was held on December 6 at the company's offices, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, Mr. Robert Miller (the chairman) presiding.

Sir T. R. Wynne, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., (managing director), read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report.

The chairman, in dealing with the accounts for the financial year ended March 31 last, said that the capital expenditure for that period amounted only to £214,500, and was incurred mainly on rolling stock ordered before the war, on improvements on the main line to facilitate traffic, on expenditure on the company's colliery at Bokharo, and on the purchase of the Tumsar Road-Tirodi Manganese Tramway. There was no capital expenditure on the construction of new lines. With regard to revenue, he stated that the net earnings increased from Rs.2,26,20,000 for the year ended March, 1916, to Rs.2,65,92,000 for the year ended March, 1917. The working expenses fell from 49.01 per cent. to 48.10 per cent. Passenger traffic showed an increase in receipts of about 8¼ lakhs, and goods traffic an increase of Rs.60 lakhs. The surplus revenue of the railway amounted to £723,612, of which the share of the company was £101,257 for the twelve months ended March 31, 1917, as compared with £68,910 for the previous corresponding period, and the share taken by the Government was £617,265, as compared with £415,358. These were very satisfactory figures, earned under conditions entirely different from those before the war.

Industrial Development in India.

There was no doubt that the war had created a great deal of traffic on the line which was of a temporary character, and when peace was declared this traffic would cease. At the same time, the normal conditions of trade had been revolutionised by the state of war. New markets had been opened for the productions of India, and the seeds of new industries hitherto strange to India had been sown which, when peace was restored in the world would, the board believed, bear fruit in adding to the productive wealth of the country and to the traffic of its railways, in which this undertaking would share. They tapped what was substantially a virgin territory. In fact, the war had developed, in his opinion, a new spirit of enterprise and adventure in what might be termed the steady old-fashioned business ways of India, and the result must be that when the war ended the railway would find that a large new traffic, which would be permanent, had been created. Another factor which would create new traffic for the railway was the diversion of traffic from the sea-coasting routes to destinations also on a railway route. In his opinion, the effect of the war on this railway would be to the good, and there was no need to fear that when it ended their present earnings would be seriously affected.

With regard to the condition of the railway, expenditure on this account was divisible under two very distinct heads. The first was the maintenance and the second was the improvement of the undertaking. These two distinct operations must not be confused together under the single head of "renewals." As regarded this railway, it had been well maintained up to date, and the last report by the Government inspector confirmed this view. In regard to improvements, viz., relaying with heavy rails and sleepers, construction of traffic facilities to meet increased traffic, new marshalling yards, new crossing stations, new staff quarters, extension of workshops—such works had necessarily been restricted to narrow limits for want of sufficient supplies from home of stores required for their construction. Such works of improvement were mainly chargeable to capital, and, as in previous years, it had been possible to met the revenue share of such expenditure and yet work at a reasonable percentage of gross receipts, he did not anticipate that their working expenses would increase very largely, though they would probably do so to some extent when the war ended. With the permanent growth of traffic which, he thought, the war would leave, they should be able to afford a good deall from revenue without entailing an undue burden on it for any year. As to capital expenditure, he remarked that for some years great caution must govern them, as the interest on all capital raised in the future would certainly be much higher than in the past, and if there was any danger of net receipts being affected, as would be most likely from the direction of high interest on capital for works which the railway must carry out to meet its public obligations.

The Vizagapatam Harbour.

The negotiations which had been in hand for the last three or four years for this railway to construct a harbour and docks at Vizagapatam had been successfully concluded, and the formal agreement with the Secretary of State was now in course of preparation. The harbour and docks would be constructed and worked by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and the port had every prospect of ranking equally with the other large ports of India, and would most certainly be a large factor in developing traffic on this railway. They had many projects incubating, waiting only for hostilities to cease to spring into existence. Great developments were taking place in the Tata Iron and Steel Company's works situated on this railway. The steel plant was being largely increased and other plant was to be erected which would induce the creation of other local industries, whose wants the steel company would later be able to cater for. In fact, the whole valley from Sini to Khargpur bade fair to be the site of an industrial development which would be of advantage to the railway.

After a tribute to the work of the staff, a large number of whom are engaged on military service, the Chairman said that it was proposed to pay a final dividend of ¾ per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent., the dividend being the same but the bonus ½ per cent. higher than last year, leaving about £194,000 to be carried forward. In conclusion he moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. A. Brereton, C.S.I., seconded the resolution, which was carried, and the dividend and bonus, as recommended, being in addition to the guaranteed interest, were also agreed to.

MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RLWY. CO., LTD.

The sixty-sixth ordinary general meeting was held on Wednesday at the offices, 25, Buckingham Palace Road, London, Colonel W. V. Constable, R.E., chairman of the company, presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. P. A. Cory) having read the notice convening the meeting and the certificate of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the revenue account showed the company's share of the divisible surplus net earnings for the company's and State lines for the year 1916-17, and also for the Mysore State lines. The former, less Indian income-tax, amounted to Rs.34,04,857, realising £230,093 17s. 1d., while the latter came to Rs.90,018, realising £6,070 9s. 1d. These sums added together made the company's share of the surplus profits for the whole year £236,164 6s. 2d., an increase of £56,875 14s. 5d., compared with the amount received for the year 1915-16. The return for the year was equal to £4 14s. 6d. in excess of the guaranteed minimum of £3 10s. per cent. per annum, giving a total of £8 4s. 6d. per cent. on the company's capital of £5,000,000. It had been necessary on this special occasion to pay three dividends all out of one year's profits, so that in future they could pay an interim dividend in July and the final one in January. The total of these three dividends came to £175,000, leaving a balance of £61,164.

Inflated Surplus Profits.

The surplus profits, to a great extent, had been inflated because of abnormal restrictions of expenditure. Stockholders must be prepared for very heavy increased cost of working, although the board hoped, with the help of the reserve fund, if necessary, to maintain a steady 6 per cent. dividend. During the war all capital and revenue expenditure, other than that required for maintaining the railway in working order, had been deferred, with the result that working expenses were abnormally low and net earnings in consequence very high. The arrears would have

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to be dealt with when more favourable conditions obtained. In the report the board referred to the liability for Indian super-tax and English excess profits duty. It had not yet been possible to ascertain the amount of these liabilities, and nothing had been paid on this account. In calculating the Indian super-tax they had to deduct the amount paid or to be paid for dividends as well as for any English excess profits duty, and the latter could not be ascertained until they could come to an agreement with the Surveyor of Taxes as to the amount to be allowed for deferred renewals. It was not only necessary to compare the actual expenditure with the average expenditure in the pre-war years, but they had to claim for an increase in the allowance in ratio of the increase in the capital value of the renewable assets as compared with the average capital value of such assets in the pre-war years; or, in other words, they must claim for the enhanced cost of all material, etc., a somewhat difficult task with prices continually on the increase. A peculiar point was that they would not tell the amount of the Indian super-tax until they ascertained the amount of the excess profits duty, and they could not determine what the excess profits were until they had ascertained the amount of Indian super-tax. These difficulties would, no doubt, be overcome in time. Indian railway companies at the present time suffered more perhaps than many other undertakings in regard to taxation. Taking surplus profits of the company's and State lines only, first they were charged one anna in the rupee, or one-sixteenth of their profits, for Indian income-tax. Then there was a graduated Indian super-tax on undistributed profits ranging from one anna to three annas in the rupee. What was left of the profits came home and was charged 3s. 9d. in the pound for English income-tax, i.e., 5s. in the pound less 1s. 3d. recoverable under Clause 43 of the Finance Act, 1916; and then they got a further charge of 80 per cent. for English excess profits duty. The excess profits duty might cease when peace came, but the super-tax would remain for some years after the end of the war. Whilst the excess profits tax was justifiable on every ground, the Indian super-tax could not be so described in relation to Indian railways. It was a prudent measure for railway administrations not to divide their profits earned up to the hilt, when heavy expenditure on account of deferred renewals was inevitable in the future, and it seemed, therefore, anomalous to handiap such efforts by the imposition of a super-tax on undistributed profits set apart for such purposes.

LAST HALF-YEAR'S WORKING.

The accounts for the half-year ended September 30, 1917, showed for the company's and State lines an increase of nearly 29 lakhs in gross earnings and five lakhs in working expenses over the corresponding period of 1916-17, with the result that the net earnings had grown by nearly 24 lakhs. The company's share of the company's and State lines and the Mysore State lines together gave a total of Rs.24.77 lakhs, or, at 1s. 5d. per rupee, £3 10s. 2d. on the capital of £5,000,000. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings for the first half of 1917-18 was only 46.27 compared with 56.50, the average for the six pre-war years. These results might be considered as quite abnormal.

Mr. J. O'Connell seconded the resolution, which was adopted unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. L. R. Windham Forrest, a resolution was passed to pay a dividend of 25s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest of 35s. per cent. to be received from the Government, for the half-year ending the 31st inst.

BUYERS' GUIDE.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THROGMORTON AVENUE, Wednesday.

There has been a great deal of activity again this week in the market for Egyptian land shares, and a large business has been transacted, at generally speaking a further improvement in values. The bulk of the demand has emanated from Egypt, and continues to be based upon the large sums of money seeking investment in consequence of the very great prosperity over there.

In Government stocks there has been no alteration in prices, but there are a good many unsatisfied buyers at the present level, as sellers continue very scarce. In Bank shares Agriculturals, after weakening to 6 1-16, closed unchanged at 6⅛. Anglo-Egyptians were ⅛ up at 14⅛. There has been some quiet buying of Delta Light Railway Prefs. round 6 3-16, and these shares appear an exceedingly attractive lock-up purchase at the present time.

Amongst the Land shares Allotments have continued in persistent demand, and are a further 3-16 higher at 3 15-16. In Behéras some business has been done at 13, and the Prefs. are 1-16 firmer at 4½. Dairas have been wanted, but there are no sellers. Delta Lands, after being quiet for a long time, have at last come into demand, and, on the buying orders from Egypt, have risen 1s. to 14s. 9d. Gharbieh Lands are 1-16 higher at 1⅞, but no transactions have taken place. Some business has again been done in Sidi Salems, but the price remains unaltered. New Egyptians have been daily dealt in in large quantities, and Egypt has absorbed all the shares offering on this side, with the result that sellers here are now less numerous, and the price is 6d. up at 16s. 3d. Another feature has been the demand from Egypt for Union Foncières, which have improved 5-16 to 2 11-16, a large business having been done. United Egyptian Lands are also fractionally firmer at 1s. 2d.

In Miscellaneous shares Salts, after dropping to 35s. 9d., closed somewhat firmer at 36s. 4½d., but Khedivial Mails have dropped 2s. 6d. to 35s., the report being considered somewhat disappointing—the dividend is only 4s. for the year, as against 5s. for the previous twelve months.

In Greek securities there has been rather more doing, as some sellers have come out, and this has enabled some purchases to be effected for Greek account. The only changes in prices are a drop of ½ in Monopolies and 1914's to 52 and 74 respectively, while Rentes are ¼ easier at 42¾.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 6d. to 26s.-27s., and Roumanian Consols rose 6d. to 9s. 3d.-10s. 3d.

Paris Bourse.

Closing prices: Egyptian Unified, 91.25; Credit Foncier Egyptien, 759; Suez Canal shares, 4,595.

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates:—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
December 4	270,000	140,000
December 5	190,000	140,000
December 6, 7, 8, 9	1,200,000	550,000

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Nov. 30.	1917. Week Nov. 29.
Cattle markets	1,055 ..	360
General markets	463 ..	488
Receipts (£)	1,518 ..	848
Total for year	50,284 ..	51,219

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Dated Alexandria, 15th November, 1917.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Dec. 6	Dec. 12
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84
Do. Pref. 5½ %, 1890	88	72½	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884	56	61	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887	49	52½	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	43	42¾
Do. 5 %, 1890	56	56	56
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.)	90	74½	74
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	52½	52½
Persia 5% 1911	91	84	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	67½	67½
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	79	79
Do. 5½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	68½	69
Do. 4% Unified	79	56½	56½
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.)	4½	6⅛	6⅛
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)	7¾	7⅛	7⅛
Anglo-Egyptian Bank	12	14	14⅛
Bank of Athens	£2	3⅜	3⅜
Bank of Roumania	8½	8⅜	8⅜
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅜	7⅜	7⅛
Ionian Bank, Limited	3¼	4⅜	4⅜
Land Bank of Egypt, Ord.	6½	6⅞	6⅞
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	17	17
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅜	6⅜
Ottoman Smyrna to Aidin Ord.	17⅜	9⅛	9⅛
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%	90	72½	72½
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	53	53
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅞	21/-	21/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Béhéra Co.	8½	13	13
Do. Pref.	4½	4⅜	4⅛
Daira Sanieh	2/2	3/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	13/9	14/9
Do. and Foreign Trust	5/-	8/3	8/3
Gharbieh Land Co.	1⅜	1⅛	1⅛
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	15/9	16/3
Sidi Salem Co.	⅛	26/7½	26/7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord.	1½	2⅜	2⅛
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/1½	1/2
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12⅜	12⅜
Egyptian Markets Ord.	1⅛	27/9	27/9
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer	⅛	36/3	36/4½
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	37/6	35/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅞	3⅞

NATIONAL BANK OF EGYPT.

Position at the 30th September, 1917, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes.

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Share Capital (300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each)	2,925,000
Reserve Fund (statutory reserve)	1,298,069
Special Reserve	78,000
Current, Deposit, and other Accounts	8,625,750
Mixed Tribunals	2,203,017
Egyptian Government	3,475,000
Bankers' Accounts	1,197,566
Cheques and Bills payable	422,678
Sundry other Accounts	825,433
	£E.21,050,513
Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government	£E. 11,182,677
Sundry Securities	230,347
Advances on Merchandise	475,595
Advances on Securities	999,720
Advances otherwise Secured	919,608
Sundry other Advances	251,344
Bills of Exchange	1,357,567
Local Bills Discounted	139,980
Buildings and Furniture	226,223
Money at call and at short notice	1,287,000
Bankers' Accounts	1,401,301
Sudan Government	165,643
Sundry other Accounts	277,263
Cash— £E.	
Notes 1,986,598	
Gold 40,127	
Silver, Nickel, etc. 109,520	
	2,136,245
	£E.21,050,513

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

	£E.
Notes issued	21,700,000
	£E.21,700,000
	£E.
Gold	4,401,984
* British Treasury Bills	6,448,016
Securities:—	
Egyptian Treasury Bills	2,876,250
Egyptian Government Securities and Securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government	555,511
British Treasury Bills and Exchequer Bonds	7,418,239
	£E.21,700,000

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See "Journal Officiel" of October 30. 1916).

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended November 10.

	1916. £E.	1917. £E.
Nov. 1-Nov. 10	8,947 ..	10,640
April 1-Nov. 10	122,281 ..	148,410

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Hist.

THE NEAR EAST

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE INDIAMAN."

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

[REGISTERED AT G.P.O AS A NEWSPAPER.

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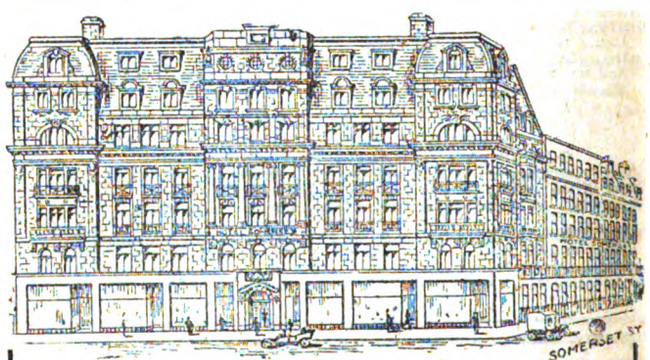

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 346.—Vol. XIII FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The capture of Jerusalem has produced a resounding echo round the world. Germany, while denying its military, has tacitly admitted its political and openly affirmed its religious importance. Turkey has maintained a discreet silence in public over the loss of the sacred city; the world can only guess at the emotion which has charged the telegraph from Constantinople to Berlin. France, Italy, and America, the old Allies and the new, have been quick to recognise the importance of the event; but the news has apparently not reached Petrograd, as the Russian Government has not yet sent any congratulations.

The Vatican has been less reticent. The expression of a pious regret that Jerusalem was not taken by Catholic troops was natural, but it was accompanied by congratulations that the city is once more in Christian hands. A few carping critics found fault with these as being more correct than cordial, but the Pope heaped coals of fire on their heads by ordering rejoicings throughout Christendom, even in enemy countries. The spectacle of the Emperor of Austria and the King of Bavaria attending a service of thanksgiving for the fall of an Ally's city is one that only the ironic pen of a Gibbon could justly describe.

The German Emperor has succeeded in restraining his oratory over a topic which must have appealed to his historic imagination, but the German papers have promised the Turk that Jerusalem shall be restored. (They prudently omitted the date.) The Pope has promptly condemned this verbal consolation, by discountenancing any attempt to recover the city. His words have, of course, no influence on the Ottoman Government; they were, therefore, addressed to the Central Powers, who may or may not respect them.

The advance of General Allenby has caused a further slump in the German colonial school. At the beginning of the war they desired the French colonies, by Bethmann-Hollweg's own admission to the British Ambassador, and their "place in the sun" was to consist of most of tropical Africa. When British sea-power forbade that, the Germans turned to rail-power as a counterpoise, and the Baghdad Railway was to secure them not only Asia Minor and Middle Asia, but also an entry into Egypt and tropical Africa by another route. The year 1917 has been a rude disillusionment. The Baghdad Railway has lost its tail, and the British advance into Palestine has secured Egypt and Africa against Teutonism. Neither sea-power nor rail-power will avail Berlin. The colonial school must try again, but the first new attempt has not been very impressive, since it is a demand for the control of the Channel Tunnel, which does not yet exist. It would have been more practical to demand the debentures of the Chatham and Dover Railway as England's indemnity.

The real orientation of German policy, however, repulsed from the ocean and its further objectives, is becoming concentrated more definitely on the Near East and the East of Europe. The Leninite Government in Petrograd is ready to agree, to make peace, and even to sell its official Allies. An armistice has been concluded along the front, which allows fraternisation on a limited liability scale and trade on an unlimited scale. The first export from Germany to Russia is already preparing; it is an angel of peace, but its wings are stuffed with gold, and beneath its robes it carries the secret terms on which Russia will be admitted to the German paradise. The Leninites have denied the published terms, but they have not published the real terms.

Incidentally, they have dealt Roumania a cruel blow. Unable to corrupt her armies during the summer, by withdrawing all military support on the south-eastern frontier, they have now compelled their little neighbour to sign an armistice, and the cables are full of suggestions that Roumanian politicians at Bucharest are negotiating with Germany, and that the terms put forward by the enemy will include the abdication of King Ferdinand and the accession of his son Carol under German auspices. Undoubtedly, there are intrigues afoot at Bucharest, and it is highly probable that any peace terms the Germans would offer would insist on the abdication of the heroic King; it is perhaps less likely that they would nominate his son as successor. But it must be remembered that in these matters we only hear one side of the story. It is to the interest of the Germans to represent Roumania as in complaisant mood, and to the interest of the Leninites to cover their shame by involving another partner. But we have not yet heard the Roumanian story, and the last authentic message that came through from Jassy was that the Roumanians would rather go round the world and fight again on the western front than surrender.

The Russo-German armistice runs from the Baltic to Persia, and includes all the enemy Powers. The position, therefore of Petrograd is that it voluntarily

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resigns all interest in Persia and in the Balkans; it has lost Siberia, the Ukraine, and Finland by declarations of independence on the part of those territories, and it has no authority in the Black Sea or the Caucasus. Further, it has no title to speak for Poland, Lithuania, or Courland. While it will not hurt a single German soldier, it is ready for a "red terror" in Petrograd, and more than ready to kill Cossacks and other recalcitrants—at least by word of mouth.

It is very doubtful whether a Government in this position, and one which has, moreover, abolished the Law Courts and is ready to repudiate its debts, can last. The Trotsky régime (for Lenin has sunk for the moment into obscurity) may conclude peace with Germany and then disappear; but one thing is certain, that, whoever succeeds them, the Russian Army, as at present constituted, has no stomach for fighting, and any calculations that the Allies have made on that score had better be put in the waste-paper backet at once, so far as the northern armies are concerned. What effect this may have on the destinies of the Baltic need not at the moment be considered; it is at least possible that Sweden may yet regret her too benevolent neutrality to Germany.

In the south the collapse of Russia need not yet be considered final. The fighting spirit survives in the Cossacks, and there are indications that Kief is not too docile. If resistance there can be organised, the Germans may find their victory will crumble in the mouth. For the present we are getting no really authentic news from the south at all; the Bolsheviks are apt pupils of Berlin in the fine art of falsifying news. Behind the screen of fiction it is quite possible that preparations are making for a new Russia which will definitely split with the German-directed puppets of Petrograd.

If that supposition is well founded, a new position will arise in the Black Sea, for any new State there would have to find its outlet on those waters (always assuming that it was not controlled from Vienna). Now, the State that controls the northern part of the Black Sea must necessarily play a part in Balkan politics, and it cannot resign its interest in the Dardanelles; neither can it remain permanently dissociated from the southern Black Sea, which brings it into touch with the Armenian problem. In any event, it is doubtful whether a Christian State in the Euxine could in fact refrain from quite special interest in Armenia, in view of the Turkish attitude towards that people and Church. Were Russia indeed to collapse finally and the Allies to agree to a negotiated peace, Armenia as well as the Armenians would be practically wiped off the map.

There is very little doubt that the Germans were ready to make peace on the terms of a free hand in Russia, and what they thought easy terms for the Allies in the west and overseas. Their success in Italy, however, and the release of their prisoners from Russia, which has apparently already begun, has raised their hopes of a victory in both east and west. We can only reiterate our belief that in grasping at both they will eventually lose both.

The pacifists have now abandoned the attempt to prove that Lord Lansdowne and President Wilson are in agreement; but before rushing to the congenial defence of M. Caillaux they have stopped for a moment to rejoice over President Wilson's silence over the Jugoslav programme. They have an insatiable faculty for pointing out points favourable to Germany before Germany has seen them herself—thus does the pacifist help the militarist. But President Wilson's scheme does not necessarily mean negation, for no statesman can make a full statement of his programme every time he speaks. And the pacifists have chosen to ignore the fact that he has declared war against Austria, which fits in rather badly with their thesis. For the moment they are almost as enthusiastic over the maintenance of Austria as they are over the dismemberment of Russia.

The claim of the late Russian Government to Constantinople was used as a stick to beat the British Government with in a debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday night. The few pacifists in that assembly are never tired of raising the question of war aims in order to embarrass the Government; and they have evolved the theory that they and not the Press really represent the opinion of the country. No doubt the fact that they have all been repudiated by their constituents furnishes the proof of this new theory of representative government. Mr. Ponsonby, who was the mischief-maker on the present occasion, was cogently answered by Mr. Balfour. The Russian claim to Constantinople was rather evidence against than for the alleged Imperialist aims of the British Government, as it meant a reversal of our historic policy in the East; and in any event the claim to Constantinople is no longer put forward by Russia. If some of these anti-British folk would expound their faith to their constituents, and prove their belief in democracy by offering themselves for re-election, it would be a touching proof of their belief in the justice of the German cause.

There is probably nobody, not even those who drew it up, who could endorse every word in the Trade Unions' peace programme, but equally there is no reasonable man who does not find a good deal that he agrees with. The idea that Great Britain should resign her Central African colonies to a League of Nations, for instance, may be as noble as that a Trade Union should hand over its trust funds to a benevolent employer, on the chance that he would administer the thing better; it would be a magnanimous example of trust and a demonstration of the brotherhood of man, but for all that, in this sorry world most people would prefer a guarantee of security before they entrusted the benevolent superior power with their property. The only part that specifically concerns the Near East is the recommendation that the Balkans should have a Customs Union and an organisation on national lines with just boundaries. That is what a good many people have said for some time past, and it is roughly the programme of the Allies.

The Trade Union programme makes further recommendations as to the settlement of Asia Minor and of the Dardanelles question—it suggests that Constantinople should be internationalised. We do not ourselves believe that this would succeed. International control has not been conspicuously successful where it has been tried so far, either in Egypt or the New Hebrides; it leads to intrigues and friction, and the more the members of the international board the more the intrigues and the friction would be. If we could believe that human nature had entirely changed by reason of the war, we might look forward to international control with fewer misgivings, but unfortunately there is no evidence that it has changed. However, one of the most interesting points about this programme is that it is a revised edition of one that was issued in the summer, and a comparison of the two documents shows that its compilers have changed their opinion on many points of detail. That fact shows a close study of the situation and an open mind, which will probably lead to still further revision.

The recall of General Sarrail from Salonika will be generally regretted by the Allied forces on that front. For two years he has had a very difficult post, and for the first eighteen months of that time he had to contend with the enmity of King Constantine. He will certainly be employed in some high military capacity in France; but the Salonika front will not necessarily lose its importance. Indeed, Mr. Bonar Law recently admitted in the House of Commons that the Germans might make an attack on Salonika, and that Constantine might return to Greece as part of the German Army. This was a wise warning, which was probably based on the numerous hints that have appeared of late in the German newspapers. At the same time, although he made no attempt to minimise the gravity of the present position in the Balkans—which would have been absurd in the present circumstances—he was by no means pessimistic as to the future. It is something achieved to have a united Greece on our side, with a Greek Army co operating with the Entente force at Salonika.

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LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sultan Fuad. Cairo, November 17.

Sultan Fuad, who has always taken great practical interest in all matters intellectual and educational, has embarked on a round of inspection visits to the principal educational institutions of the city. Very fittingly he opened his tour with the School of Medicine, which is the oldest school in the country, having been founded by his illustrious ancestor Mohamed Ali in 1827. His Highness was accompanied by the Minister for Education, Adly Yeghen Pasha, and was received at the school by the Adviser, Dr. Douglas Dunlop; the Under Secretary of State, Ismail Hassanein Pasha; the Principal, Dr. H. P. Keatinge; and the staff. He made a long tour of the class-rooms and theatre, addressing a few words to the lecturers and the students. On leaving the Sultan informed Dr. Keatinge that he would present a gold watch bearing the Sultania initials to each of the students passing first in the forthcoming examinations at the Schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

With characteristic generosity his Highness has sent the sum of £E500 to be spent in Christmas presents to the British soldiers in hospital in Cairo. The nature of the gift has aroused very favourable comment, and much appreciation is expressed by the British community at the liberality and the broadness of mind which it denotes.

Continuing his round of the principal educational institutions of the city, the Sultan visited this week the School of Law and the School of Engineering. In the case of the visit to the former his Highness was accompanied by Abdel Khalek Pasha Sarwat, Minister of Justice, and was met at the School by the Grand Chamberlain, the Under-Secretary for Justice, Sir William Brunyate, the Judicial Adviser, the Procureur-General, the members of the Board of Administration of the School, and the Principal, Mr. F. P. Walton. The latter conducted the Sultan over the building, and, after the book had been signed, delivered an address of welcome to his Highness, who expressed himself as exceedingly pleased with all he had seen. At the School of Engineering the Sultan, who was accompanied by Adly Pasha Yeghen, Minister of Education, was received by Ismail Pasha Hassanein, Under-Secretary, Mr. Sidney Wells, Director-General of the Department of Technical Education, and Mr. Holt, the Principal. He was conducted round the class-rooms and laboratories, and received two addresses from the students. Before leaving each of these schools his Highness was photographed in the centre of a group containing all the officials present and the students.

The Sultan has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile on General Sir Edmund Allenby. His Highness is still residing in his villa near the Savoy Hotel, and will not take up his residence for some time yet at Abdin Palace, whither he proceeds every day for the transaction of State business and for receptions of European and Egyptian notables, of whom quite a large number have had the honour of an audience and of lunching with the Sultan.

The Palestine Front.

The public attention continues to be concentrated on the Palestine front, whence, as the *communiqués* will have informed you, excellent news is being received daily. The prisoners are being gradually moved up to Cairo, where the main concentration camps are. Many of them are fine-looking fellows, though there is quite a fair minority of weedy, tattered and underfed men amongst them. They seem to have been drawn from every conceivable element of the Turkish population. It is interesting to note, as showing how the Ottoman Higher Command conceals the real state of affairs from the army, that it is stated that the prisoners declared ignorance of the fall of Baghdad, and were decidedly crestfallen when they heard of all our successes in Mesopotamia.

Our own wounded are steadily coming in and most of the local hospitals are very busy, though not as busy as they expected to be. As an instance of the excellence of the transport and other arrangements I would mention that men wounded in this advance are in hospital in Cairo within four days. Considering the distance and the fact that all the supplies for the troops in the field have to be carried over the same line in the opposite direction, the shortness of this interval between the occurrence of the casualty and its treatment in hospital in Cairo is certainly a revelation, and redounds to the credit of those who are responsible for the railway organisation east of the Canal. A tour of the various wards gives the visitor an impression of unwonted cheerfulness on the part of the wounded, which contrasts strikingly with what one noticed during the Gallipoli days. Not that our men were not cheerful in the midst of their suffering and misfortune in those dark days, but the cheerfulness to-day is more buoyant and more confident. As the matron of one of the large hospitals aptly described to me the state of the men's minds, they may know that they are knocked out and disabled for life, but they feel that they have given fourpence and are receiving ninepence, whereas in the Gallipoli days they knew only too well that it was all the other way, and that their sufferings and afflictions were to no purpose. Certainly, the officers and men whom I have met during the past fortnight without exception express a confidence in the result which is decidedly refreshing.

Harvey Pasha's Retirement.

This week Colonel George Harvey Pasha, Commandant of the Cairo City Police, proceeded to England on three and a-half months' leave, at the end of which he will retire from the service. Harvey Pasha was seen off from the station by a large crowd of prominent British and Egyptian officials, including Colonel J. K. Watson, representing the High Commissioner; Mr. James Haines, the Adviser to the Interior; Sir George Macaulay, Under-Secretary for Railways, and the Grand Mufti. A few days before his departure he was entertained to a farewell tea party by his Egyptian staff at Shepheard's, where a parchment recording an appreciation of the eminent services rendered by him to the State and signed by all the members of the Cairo City Police was handed to him. Very eulogistic articles dealing with Harvey Pasha's career and his work in Egypt have appeared in the local Press, European and Egyptian, and intense satisfaction has been expressed at the decision of the Egyptian Government to make him a special cash payment on his retirement, so as to bring his pension up to an amount which will be more commensurate with the services he has rendered than that to which he was entitled under the ordinary pension law.

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Supplies for the British Forces.

A notice signed by General Allenby has just been published announcing that, as circumstances require that in order to obtain the necessary supplies for the Egyptian Expeditionary Force use should be made of the requisitioning power vested in the military authorities, and as certain of the articles required are already subject to tariff rates, the necessary requisition orders will be signed by the competent military authority, and will be carried out through the Controller of Supplies and such other officials of the Civil Government as may be delegated by the President of the Council of Ministers. Articles thus requisitioned will be paid for at the existing tariff rates. In other words, the military authorities intend henceforward to avail themselves of the requisitioning powers which are vested in them, and which, as a matter of fact, they have in but rare cases put into operation in all cases where supplies are available but not forthcoming at the current tariff prices.

The reason this power has now had to be put into effect is that the existing legislation has proved to be inadequate for the present state of affairs in the country. The tariff law, which has been supposed to regulate prices and prevent unreasonable inflation thereof and the withholding of stocks from the market is, however, only applicable to merchants who habitually expose for sale. Unfortunately, owing to the prosperous condition of the cultivators, the latter are not, as they usually do, disposing of their surplus produce, but are retaining it with the object of forcing up prices. Apparently the term merchant cannot be stretched to include cultivators, who habitually produce more than their personal requirements in order to sell their excess production, and in the circumstances the only solution to this very unsatisfactory state of affairs has been to provide for the application of the requisitioning powers vested in the military authorities to every case where produce, of which there is ample in the country for the needs of the civil population with a margin for the British Army, is being withheld by persons who do not come within the meaning of the term merchant as defined by tariff law. This power will, however, only be invoked on behalf of the British Army itself, and the civil population will still have to do as best it can under the existing tariff law, which in many cases is for all practical purposes a dead letter.

Horticultural Show in Cairo.

A very interesting Horticultural Show was held in Cairo last week by the Egyptian Horticultural Society. This is the second show organised by the society since its reconstruction two years ago. The exhibits certainly reflected the interest which its members are taking in horticulture, and held out great promise for the eventual success of the enterprise when peace conditions permit of the Society developing its activities. The Society is under the patronage of H.H. the Sultan, and Sir Reginald Wingate is President; Lady Wingate, Sir Alexander Baird, and the Minister of Agriculture being Vice-Presidents, and Mr. J. Langley, Under-Secretary for Agriculture, chairman of the general committee. There is quite a substantial membership, a large proportion being Egyptians, and it is hoped to extend the list and to improve very considerably the cultivation of flowers, and especially vegetables and garden produce after the war, when seeds will be more easily procurable.

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ATHENS LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, November 25.

Greece and the Allies.

The two absorbing topics of the day here are M. Venizelos's visit to Western Europe and the food problem. The Ententophil papers give copious reports of the Prime Minister's visit to England, and his magnificent and well-merited reception seems to have given great pleasure to his supporters, and should contribute largely towards raising the moral of the nation. There is no disguising the fact that at the present time the dearness of living and the great scarcity of all the necessaries of life and the many discomforts experienced in consequence have produced very general discontent. The Venizelist papers advocate the necessity of Greece's taking an active part in the war to re-establish her prestige and carry out her treaty obligations towards Serbia, and to liberate their countrymen from the persecution of the Turks; but they point out that Greece must be placed in a position to fight, and the first duty of the Allies is to provide the country with sufficient foodstuffs, so as to remove the present difficulty of living. Greece must also be supplied, they say, with the necessary materials of warfare, and then the country, with its spirits raised and a well-equipped army, would be a very valuable asset to the Allies in Macedonia. The setback in Italy has not been without a certain repercussion here, and the pro-Germans have taken the opportunity to spread the report that the Central Powers were about to make a formidable attack in Macedonia. The probability of such operations is commented on by the papers, and it is felt that, if the Germans have any intention of taking the offensive in Macedonia, if only to create a moral effect in their favour, now is their opportunity, as later on, with large Greek forces added to the Allies, their chances of success would be greatly diminished.

The papers suggest that England should now carry out the offer made last year to cede Cyprus to Greece—an act which would give much gratification and go far to promote enthusiasm in the country's participation in the war.

Echoes of the Old Regime.

The authorities have taken a timely step in deporting to one of the islands most of the Germans who remained here, as well as a large number of Greeks who are likely to cause trouble by their pro-German propaganda. Under present conditions, such an element is a source of danger, especially as, it is said, the ex-King's entourage in Switzerland have been making efforts to send money to instigators here.

One of Baron Schenck's former satellites is publishing in one of the daily papers an account of the Baron's doings, and explains how, by means of ample funds, many of the Greek papers were bought. Large sums of money were spent in enlisting the services of various propagandists, and many women appear to have been employed for the purpose.

There is not much improvement so far in the supply of provisions, and all foodstuffs seem as scarce as ever, and all fuel is expensive and hard to obtain. From time to time the tram services are curtailed owing to insufficient electric power, and shops have still to close early in order to reduce the lighting. There is ample wood in the burnt parts of the forests, but the difficulty is to convey it to Athens.

M. Venizelos's Reception in England.

The *Hestia* has published an article by the Acting Prime Minister of Greece, M. Repoulis, on the reception accorded to M. Venizelos in England. After asking what England owes to M. Venizelos that she should extend to him this welcome, M. Repoulis proceeds:—"This is the immortal majesty of the English nation. The more than splendid character of the great race sparkles in the manifestations in honour of Venizelos. So that we may say that all these ceremonies in honour of the great Greek are honourable to the English character. The speeches of the great Lloyd George; the speeches of Balfour, who excels in political philosophy; the speeches of the great statesman Curzon; the speeches of the most eminent philosopher-historian Bryce; the

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speeches of the Lord Mayor of the City; the speeches of the warm Philhellene Dr. Burrows; the articles of so many eminent journalists—not to mention the very great honour done him by the King of England—all these manifestations reflect the English character. Each of the most eminent men filled his part in the great picture, in order to represent the English soul, the British intellect.

"That is what is pictured in all the ceremonies in honour of Venizelos. Both the emotion and the pride which we feel as Greeks direct our attention to this wonderful phenomenon. The English admire the great Greek citizen and statesman; we admire the English character."

General News.

November 8 was a general holiday, being the festival of St. Demetrius and also the anniversary of the taking of Salonika, an event which, the papers remark, will remain an example in the history of nations. In the history of Greece, Salonika will remain an eternal monument—the more so in view of the importance it has assumed in this world war—and it will again become the scene of further triumphs for the nation. A public celebration was held with much pomp in the Cathedral, and attended by most of the high officials. The King, owing to indisposition, was unable to attend.

On November 11 a service was held in the Cathedral at the Piræus in memory of the British and French sailors who were killed in the events of last December. Many high military and civil officials were present, and after the service a procession, headed by a band, proceeded to the cemetery, and wreaths were laid on the graves on behalf of the Greek Army.

The Press show much indignation at the Pro-Bulgarian sympathies expressed by certain politicians in England, and they comment with satisfaction on the counter-movement in favour of Greece conducted by Dr. Burrows and others.

ROUMANIAN NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Russo-Roumanian Relations.

The Roumanian Prime Minister has granted an interview to the Russian author, N. Breshko-Breshkovski, in the course of which M. Bratianu complained of the hostility displayed towards him by the Russian Press of the Left. The charges of anti-Semitism levelled at him were totally unjustified. "I am at the head of the Government," said M. Bratianu, "I occupy myself with internal and external politics, but never in a single one of my speeches have I said a single word against the Jews. Many of them have distinguished themselves in the course of the war. His Majesty has conferred decorations on them—before my eyes—for military deeds, and has contributed largely towards the assistance of those of them who have been invalided. . . . In general, I am surprised at the persistence of the Russian democratic organisations in interfering in Roumanian affairs. Roumania is an independent kingdom, a much afflicted and unfortunate kingdom, which might have avoided its misfortunes if its lot had not been bound up with that of Russia—but still an independent kingdom. The King, anticipating the desire of the Russian democracy, has pardoned thirty persons, of whom fourteen were Jews. What more does it want? The death penalty cannot be suppressed in war time either at the front or in the rear. So it is impossible that, in order to humour a few individuals, we should sacrifice whole regiments and divisions of fine, brave soldiers, whose life is precious to the people and for whose lives we are responsible to the country."

Turkey and Roumania.

Information regarding Turkish attempts to form an alliance with Roumania prior to the latter's intervention in the war is given in a leader in *L'Indépendance Roumaine*:—

"In 1914 a delegation of professors and students from the colleges of Constantinople arrived at Jassy . . . It asked for an offensive and defensive alliance with a view to fighting against those who had transformed Thrace and Macedonia into a desert and had massacred 500,000 Mahommedans in these two provinces. . . . Some months passed. The Ottomans ceded a further portion of their territory to the insatiable desires of the Bulgarian people. And we saw with stupefaction a new Turkish mission, headed by Talaat Bey, come and propose to us this time not a double alliance against the Bulgarian enemy, but a triple alliance against the Serbian friend."

In this connection it may be mentioned that on account of the contradictory theories propounded from time to time with reference to the circumstances in which Roumania entered the war, there is a growing demand on the part of public opinion for the publication of the diplomatic documents relating to that event. The demand has met, so far, with no response from official circles.

The Food Situation.

Complaints about the scarcity and dearness of various foodstuffs in Jassy, especially fruits and vegetables, continue, and the authorities are attacked for their inability to deal with the situation. "The communal authorities have reduced the prices of vegetables and fruit," writes a paper. "Excellent! But we offer a prize to anyone who can find any vegetables. . . . We are, therefore, justified in saying that the prices have only been reduced on paper." Meanwhile, a communal food controller has been appointed in the person of Professor Ioan Peretz, a measure which is welcomed by the Press. It is of interest that the Jassy prices are considerably higher than those obtaining in Piatra-Neamtz. The fact is established by a table of comparative prices published by a local paper, while a Jassy paper suggests that prices are even more modest in Vashis than in Piatra-Neamtz.

Occupied Territory.

I have received a direct letter from Bucharest, the first since the occupation of that town. Naturally, it conveys but little news of general interest. The more necessary commodities can, apparently, be obtained, but at exceedingly high prices. The Germans are extending the system of filling administrative positions with persons belonging to the native population, and, besides a large number of minor appointments, they have made the following Ministerial appointments:—

Interior	Costache Lupu
Agriculture	Dr. Antina
Justice	Hinna
Finance	Nenitzescu
Public Instruction	Virgil Arion

A MONTENEGRIN GENIUS.

Dr. R. M. Burrows, Principal of King's College, London, presided at a lecture given by Professor Pavle Popovitch at the Grafton Galleries on December 17. The subject announced in the public press was "Montenegro," but in introducing the lecturer the chairman said that this topic had been abandoned in favour of an address entitled "An Appreciation of the Prince-Bishop Njegosh."

Professor Popovitch introduced his subject with a brief outline of Montenegrin history, showing the close co-operation in the past between Montenegro and Serbia, and on this he based the claim now being advanced by Serbians for the political union of the two countries. He continued: It is my intention to speak to you about one of the greatest Montenegrins—indeed, one of the greatest Serbs—that ever lived, one who was both sovereign of Montenegro and at the same time the greatest poet of our nation—I mean Peter Petrovitch Njegosh. He was the Prince-Bishop, or Vladika—as we say in our language of Montenegro. I think I cannot show you Montenegro better or to greater advantage than as represented by the portrait of this great man, who was the supreme expression of his country. And in showing you his life and work, I consider that I also have an opportunity of dealing incidentally with the history, literature, and ethnography of Montenegro—to a certain extent, at least.

Peter Petrovitch Njegosh was born in 1813, in a Montenegrin village. He first attended a kind of elementary school at Bocche di Cattaro, and then continued his studies

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privately under a tutor in Cetigne, his tutor being the Serbian poet Milutinovitch. He was a member of the house of Njegosh, which had ruled over Montenegro since the end of the seventeenth century, in the capacity of Prince-Bishops, Montenegro being in those days a theocratic principality. Njegosh was still quite a youth when, in 1830, he was elected to succeed his uncle, the deceased Prince-Bishop Peter I. Njegosh became a monk, and three years later, in 1833, when he was only twenty years of age, he was created Prince-Bishop in Petrograd, in the presence and by order of Tsar Nicholas I. himself. From that time onward he devoted his life to the government of his country and to his love of books and meditation, in the loneliness of Cetigne, broken only from time to time by his journeys to Russia, Italy, and Austria. He was an excellent sovereign, and it was he who first civilised and organised the turbulent and semi-barbarous tribes which constituted the Montenegro of yore. He also gave a position of international importance to his country, which had up to that time always been considered a Turkish province, and for which he, by his unwearied efforts, won respect and recognition as an independent Serbian State. He died in 1851, too young, alas! to accomplish all that was needful for the young Montenegrin State, and too young also to give his full literary measure.

He began his literary work very modestly. He wrote a few poems, short and without great value, mostly in the style of the national Montenegrin poetry; that is to say, not in the best style of Serbian national ballad poetry. In 1834 he published a very small volume of these poems, under the title "Pustinjak Cetinski" (the Hermit of Cetigne) and "Lijek Jarosti Turske" ("Remedy against the Fury of the Turks").

Later on, and especially after 1836, he composed poems and short lyrics in a greater vein and of very great merit. This evolution was due, above all things, to his own extensive and serious reading, and to an increasingly wider and deeper knowledge of foreign languages. He studied Russian, Italian, German, and especially French, which appealed to him greatly and which he learned to speak excellently well. It was then that he translated Lamartine's "Hymne à la Nuit," which appears to have been his favourite poem. In 1845 he composed his "Luca Microcosma" (Ray of the Microcosm), a philosophic poem of the highest merit, which was inspired by a passage in Milton's "Paradise Lost."

Finally, in 1847, he composed his masterpiece, the "Gorski Vijenac" ("The Mountain Garland"). This is a kind of epic drama, not unlike the ancient Greek plays, such as "The Persians," by Æschylus, for instance. His theme is furnished by an historic event—the extermination of the Turks in Montenegro at the beginning of the eighteenth century, that is to say, by the liberation of Montenegro. The work is largely inspired by the Serbian national ballad poetry. The essential features of this masterpiece are: a grandiose epic conception, a true and picturesque presentment of Montenegrin life; moreover, a touch of humour, local colour, and a pronounced national cachet; also an outpouring of lofty ideas, a profound philosophy of life, the bitter pessimism of a great genius, and the ardent patriotism of a man who has devoted himself to the good of his people. Finally, it is marked by a masterly and sublime diction, abounding in lyric passages, full of excellent, ringing exquisite verses, in which his great philosophical and poetical ideas are unfolded in the irreproachable form of classic sentences. All that he felt, Njegosh enshrined in his work. He enshrined his own personal romance in it; the romance of a civilised sovereign ruling over a semi-savage people; the romance of a philosopher surrounded by ignorant people; the romance of an ardent patriot who finds himself to give to his people what he so fervently desires to bestow upon them; the romance of a titanic genius whose upward flight is hindered and rendered impossible—in a word, the romance of Prometheus chained to the rock. "Whoever harbours within himself apart," says the French writer Xavier le Maistre, in speaking of our poet, "the spur of a burning thought which he cannot overcome, and to which cannot be given sufficient space, represents to me the ancient Prometheus gnawed by his vulture. More than anyone else, the poor Vladika of Montenegro, with his intellectual ardour, appeared to me in the loneliness of his life like some Prometheus chained to the Caucasus, a Prometheus at whose feet no daughter of Ocean wept. . . ." It is the romance of a Prometheus of this stamp which is enshrined in a masterly fashion in the "Gorski Vijenac," the greatest Serbian achievement in literature.

And here I have much pleasure in telling you that this masterpiece, which has already been translated into Russian, Czech, Bulgarian, Magyar, Italian, German, Swedish, and French, has now been translated into English by Mr. James Wiles, and will shortly appear.

After this work, Njegosh still published several poems, and in 1851 the non-dramatic Montenegrin historical drama, "Stjepan Mali" (Stephen the Small). His posthumous works include his "Slobodijada" (Montenegrin Freedom), an early work which is an epic dealing with Montenegrin history, fragments of translations of the "Iliad" and the "Song of Igor," a well-known Russian work.

At the close of the lecture Mr. Alex. Devine said that, though the lecture presented a charming treatment of a great subject, he wished to protest against the abandonment of the original lecture. He challenged any of the Serbian political propagandists in this country to lecture on "Montenegro," adding that he would certainly be present to expose the intrigues that had been carried on for so long a time against their defenceless sister country.

The Chairman ruled that any further discussion of the matter would be idle; in his view Professor Popovitch had fulfilled the task which he set himself, and no lecturer could be denied freedom of treatment of his subject. He held that it would be better to deal with the question in another lecture.

The meeting then closed.

THE CZECHO-SLOVAK ARMY.

The London Czech Press Bureau states that the formation of a Czecho-Slovak Army has just been recognised by the Allied Governments. The Army will partly consist of Czechs and Slovaks resident in the Allied countries, partly of Czecho-Slovak prisoners of war who, as Austrian soldiers, surrendered voluntarily to Russia and Serbia. The Czecho-Slovak Army is being organised by the Czecho-Slovak National Council in Paris, with the following members at the head:—Professor T. G. Masaryk, formerly Czech Deputy to the Austrian Reichsrat; Major Milan Stefanik, an eminent Slovak astronomist and a distinguished airman in the French Army; and Dr. Edward Benes, formerly lecturer at the University of Prague. The Czecho-Slovak Army will consist of at least 120,000 men. Many of them have already been decorated for bravery with Russian, Serbian, French, and Roumanian Orders. A considerable section of this army will be fighting on the French front, while in Russia there is a Czecho-Slovak Army Corps (formerly Brigade) at present. The army will have its own Czech (formerly Austrian) officers, and will swear allegiance to Professor Masaryk as President of the Czecho-Slovak National Council.

From the beginning of the war the twelve million Czecho-Slovaks have been on the side of the Entente. The Czechs in Russia, England, and France entered the Allies' armies as volunteers, the Czechs in America frustrated and revealed the dangerous and insidious German propaganda. In Austria they hampered Austria's military and economic progress; Czech regiments surrendered wholesale to Russia and Serbia.

Now the Czecho-Slovaks have been officially acknowledged as our allies, their National Council being, it is held, a kind of Provisional Government of the future Independent Bohemia. The aim of this Council is to work by all means in its power for the complete restoration of the Kingdom of Bohemia and the liberation of all Czecho-Slovaks of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and Slovakia from the domination of Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest. Besides organising an autonomous army to fight on the side of the Entente, the Czecho-Slovak National Council issued also a war loan of twenty million francs to be subscribed by Czechs and Slovaks in the Allied countries, chiefly in America. The headquarters of the Council, which has branches in all the Allied countries, are at 18, Rue Bonaparte, Paris.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

GERMAN AIMS.*

Mr. Ellis Barker has done good work in making known to English readers Dr. Grumbach's book, which is neither more nor less than the soul of modern Germany laid bare. The Kaiser, the General Staff, Prussia, the Professors—many individuals, organisations, sects, so to speak, or other influences—have been blamed from time to time for the war. Some fond illusionists hold that, if this or that influence or individual were removed—or, as Mr. Lansbury would have it, converted by a mere handshake—the war would cease and world-wide permanent peace would result. Dr. Grumbach's book (which is not the outpouring of one man, but the collated opinion of the whole of the German Empire) proves the contrary. It reveals an unbroken union of opinion, and of clear and unobscured opinion, as held by the eighty or more millions of people united for the annexation of all they deem worth having, and against the one Power—Great Britain—who appears to them as the obstacle to that annexation. Moreover—and this is significant—the cant we know and ridicule, of the German Lamb *versus* the English Wolf, is notable in its absence. Only now and again (like the last ripple caused by a heavy stone cast into deep waters) do we see *Kultur*, unprotected Germany, piratical England, and the like—an echo, as it were, of schoolboy sentiment. The bulk of the volume is the unabashed, calm, and calculated avowal of the genuine aims—*en gros et en détail*—of the German nation, from Chancellor to peasant.

Take, for instance, the Note of the six great economic associations of Germany. It constitutes a straightforward—we may almost say an honest!—confession of faith, with no nonsense or sentiment—agreeing, moreover, with the dictum found further on, that, if economic expansion and progress is ensured, spiritual increase of *Kultur* will take care of itself! That was the maxim of Lord Cromer in Egypt, and no truer maxim can be found. The only question, indeed, is whether the *régime* assuring such progress is to be self-development under veiled and disinterested advice, or that tuition enforced on younger peoples by a "master nation" which "organises" life to such a pitch that suicide becomes enviable! But this last is merely a professorial opinion; the consensus of ideal is the elimination of crusades—"German blood is far too precious to be spilt in these." And even of the aims of Germany's allies, Austria and Turkey, not to say Bulgaria, must look after themselves, aided only so far as they contribute to the general Germanic plan.

It would be possible to write a brochure on the book and yet not exhaust its obvious and fateful lessons! But space forbids—as well as the feeling that the book must be read and re-read by every one who wishes or should wish to realise that we—England above all—are engaged, not merely in a war nor even in economic rivalry—(cement sent to Holland is a mere drop in the bucket!)—but in the one unexampled, inevitable struggle for the life or death of the world, unless, indeed, Mr. Barker has merely introduced another *ballon d'essai* of the Wolff Bureau, and justified the Lansburian and similar pretensions that anyone can end the war whenever they like to say so! R. F.

SIR RABINDRANATH TAGORE'S PLAYS.†

This book is likely to prove a disappointment to any readers who may be rash enough to argue from the title to the contents, and who expect "plays" to furnish something in the way of plot or action. The four short pieces which fill the volume would be more properly called dramatic sketches, or perhaps silhouettes, in which one, two, or three characters stand out against the eternal background of India. Nor can it be said that there is anything very novel in the characters themselves. An ascetic returns to the world for love—and loses it; two men love one girl—and one kills the other; kings and priests fall out—and the great goddess enjoys the blood for which she thirsts; another king loses the woman he loves. That is nearly all, but kings and priests and ascetics stand out from the shadowy crowd of minor characters as living beings whom we can know and understand, and therefore the book is well worth reading by anyone who cares for "poor humanity." There are, it will be seen, no happy endings, and the fact that we have not found the sketches depressing may be taken as evidence, were evidence needed, of the author's skill; while his ability to see the weak points of his countrymen is displayed in occasional flashes, as when a Brahmin remarks to a seditious meeting: "We have all agreed. He who thinks differently, let him leave this assembly." Certainly it is a book to be read, using the word in its obsolescent sense to signify a thoughtful and leisurely perusal.

* "Germany's Annexationist Aims." By S. Grumbach. Translated, abbreviated, and introduced by P. Ellis Barker. (Murray. 3s. 6d. net.)

† "Sacrifice and Other Plays." Sir Rabindranath Tagore. (Macmillan. 5s. net.)

A FEDERAL EMPIRE.*

Half a century has passed away since Sir Charles Dilke gave our forbears a bird's-eye view of the self-governing colonies which they owed to sea-power and the spirit of adventure. His "Greater Britain" was a much-needed antidote to the parochialism which prevailed in the 'sixties. At that epoch the Manchester School held unquestioned sway over public opinion. It preached a gospel of tepid internationalism on a commercial basis; called "Hands off!" to the Government in the economic sphere; assumed that universal Free Trade would link nations in the bonds of self-interest and render warfare impossible. There was no room in the theory of Cobden and Bright for colonies. It regarded them as a profitless burden, and prophesied that they would throw off allegiance to the mother-country as soon as they were able to dispense with her protection. The stimulus afforded by "Greater Britain" produced a broader and more statesmanlike outlook: a revolution in means of transit brought the colonies into closer connection with the heart of empire, and the rise of powerful rivals who turned a deaf ear to Cobdenite blandishments convinced the most parochially-minded Briton that union is strength. The colonies responded to the keener interest in their welfare shown by the Parliament and people of this country, and to-day they stand shoulder to shoulder with us in a struggle with the enemy of civilisation. A yearning for greater solidarity is felt throughout the Empire; and Mr. Saxon Mills has given full play to this laudable sentiment in a handbook which may be described as a "Greater Britain" brought up to date. In 271 pages he sketches the various problems which are offered by our dependencies, and suggests a common-sense solution for each of them. His panacea is Federation, implying complete autonomy in local affairs for the constituent parts, and centralisation in such as regard the Empire as a whole. In an appendix Mr. Saxon Mills summarizes the late Mr. J. K. Gokhale's scheme of Indian reform, which the Secretary of State is now attempting to carry into effect. Whether India is ripe for the fruition of Mr. Montagu's ideals—"the development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realisation of responsible government"—is a question on which our author maintains a judicious silence. F. H. S.

* "The Future of the Empire." By J. Saxon Mills, M.A. (London: Seeley Service and Co., Ltd., 1917. Price 6s. net.)

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Notes sur la Guerre Roumaine (1916-1917). By Mons. N. P. Comnène. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 4 francs.)

Le Slesvig Danois de 1864 à 1916): *Le Régime Prussien en Pays Conquis.* By Th. G. Buyse. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr. 0.75.)

Les Chefs d'Etat-Major de l'Armée Belge et le Respect de la Neutralité. By W. Marsily. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. Fr. 0.75.)

The Indian Corps in France. By Lt.-Col. J. W. B. Merewether, C.I.E., and the Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick Smith. (London: John Murray. 10s. 6d. net.)

Recollections. By John Viscount Morley, O.M. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 2 vols. 25s. net.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—I beg to draw your kind attention to the strange and paradoxical things which your correspondent in Cyprus writes about Cyprus and Cypriots.

He suggested over and over again that the wish for union of Cyprus with the mother country, Greece, is not a unanimous wish of the whole Greek population, and that it is only a movement organised by some agitators in the island. Allow me, sir, to say distinctly that this suggestion is not at all true, and that Englishmen who wish to respect their country and themselves ought, above all, to respect the truth. I am always speaking frankly, or as ancient Greeks used to say, "*τὰ σύκα σύκα καὶ τὴν σκάφην σκάφην.*" You know very well how the whole Hellenic world esteems your nation and what a high respect we all have towards the liberal spirit and the political justice of your country. I trust in this liberal spirit and hope that you will kindly publish in your paper these lines.

I refer myself to facts. (1) In 1878, when Lord Wolseley came to the island as its first High Commissioner, the Archbishop of the island, addressing his Excellency on behalf of the Greek population, said to him that the Greeks of the island do not forget their origin and their aspirations. (2) When some years later, in 1881, the late Mr. Gladstone formed a Liberal Cabinet, the Greek population sent to him telegrams by which they submitted to the English Government their wish for union with Greece. "Nous aimons l'Angleterre et lui devons une grande reconnaissance, mais nous desirons être unis à la Grèce." Mr. Gladstone answered to the inhabitants through the High Commissioner, Sir R. Biddulph, that "while her Majesty's Government earnestly desire the happiness of Cyprus, they must remind the inhabitants that the island is held by this country under the convention with the Porte as a part of the Ottoman Empire, and that proposals which would be a violation of that convention cannot be discussed." (See Blue Book for Cyprus, 1881. p. 105.) (3) During the summer of 1888 the Archbishop, with three other members of the Legislative Council, went to London on a special mission for the affairs of Cyprus, and they submitted to the British Government the strong wish of the inhabitants for union with Greece. (4) Twice later at Pan-Cypriot meetings, especially when Joseph Chamberlain expressed some doubts in the House of Commons about the unanimity of this wish, enormous meetings held at the different districts of the island voted for union. (5) On December 1, 1911, the Greek members of the Legislative Council submitted a memorial to the High Commissioner, the second paragraph of which runs as follows: "Forming as we do, your Excellency, an inseparable portion of the Greek race, it is natural that we should feel in a strong and unsubduable manner the desire that our Fatherland should be annexed to the Hellenic kingdom." (6) On April 28, 1912, big meetings of the whole Greek population, held in the different districts simultaneously, voted that "They declare that no influence, no pressure, and no worldly power can suppress or change their national feelings of being annexed to the kingdom of Greece." (7) During the summer of the same year a special committee, of which I was a member, visited England for the affairs of Cyprus, and there we submitted the same wish to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. (8) The Greek members of the Council at the sessions of the Legislative Council every year submit resolutions for union with Greece for which they all vote unanimously. (9) Over four thousand Cypriots volunteered in the unfortunate Greco-Turkish War of 1897, and many of them took part at the insurrections of Crete and Macedonia. (10) Many thousand Cypriots also took part at the Balkan Wars of 1912 and 1913.

Is any one in a position to contradict these facts? If not, why does your correspondent so frivolously insult a whole population amongst whom fourteen thousand men are now with you and the Greek army at the Macedonian front as muleteers or soldiers, serving a common cause for liberty and civilisation?

I saw also in your correspondence from Cyprus that Cypriots are not a brave people, and different other hints to the same effect. I do not know what are the facts from which your correspondent draws this inference. Many Greek officers, and M. Venizelos himself, spoke to me in high terms of the bravery of the Cypriots.

Sir, I really did not intend to contradict statements which are obviously so untrue, but I heard at the club here many people expressing themselves so, "This is the way by which Englishmen pay our services and our devotion towards their struggle!" I personally know very well that England and English people bear no responsibility for the opinion of some little Englishmen of Cyprus, and I know also, and the whole people of Cyprus believe, that shortly the principle of nationality, for which you are fighting, will be applied in Cyprus; but I considered also that the complaints of the population ought to be heard, and I hope that you will be kind enough to serve justice by publishing these lines in your esteemed paper.—I am, etc.,

DR. NIC. KL. LANITIS.
Member of the Legislative Council,
Member of the Central Board of Education, etc.

Limassol, November 20, 1917.

[The passage in our Cyprus correspondence to which Dr. Lanitis refers is probably to be found in THE NEAR EAST of September 28. Our correspondent, under the heading "Greek Politicians," was dealing with the memorials for union with Greece which it is the custom of the Greek members of the Legislative Council to present to the Government from time to time. He wrote:—"At any rate, the object is to keep alive the idea that the Greek majority of the people hope that the island will soon form a part of Hellas. Whether the bulk of the population would really endorse the representations of their leaders is a very different matter. A referendum—if such a test were possible in the order of things, or could be honestly carried out—would probably show clearly that the people were averse from any change of administration, since they have discovered that, perhaps for the first time in history, they now have full security of life and property, and such freedom, in the best sense of the word, as is practicably possible. The bulk of the population remain quite indifferent to 'politics,' and only 'demonstrate' when whipped up to a kind of fictitious excitement, at the bidding of the wirepullers, on some particular anniversary or other rare occasion. Most of the rural classes, moreover, are heavily indebted to moneylenders, and have to follow their lead; and the latter may sometimes impart a political colouring to the ideas of their clients. There is, at any rate, no desire for any change which would render them liable to military service. The Cypriot peasant is not a fighting man, and has never shown any disposition to take up arms; though some of the villagers, as well as townsmen, did indeed go as volunteers to the last Balkan wars. For many years after the occupation very few Greeks even enlisted in the local force of military police, though they have joined by degrees, until they have come to form about half the strength of that excellent force. The island Greeks are, however, it must be repeated, far from being a race of warriors like the Cretans and some other islanders. The Turkish element is, of course, entirely opposed to the despatch and the object of the memorials referred to." It will be seen that there is no real conflict of evidence between what our correspondent wrote and the statements made by Dr. Lanitis. The former referred specifically to the "facts" enumerated in the above letter, and merely challenged the inference which Dr. Lanitis wishes to be drawn. As he stated, a referendum alone could establish the accuracy of that inference. In the contrast between the peaceful Cypriot peasant and the more bellicose Cretan reference was made to the characteristics of two peoples; the courage of the individual Cypriot was in no way impugned.—ED.]

THE PALESTINE VICTORY.

Arab Deputation to War Cabinet.

A delegation of the Moslem and Christian Arab members of the Syrian and Palestinian Colonies in Great Britain, headed by Count Zogheb, waited on the War Cabinet on December 12, and presented the following address:—

Your Excellencies,—The delegates of the Arab members of the Syrian and Palestinian Colonies in London and Manchester have begged to call on you to-day to express to your Excellencies their congratulations on the victory and capture of Jerusalem. They moreover express the desire that you should transmit to his Majesty and to his Majesty's forces their heartfelt congratulations, and the hope and the assurance that his Majesty's armies and the detachments of French and Italian contingents should continue their victorious march for the deliverance of the populations they are freeing from the despotism of Turkish rule. And the delegates of the Arab members of the Syrian and Palestinian Colonies in London hope your Excellencies will convey to General Allenby and to the valorous troops under his command the sincere expression of their gratitude for the sacrifices they are making to further the aims and aspirations of these populations for a lasting and hopeful establishment under the guidance and tutelage of their deliverers.

Mr. Bonar Law, on behalf of the Prime Minister, thanked the delegation for its messages, which he informed them should be conveyed as requested.

The delegation, which was composed of the following London members:—Mr. M. Wadia Kesrawani, Shaykh Ismail el Akki, Mr. Selim Ghaffir, Lieutenant Abd-ed-Din El Zein (of the Arab Legion), Comte Patrice de Zogheb, and of the following members from Manchester:—Mr. K. Jebara, Mr. E. Kahla, Mr. F. Hourani, subsequently visited the French and Italian Embassies, and were received by M. Cambon and the Marchese Imperiali, who were presented with addresses similar to that presented to the War Cabinet.

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NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Rates of Pay in Mesopotamia. December 13.

COLONEL YATE asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether assistant directors of railways and deputy directors of railways in Mesopotamia were given the same grading and rank as in France, Egypt, and Salonika.

Mr. MACPHERSON: The grading in Mesopotamia is not the same as in France and elsewhere. If it were the same, the Mesopotamian officers would lose by it, as they get higher pay by remaining on regimental rates, owing to the higher rates of pay of Royal Engineer officers on the Indian Establishment.

Salonika Expeditionary Force.

Mr. BILLING asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he could give the House any information as to the condition of our troops in Salonika?

Mr. MACPHERSON: I would call the attention of my hon. friend to the detailed statistics issued on August 9, 1917, to which I have nothing to add beyond stating that the improvement in health in comparison with former years is maintained.

Troops in India.

Mr. NIELD asked the Under-Secretary of State for War whether he was aware that considerable differences of opinion existed between the local Indian military authorities and the officers commanding battalions sent out to India for garrison duty to replace troops withdrawn for active service in the field as to the physical capacity of many non-commissioned officers and men in such substituted battalions who were suffering from (*inter alia*) v.d.h., rupture, varicocele, chronic bronchitis, asthma, rheumatism, and frost-bite, to perform in India the ordinary duties of native garrison battalions or sound and seasoned European troops; and whether any commanding officers have been removed from their command because of their action in limiting the duties of such substituted battalions to work which their physical condition would allow them to perform having regard to the climate?

Mr. MACPHERSON: So far as my information goes, the answer to both parts of my hon. and learned friend's question is in the negative. I should, however, be glad to receive any information which he may have in his possession.

Mr. NIELD asked the Under-Secretary of State for War how many non-commissioned officers and men belonging to battalions sent from home for garrison duty in India had either died or had been invalided to England within the past eighteen months; and to what extent such deaths and invaliding had been attributable to their unsuitability for full garrison duty under the climatic conditions of India?

Mr. MACPHERSON: I am afraid that this information is not available, and that it will be necessary to refer to India.

Palestine.

Mr. LYNCH asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in regard to the future disposition of Palestine, he had kept in mind the century-long interests of France in that region; and whether, in all the steps hitherto taken and in the promises made, such as that of the restoration of the Jews to Jerusalem, he was acting in complete accord with the representatives of the French Republic?

Mr. BALFOUR: The hon. gentleman need be under no apprehension that in our policy in Palestine we shall fail to show the fullest consideration for the opinions of our Allies.

Mr. LYNCH: While recognising that, has an accord been already established, so that the Allies are working together in this matter?

Mr. BALFOUR: Yes; we are working in the fullest accord.

High Courts of Judicature.

Sir JOHN JARDINE asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India had any intention to recommend the issue of letters patent setting up High Courts of Judicature for the Province of Burmah or the Province of the Punjab?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. Herbert Fisher): As regards the Punjab, the Secretary of State for India has announced that after the war, as soon as financial considerations permit, a High Court will be established for the Punjab. As regards Burma, he has received no recommendation from the Government of India on the subject.

University (Rangoon).

Sir JOHN JARDINE asked what were the causes of the delays of the Government of India in creating the university at Rangoon for the Province of Burma, seeing that sanction had been given a long time ago?

Mr. FISHER: The establishment of a university at Rangoon has been agreed to in principle, but the Government of India have not yet been able to submit to the Secretary of State for his sanction a detailed scheme for constituting it or for providing the funds necessary for its formation and maintenance. The matter is still under discussion between the Local Government and the Government of India. It is hoped that it may be possible to utilise the experience of the Commission which, under the presidency of Dr. Sadler, is now inquiring into the state of the Calcutta University.

Indian Soldiers (Dependants).

COLONEL YATE asked the Secretary of State for India whether pensions were only granted to the widows of Indian soldiers who had fallen in France or in other theatres of war and not to the children; whether, in the event of the death of the widow, the orphan children were left unprovided for; and, if so, whether orders would be issued for the continuance of the pension to the orphan children?

Mr. FISHER: An Indian soldier may nominate his wife, or a child, or certain other near relatives, to receive whatever family pension may be admissible on his death. The pension under present regulations ceases on the death of the nominated heir, but the Secretary of State in Council has under consideration proposals for continuing the pension to the children where they are unprovided for.

Roumania and the Armistice. December 17.

LORD R. CECIL, replying to Mr. KING, who asked whether the Prime Minister was in a position to say what the terms were under which Roumania had concluded an armistice, said that he had no information regarding the terms of the armistice negotiated by the Roumanians beyond what appeared in the Press, except that he understood that it would only be in connection with the general or local Russian armistice so far as duration was concerned.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. December	1917. December		1336. Rabia I.	5678. Tebet
21	8	Friday	7	6
22	9	Saturday.....	8	7
23	10	Sunday	9	8
24	11	Monday	10	9
25	12	Tuesday	11	10
26	13	Wednesday	12	11
27	14	Thursday	13	12

The King received at Buckingham Palace, on December 19, Lady Maude, widow of Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude, who succumbed last month to cholera in Mesopotamia. The King expressed to Lady Maude his keen regret at the loss of her gallant husband, and handed to her the insignia of the K.C.B., which would have been bestowed upon her husband had he survived.

Queen Mary, attended by the Lady Bertha Dawkins, visited the Grafton Galleries on December 19 to inspect the exhibition of Serbian art, and was received by the wife of the Serbian Minister, Mme. Yovanovitch, and the hon. secretary, Miss A. J. Dickinson.

December 15 was the third anniversary of the retaking of Belgrade by the Serbians in 1914.

The Roumanian Minister was among the diplomatic visitors to the Foreign Office on December 17.

The King of Serbia has conferred the Grand Cross of the White Eagle, with swords, on General Allenby.

The Muled El-Nebi, the anniversary of the Prophet's birthday, will fall this year on December 26.

M. Venizelos, accompanied by M. Romanos, the Greek Minister to France, visited the King of the Belgians on December 13.

M. Xenophol, the Roumanian Minister in Tokyo, has died after an operation. He arrived in Tokyo only recently.

Lady Rose Leveson Gower, wife of Commander the Hon. William Spencer Leveson Gower, gave birth to a daughter on December 12.

M. Venizelos, son of the Greek Prime Minister, who has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation in London, has entered upon his duties.

The Serbian Minister in Washington has received a telegram from the Czecho-Slovaks of America welcoming the declaration of war by the United States against Austria-Hungary, "our common enemy."

H.H. Lieut.-General Maharaja Sir Pertab Singh and H.H. Lieut.-Colonel the Raja of Ratlam had the honour of being invited to luncheon with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace on December 17.

Lord Rothschild, on behalf of the Zionist organisations, accompanied by Mr. Tshellnow, Mr. Sokolow, and Dr. Weizmann, visited 10, Downing Street to congratulate the Prime Minister on the British entry into Jerusalem.

The Greek Minister and Mme. Gennadius are in mourning on account of the death of the eldest brother of Mme. Gennadius, Captain Malcolm Alfred Laing, late of the Hussars, and Lord-Lieutenant of the Orkneys and Shetlands.

A motion has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives congratulating the British Government on its support of a national home for the Jews in Palestine, and pledging the support of the United States in the undertaking.

The first batch of Bulgarian prisoners captured by the Greek troops on the Macedonian front has arrived at Athens, where those who are fitted for the work are employed in a large military vegetable garden on the outskirts of the town.

The King has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the G.C.M.G. to General Sir Edmund Henry Hynman Allenby, K.C.B., Colonel 5th Lancers, Commanding in Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force, in recognition of distinguished services in the field.

The King has also been pleased to appoint General Sir Edmund Allenby to be a Knight of Grace of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England

The marriage of Captain Ronald Sowerby Ruston, Cyclists Company, Suffolks, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. Ruston, of Grove Cottage, Exning, Suffolk, and Daphne, eldest daughter of Mrs. Mellis, of Hill Cottage, Duppas Hill Terrace, Croydon, took place at Alexandria, Egypt, on December 1.

The King has granted permission to Miss Lina Mary Potter, Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery in the Society of Apothecaries, London, to wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Order of St. Sava, conferred upon her by the King of Serbia for her work with the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service.

Mr. Ronald Storrs, Oriental Secretary to the Residency, has returned to Cairo from his visit to this country.

It has been decided, owing to the continued success of the Serbo-Croat Exhibition at the Grafton Galleries, to keep the exhibition open on Christmas Eve and Bank Holiday.

The *London Gazette* announces that Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Gelson Gregson, C.I.E., Indian Army, Reserve of Officers, has been awarded the C.M.G. for services rendered in connection with military operations in the field.

On the occasion of the birthday of Prince Alexander of Serbia a solemn service was celebrated on December 17 in the Cathedral at Corfu, in the presence of the Diplomatic Corps, the Allied Military Commanders and Admirals.

According to the *Messaggero*, the Pope will address a circular letter to all Bishops in belligerent States saying that, if any Christian country assists the Turks in an attempt to reconquer Jerusalem, it will be condemned by the Vatican.

During the celebration of the Feast of the Lights by the Jewish Battalion Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Patterson read the following telegram from General Allenby :—"Your congratulations are warmly welcomed. Wish you had been with us." The message was received with great enthusiasm.

In a message sent to Mr. Wilson the Southern Slav Committee in London thanks the President for the stress he has laid upon the "liberation of the oppressed peoples of Austria-Hungary, which can only be compassed if these peoples and our people among them are completely separated from that autocratic State."

It is now stated that the Hon. Neil Primrose, M.P., was buried in the garden of the French convent at Ramleh, situated between Jaffa and Jerusalem.

Lieutenant the Hon. Alexandere Henry Louis Hardinge, Grenadier Guards, who is reported wounded, is the second and only surviving son of Lord Hardinge of Penshurst. He was born in 1894, and before receiving his commission in the Grenadier Guards was in the I.A.R.O., and was A.D.C. to his father when Viceroy of India. His elder brother, Lieutenant the Hon. Edward Charles Hardinge, D.S.O., died of wounds received in action in December, 1914.

The general conference of the Jugoslav Committee has recently been held in London under the presidency of Dr. Ante Trumbitch. The proceedings show that the Declaration of Corfu as the political programme of the entire nation has been accepted with approval and enthusiasm in all Serb, Croat, and Slovene circles in Europe and America. A special deputation of the Committee waited upon the United States Ambassador, Mr. Page, to express its satisfaction at the American declaration of war upon Austria-Hungary. An address was also telegraphed to President Wilson.

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund, of which Viscountess Bryce is President, appeals for funds to help Armenians by supporting the various guilds and unions which the refugees have reformed under new conditions for mutual help and relief. It is stated that there are 10,000 orphans to be fed, clothed, and educated, and that fifty-two orphanages exist for this purpose, but many more are needed. The Fund maintains its own orphanage at Alexandropol and helps others. Cheques should be made payable to the hon. treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Chambers, 35A, Elsham Road, Kensington, W.

Mr. Ronald McNeill, M.P., presiding at a lecture by Mr. H. Wickham Steed on "Jugoslav Christians and the New Europe," at the exhibition of Serbo-Croatian artists, at the Grafton Gallery, on December 15, said that one of our main war aims from the alliance with Serbia, Montenegro, Greece, and Italy, should be to promote such a rearrangement with the States bordering on the Danube and the Adriatic that all causes of disagreement between them should disappear and peace be preserved in that part of Europe. Mr. Steed said that the solution of the Adriatic problem lay in an honest and complete Italo-Southern-Slav agreement and alliance.

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COLONEL BORTON PASHA.

A correspondent writes:—

When I read of Borton Pasha's appointment as Military Governor of "the new" Jerusalem—at least "a thousand and one" Military Governors of Jerusalem have preceded him—"I felt good," as our American children say. "Who is Borton Pasha?" asked the millions of religious and irreligious London. Little enough I knew, but they greedily listened; for the ancient lore, taught them in their nurseries, and half forgotten, returned and convinced them that the "conqueror of Jerusalem" had not selected his "Military Governor" without due regard for the fittest.

As a matter of fact, all the best men that England has passed through Egypt, including such names as Cromer, Kitchener, Wingate, Milner, Willcocks, Scott, and others, have, each in turn, come to international prominence as a surprise to the British people. Without exception they came to stay—Egypt being the h lf-way house of the known earth and seas. So, Colonel Borton, a mere Kitchener soldier when Kitchener was Sirdar, and subsequently appointed Postmaster-General of Egypt. To be P.M.G. of Egypt since 1883—Borton is the fourth—you must be a man of parts. General Allenby appointed in Jerusalem a man of parts. Could England have done otherwise? Until now she rarely has—from Drake to Kitchener.

War orders took me to Alexandria between August, 1916, and March, 1917. To-day there are three clubs in the city of Cleopatra to which all English or Allied officers are welcome. In the Union Club you might have met Colonel Borton Pasha, Postmaster-General, midday or evening, when not travelling on duty. If I remember rightly, he was President of that home of patriotism; he was the soul of it—I must use a French word—he was British *bonhomie* itself. Does he know the East? Well, if he does not, then Wingate, the present High Commissioner of Egypt, does not know the East.

If the Postmaster-Generalship of Egypt is a polyglotic job, as it is, what shall we say of the Military Governorship of the new Jerusalem? It will be a poly-ecclesiastic job. And who better fitted for the task than a soldier-administrator, whose dictionary does not contain the word fanaticism, and who knows how to be all things to all men?

THE CHURCH OF SERBIA.

Sir Thomas Jackson, Bart., R.A., delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Churches and Architecture of Serbia," at the Grafton Galleries, on December 7, and amply proved his thesis that in the fourteenth century Serbian architecture had a character all its own, and gave promise of a great future, when it was overwhelmed by the midnight of Turkish despotism. Serbian architecture was at this time marked by so much vitality and distinction that what it might have come to, had it not been interrupted, was a pleasant and interesting speculation. The Rev. Canon W. H. Carnegie, of Westminster, who presided, said that the British people were pledged to see that this war should not end without definite guarantees that Serbia should be reconstituted and reconstructed. But even so, she would still need our assistance, both spiritual and material. National history depended upon its spiritual elements, upon leadership, upon the type of men who came to the forefront. Serbia would need men of high character as well as great attainments; men who would work unselfishly on behalf of her people. Where was such leadership to come from, if not from the Church of Serbia? The Church was the spiritual embodiment of a race; it was the school of character. "You cannot do without it; you cannot displace it; it is the final court of appeal in these matters."

Given a spiritual, enlightened, and self-sacrificing Church, the future of Serbia was assured. The Church of Serbia had shared to the full in the tragic events that had overwhelmed the race. The whole ecclesiastical apparatus would have to be rebuilt when the war was over. The Serbian ecclesiastical authorities recognised this, and they had already come to the English Church for help. There were already a certain number of the more promising of the Serbian candidates for the priesthood in Oxford, and they hoped within the course of the next two or three months to have eighty or ninety under their auspices. There were already at Oxford men of the highest calibre and intellectual attainments. It would imply spiritual bankruptcy on our part, if we did not respond to Serbia's request. They welcomed these Serbian students, and wished above all that they should still remain Serbs, that they should not become anglicised, but become the natural leaders and guides of their race. Moreover, in trying to do this great thing, we had a unique opportunity of understanding the Slav race. It would be a great thing to establish a living bridge between the Slav and the Anglo-Saxon people. It was possible to have the most intimate commercial relationships with a people, and yet to remain utterly out of spiritual touch with that people. This the politicians were not always quick to understand. And yet Germany was a tremendous illustration of it.

OBITUARY.

Mr. Philip Longueville Barker, I.C.S., has died from enteric at Sialkot, Punjab. He was educated at the Charterhouse and Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He joined the service in 1898.

Lieut.-Colonel Edwin Christian Corbyn, Cavalry, I.A., who has been killed in action, saw service on the North-West Frontier in 1897-8, in the Tirah expedition, and in South Africa in 1902.

The Rev. S. Scott Allnutt, head of the Cambridge Mission to Delhi and Canon of Lahore Cathedral, died at Delhi on December 9 at the age of sixty-seven years. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and went out to India in 1879 on behalf of the Cambridge University Mission.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

BALLARD.—On December 17, the wife of Edward Ballard, Indian Agricultural Service, Lieut., Royal Field Artillery, of a daughter.

MAYNE.—On December 11, at Lyallpur, the wife of Major Eric M. Mayne, Army Remount Department, India, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

ROBINSON-WAKEMAN—LONG.—On November 15, at the British Consulate, Alexandria, and afterwards at St. Mark's Church, Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Robinson to Margaret, widow of the late Judge Wakeman-Long.

DRAYSON—LANE.—On Wednesday, October 10, 1917, at Lansdowne, U.P. India, Captain F. G. Drayson, M.C., Border Regiment, elder son of Captain A. F. H. Drayson, R.M., and Mrs. Drayson, The Mount, Brading, Isle of Wight, to Lilias, younger daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel D. T. Lane, I.M.S., and Mrs. Lane, Lansdowne.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

RUSSELL.—Killed in action on November 22, Captain Charles Russell, East Yorks Regt., attached Indian Army, youngest son of the late Champion Russell, of Stubbers, Essex, aged forty-five.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1917.

THE DELIVERANCE OF JERUSALEM.

The world has done well to recognise in the capture of Jerusalem a great moral event. Five weeks previously the British Government had indicated the spirit in which it had undertaken the invasion of Palestine by announcing its resolve to facilitate the establishment in the Holy Land of a national home for the Jewish people. At that moment General Allenby's force was still on the threshold of the country. Beersheba had been taken, but the enemy barred the way in front of Gaza. Almost before Zionism had had time to realise that it had received its charter, the British advance began. Gaza, Askalon, and Jaffa fell in quick succession, and Jerusalem was threatened. The first attempt to approach it from the north-west failed. Turkish reinforcements had been hurried up, and were able at one point to recapture ground that the British had occupied. For a short space it seemed as if the advance had been definitely checked. But with a feint on his left flank, General Allenby suddenly set his right wing in motion and delivered his real attack by the more difficult southern approaches. Hebron and Bethlehem were captured, and, passing to the east of Jerusalem, the British forces had completely turned the Turkish position at El Jib on the Nablus road. The enemy was forced to fall back along his whole front, and the surrender of Jerusalem was effected without the necessity of aiming a single shell in the direction of its walls. This circumstance, the manner of the British entry into the city, and the arrangements made for its temporary administration, have enhanced the moral effect of an event which has sent a thrill through all the nations of the world. No effort has been spared to respect the susceptibilities of Christian, Jew, and Moslem. Jerusalem, as a result of General Allenby's strategy, has experienced a minimum of the exigencies of war; the city remains under military occupation, but the main British force has passed on northwards, and behind the security that it provides the *Pax Britannica* has fallen upon the Abode of Peace. The inhabitants are bidden to pursue their lawful callings without fear of interruption. All that is held in reverence in Jerusalem by the adherents of either of the three great religions of mankind is to be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faith they are sacred.

But while it is right to emphasise the moral effect of the occupation of the Holy City, it will not be overlooked that the event is not without its military significance. In the first place the progress of the expedition indicates that so far the British forces have proved themselves superior to the enemy in numbers and generalship. Marshal von Falkenhayn may yet have to be reckoned with; but he has been unable to prevent the one success needed by British arms to clinch the whole-hearted support given by the Arab world to the Allied cause. It is likely to prove of no small military importance that a further blow has been dealt at the prestige of the Committee of Union and Progress, and that yet another bone of contention has been thrown between the Turks and the Germans. Apart from the success at Gallipoli, disaster has dogged the Turks since they entered the war under German compulsion. The Constantinople régime has contrived to keep a section of the people in ignorance of the fall of Baghdad; but it can hardly hope to repeat the achievement in the case of Jerusalem, even if it wished to do so. If the promise of the early stages of General Allenby's campaign is maintained, it should not be long before Beirut and Damascus are threatened, particularly if the Arabs, who were long ago reported in the neighbourhood of Ma'an, are now able to guard the British flank by a simultaneous advance up the Hejaz Railway. Although news may be suppressed in Mesopotamia, it does not follow that the knowledge of the bazaars of Damascus and Aleppo can be kept out of Constantinople. Sooner or later, indeed, the time must come when the Committee will have to choose between a breach with their German masters and an attempt to appease their own countrymen. The policy of monetary loans to the Cabinet is proving an unsatisfactory substitute for military assistance to the Turks as a whole, and, now that the recapture of Baghdad has not materialised, no amount of promises from Berlin, it would be thought, will dissipate the hard fact that Turkey alone among the countries of the Central Alliance has steadily lost ground throughout the war. The fall of Baghdad was a political blow of the first importance; the loss of Jerusalem, after the secession of Mecca, must destroy all that is left of the Turkish Government's prestige in the eyes of the Moslem world.

For the present the future of Jerusalem is left indeterminate. A British Military Governor has been appointed, and his administration, it may be presumed, will be maintained at least until the end of the war. No deference to religious susceptibilities, however, and no desire to avoid prejudging the ultimate status of the city ought to prevent the British authorities from carrying out the obvious and essential duties imposed upon a civilised régime. By common consent Jerusalem as a modern place of residence is insanitary, and leaves much to be desired in other respects. No time should be lost in making a start to remove these reproaches. The Eastern mind is not always attuned to Western "improvements"; but in the long run it values the results of municipal cleanliness and sanitation when they are carried out by others. There is little chance that a nation which frames or endorses General Allenby's proclamation to the inhabitants of Jerusalem will allow reforming zeal to outstrip discretion. In this connection we may deprecate the suggestion that a duty is imposed upon Christendom to remodel Jerusalem in accordance with the prior claims of Christianity. The proposal has been made in quarters that are usually regarded as responsible; but it is impossible to believe that it will win either national or Governmental sanction. It is true that the Jews once had a temple on the Rock, but the Kubbet-es-Sakhra is there to-day, and it is an object of veneration annually to thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the Mohammedan world. General Allenby has been better advised to leave it in the hands of its Moslem guardians, and if the spirit that prompted his decision is maintained, there may still be peace in Jerusalem, and there will be a better chance of peace among Moslems both within the British Empire and outside it. For some time to come the administration of Jerusalem will have its hands full in supplying the immediate wants of the civil population. Our enemies are not infrequently able to teach us valuable lessons. The Germans have given us one in arranging for trade within the widest possible limits to follow upon the heels of the armistice with Russia. The British Government would do well to pay more attention to this subject in the wake of its victorious armies in Mesopotamia and in Palestine. It should not be beyond the powers of organisation to ensure that, in addition to the urgent relief measures which have to be carried out, the inhabitants have their past hardships alleviated to some extent by an early revival of trade, and that—it ought not to be necessary to insist—British.

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THE PALESTINE ADVANCE.

The capture of Jerusalem concludes one phase of our Palestine advance, but it can only be considered as one step towards our ultimate goal. Although the city itself seems secure, there is evidence from the official reports that the enemy have retired no great distance. The present lines appear to follow the Nahr el Aujeh from the sea westwards. A few days ago they were at el Burj, but now in the left centre—*i.e.*, in the low foothills of the Samaritan Mountains, they have advanced through el Midieh and Kibbiah to the ridge overlooking et Tireh —in the plain. In the centre we have no official data showing how far we have pushed along the Nablus road—not apparently further than el Bireh, if as far. There has been fighting to the north-east, and the Turks have been driven back, but evidently until all is organized for a further great advance nothing much will be done here. It is surprising to learn that on the 18th—so long after our capture of the city—Turks had to be driven out of the high-ground east of Abu Dis—only two miles south-east of the city.

I propose now to give a brief account of some of these spots which have been mentioned in the recent fighting. The name Nahr el Aujeh—the "crooked" river—has occurred in several despatches, and will no doubt do so again. It is the largest river in Western Palestine, though but a short one. It rises at a large fountain, Ras el Ain, some ten miles eastward from the sea. Here there is a square embattled fort, a mediæval building very like that at Solomon's Pool. Many suppose that Antipatris, a pleasing site described by Josephus, stood here. The course of the Aujeh is through low-lying banks of deep alluvial soil, and a heavy rain—such as occurs at intervals during this and the next two or three months in Palestine—causes floods, which convert the lands around into a quagmire. This river is the most southern of several such springs which traverse the Plain of Sharon from east to west, and all the plain is liable to become a sea of shallow lakes and liquid mud after a long spell of rainfall.

The banks of the Aujeh at other seasons are a favourite picnic place for the people of Jaffa. They go by carriage—much of the way through sandy soil—past the German colony of Sarona, and after a drive of some two and a half hours reach the river bank close to one of the numerous mills. Here is a beautiful mill-pond, with waterlilies and, what is so much appreciated in the Orient, abundant running water. It is possible to boat here on the little stream, but lower down its course this is not without danger, as the current is swift and apt to carry a boat over a dangerous bar where many a skiff has been capsized. The banks of the Aujeh are the haunt of the buffalo, as may be supposed by the name Birket el Jamus, "the pool of the Buffalo," a spot some seven miles east of Jaffa where Australian horsemen recently distinguished themselves by capturing 147 soldiers and two Turkish officers.

That the Aujeh should have been selected by the Turks as their line of defence was inevitable. After they were driven out of Wady es Surar there was no such line of natural strength south of the Aujeh. The river is wide and deep enough to form a considerable impediment to our advance, although we may hope it may be possible to turn it by our progress on the drier and hillier districts to the East. Long years ago Alexander Jannæus tried here to resist the southward progress of Antiochus by erecting a fortified wall, with wooden towers, between Kaphar Saba (now Kefr Saba) and the sea. The Syrian king, however, burnt the towers and swept away the defences.

It may be mentioned that Aujeh (or Auja), meaning crooked, is a common name in these parts, and a very appropriate one. El Auja, south of Beersheba, has been mentioned in our earliest reports, and there is another Nahr el Aujeh near Jericho. Indeed, as Sir G. A. Smith points out, by a curious coincidence these two rivers—one east and one west of the Central mountain ridge—may be considered geographically the eastern and western extremities of the boundary between Judæa and Samaria.

Eastwards of the Nahr el Aujeh, the first definite point mentioned is el Burj, literally, the tower, a place so called because of a tall square ruined tower—the remains, it is said, of the Château d'Arnauld, built by Richard I.

To the north-west of this is el Midieh, the site of Modin, famous as the home of Mattathias, the father of the Maccabees. It was the scene of the outbreak of the Jews against Antiochus IV. (I. Macc. ii., 15-28). The village lies a little off the old Roman road. There are considerable antiquarian remains around.

Kibbiah, some four miles due north of el Midieh, is generally identified as Gibbethon, where Nadab was slain by Baasha (I. Kings, 15-27), and, twenty-five years later, Omri was made king (I. Kings, 16, 157).

The remaining place of interest, Abu Dis, will be remembered by most recent travellers on the Jerusalem-Jericho road. It is a prosperous village occupying a lofty ridge, dominating the Jericho-Jerusalem road in the neighbourhood of Bethany. Few tourists visit it, but all see it. Through Abu Dis an important ancient road runs to the Dead Sea district. Many years ago the people of Abu Dis used to plunder travellers going to Jericho; the Turkish Government, finding it too much trouble to suppress them, made them guardians of the road, and, until quite recent years, all parties of travellers going to Jericho had to take one of these ruffianly-looking horsemen—bristling with antique swords, daggers, and pistols—on the journey down and back. A fixed tariff to these "guards" replaced—and led to the suppression of—the unrecognised robberies.

Like Bethany, Abu Dis is practically on the borders of the Wilderness of Judæa, and if this ridge is cleared, the enemy must now be at considerable disadvantage in this part.

E. W. G. M.

CROATIA.

Speaking at the Grafton Galleries on December 10, Dr. Seton-Watson said that the Southern Slav question was that of how Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—kindred by race, but who had never been under one rule—could come together. They spoke one language, the only difference being in the alphabets with which it was written. No geographical line could be drawn between Croats, Serbs, and Slovenes, they were inextricably mingled. In the tenth century—two centuries after Serbs and Croats had made their way into that part of Europe—Croatia had already a national existence under its own dynasty. It had a highly developed art, and the Slavonic liturgy of that day was still preserved in about three hundred Roman Catholic churches along the Dalmatian coast. But in 1102 the independent Croatian kingdom was involved in war, overrun by the Hungarians, and came to an end. Since that time Croatia had owned allegiance to the Hungarian Crown, but had never lost its autonomous position, and had always maintained its constitutional claim as a sort of semi-federal State with Hungary. In 1912 the Hungarian Government, in defiance of all law and constitutional right, suspended the Croatian constitution. That was the year of the first Balkan war, and it was natural for the people of Croatia to contrast their own politically enslaved condition with that of their kinsmen, of whose splendid achievements they were hearing. Thus arose a revolutionary movement which the moderate men were not able to hold back, and of which the assassination of the Archduke Francis Ferdinand was one result. Austria-Hungary might even then have adopted a policy of radical reforms for her Southern Slav subjects such as would have pacified them and made peaceful relations with Serbia possible, but she adopted instead a policy of repression, so that when the present European war broke out Serbia stepped naturally into the position of being the Piedmont of the Southern Slavs.

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FEZ.

(The writer was asked "What he thought of Fez?" Having no answer ready for this silly question, he referred it to inhabitants of the four following classes, and this is what they replied):—

THE MOOR: Home of my fathers, at whose gate
The tide of conquest rolls,
Last bulwark of our Western state
For true-believing souls!
Ah, woe is me, for Islam's sword!
Thy will be done, Almighty Lord!

THE JEW: A royal palace round whose walls
My race, like ivy, clings.
Now rules the Christian in these halls?
So let him! Earthly kings
Are all alike, so they uphold
My life, my freedom—and my gold.

THE GOOD COLONIST:—
(There was some difficulty in finding a representative of this class.)
A goodly vineyard! Grant, O Lord,
That I in it be blest!
Bless it in me! Thy grace afford,
That I may toil my best;
Nor e'er forget in search of pelf,
To love my neighbour as myself.

THE BAD COLONIST:—
A lucky-tub! It do stink some;
But, Oh! the boodle's here.
Just shove aside the native scum,
And grab your bit and clear!
Down, niggers, down! Up, shares! I say;
These native swine have had their day.

—ANON.

AUSTRIA AND THE SOUTHERN SLAVS.

Mr. H. Wickham Steed, in the course of his second lecture on December 8 on "Austria," at King's College, London, said that the President of the Board of Education, on the occasion of the first lecture, had asked a question relative to the movement among the Southern Slavs of the Austrian Empire towards unity with the kingdom of Serbia. Mr. Fisher had then seemed to doubt whether the Croats, who, in the past, had been the most loyal henchmen of the Hapsburg crown, were to-day really disposed to turn their backs upon it and to throw in their lot with their kinsmen of the kingdom of Serbia and the other Southern Slav lands. The question was embarrassing, because the bulk of the Croats lived under Austria, watched by the Austrian secret police, and subject to Austrian reprisals. Words spoken by himself might be followed by a terrible persecution, with imprisonment, and the gallows for those who had shown themselves to be at heart our friends. But one thing might be said. On the previous Wednesday, at a small luncheon at the House of Commons, there were assembled some dozens of Southern Slav officers who, at the beginning of the war, had belonged to the Austro-Hungarian army, who had surrendered voluntarily to one of our Allies, who were now commanding divisions of Austro-Hungarian Southern Slav troops, who had also surrendered voluntarily, and who were now about to join Serbia in order to fight against Austria-Hungary.

The lecturer then traced the history of Austria from the accession of Francis Joseph until to-day. Dealing with the rise of the Southern Slav question, he said that when it began to assume a practical form, it confronted the Hapsburgs with another problem not unlike those of German and Italian unity—problems which they had signally failed to solve in their own interest, because of a lack of the moral sense which is inseparable from constructive insight in politics. The question was whether the Southern Slavs were to be united with and for or in spite of and against the Hapsburgs. A policy was adopted of endeavouring to bring the whole Southern Slav race within the Austrian dominions by moral suasion, force, fraud, or any other means; and it was in pursuance of this policy that the assassination of the Austrian Heir Apparent was permitted. "The more," said Mr. Steed, "the details of the crime are studied, the more it becomes evident that the murder was deliberately permitted, if not organised, by the Austro-Hungarian authorities, in order to provide a pretext for a war which, by enabling Germany and Austria-Hungary to crush for ever Serbia and the Southern Slavs, should open the German road to the Balkans, Constantinople, and Asia Minor."

The Serbian Minister, who was present, moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer. In doing so, he said that Mr. Wickham Steed had shown in his writings that after the present war Austria ought to cease to exist. It was an empire composed of peoples of different nationalities, each of which wished to be independent and to lead its own individual life.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

An Austrian View of Serbia's Future.

The following summary of an article written by the Austrian historian Heinrich Friedjung for the *Vossische Zeitung* is not calculated to encourage those who believe that the Central Powers are already in a mood of sweet reasonableness that is encouraging to the prospects of peace overtures:—

The writer says that it will be the duty of the victor to consider carefully the good of the Serbian people, and not to make it pay for the sins of its King and his advisers. The uniting of Serbia with Austria-Hungary would fulfil the desires of Serbo-Croats for national unity. This desire would also be realised by an autonomous Serbia, closely bound to Austria-Hungary by economic ties. In this way the Serbian people would emerge from the struggle victors in spite of its terrible sufferings. The House of Hapsburg would give better guarantees for the prosperous development of the Serbian people than its own national dynasty, which is responsible for all Serbia's troubles. It would be quixotic on the part of the Austrian Government to restore the Karageorge dynasty. From the point of view of the military security of Austria-Hungary the incorporation of Serbia is eminently desirable. If Serbia kept her army and her independence, she would be used as a tool by fanatics, supported by English, Russian, and Italian money. If she were incorporated in the Austrian Empire only small garrisons would be necessary. This is what would happen, if Germany and Austria could dictate terms of peace. However, other Great Powers will have to be consulted, particularly Russia. There is, nevertheless, a minimum upon which the Central Powers must insist. Even an autonomous Serbia must be bound as closely as possible to Austria-Hungary. The Serbian State can be restored, but not the Serbian army. Serbia could be made to choose between the disbandment of her army and the placing of it under the command of the Emperor of Austria. She would most likely choose the first alternative. In return for this Austria would allow Serbia to export her products northwards free of duty. The foolish policy of a tariff war against Austria's small neighbours must be abandoned. If the Serbian peasant does not have his son taken away for military service, and if he can export the products of the soil to Austria, he will be in an extraordinarily favourable position.

It would be a criminal error, the article continues, to unite Montenegro and Serbia and to set up a Montenegrin dynasty at Belgrade. Montenegro could be allowed her independence with the same precautions as those taken in the case of Serbia. Obviously Mount Lovtchen cannot be given back to her. Enemy statesmen, it is added, make fine speeches about even small nations being allowed to decide their own fate. But at the end of the war the great States will make use of the little ones in payment of their indemnities. Austria and Bulgaria will decide upon the future of the Balkans. At the Peace Congress the details of that settlement will have to be discussed, but in general there will be little change from the present position. There already exists a Balkan alliance between Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey, and to this alliance Serbia will have to conform.

The Pan-Turanian Movement.

Continuing his analysis of the Pan-Turanian movement, the writer of the article entitled "Turkey, Russia, and Islam," in *The Round Table*, from which an extract was given last week, deals with the policy of the Committee of Union and Progress. He had shown how during the century ending in the years 1912-13 the centre of gravity of Turkey had shifted from Europe to Anatolia, and the Turkish nation conceived the ambition of making up for lost alien subjects by attracting to itself the scattered branches of the Turkish race outside the Ottoman frontiers. The article proceeds:—

Irredentism gave a new significance to the linguistic reforms of the Ziya Bey Group, for the Ottoman literary language, relieved of its special Arabic and Persian borrowings and reinforced by an eclectic pure-Turkish vocabulary, might become a *lingua franca* for all who spoke the various living Turkish dialects. The Pan-Turanian movement was thus advancing on to purely political ground, and at that point it was taken up by the Committee of Union and Progress.

The Committee were not Nationalists to begin with, chiefly because they ignored the nationality problems of the Ottoman Empire. Their primary aim was to maintain the integrity of the Empire, especially in Europe, and in this they agreed with Abd-ul-Hamid and all previous rulers of Turkey. They only differed as to the means; for, while Abd-ul-Hamid believed in despotism at home and a balance of jealousy among the European Powers, the Committee held that Turkey's best safeguard was internal strength, and the best source of strength political liberty. Their ideas of liberty were drawn from the French Revolution. "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" would be proclaimed, all inhabitants of the Empire would rally to the State as free Ottoman citizens—just as Picards and Marseillais and Alsatians rallied to the French Republic after 1789—and the question of Nationality would solve itself.

This actually happened for the first six weeks after the proclamation of the Constitution in 1908. Men of all creeds and races embraced each other in the streets. But then they drew apart again and considered how they might turn the new régime to their own advantage. The Balkan nationalities rejected the

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offer of a liberal Turkey altogether, and determined to take the first opportunity of completing their own unity and independence at Turkey's expense. Others, like the Arabs, the Armenians, and the Constantinopolitan and Anatolian Greeks, recognised that secession was impossible, but took measures to defend their own national individuality within the Ottoman State. The Arabs formed the main opposition in the new Parliament; the Armenians also wished for decentralisation, though they co-operated in Parliament with the Committee. The Committee found, in fine, that the Turks were the only element in the Empire that was not opposed to centralisation and had no political ideal incompatible with the Ottoman State idea. They therefore fell back upon their Turkish nationality, and came to think of Turkification as the natural means of achieving their ends. After the Balkan War they incorporated Turkification in their programme, but it is important to examine precisely what place they gave it.

It has been shown above that the Turkish version of Pan-Turanianism contains two general ideas : to purify and strengthen the Turkish Nationality within the Ottoman Empire, and to link up the Ottoman Turks with the other Turks in the world. These objects were first pursued in the cultural sphere by Ziya Bey's private group of "Intellectuals" and were promoted by peaceful propaganda. After 1913 they took on a political form and were incorporated in the programme of the Committee of Union and Progress. But while for Ziya Bey's followers Pan-Turanianism was an end in itself, for the Committee it is only an instrument. They will not give up movements that conflict with it, like Pan-Islamism, if these movements can still serve their turn, and they will not persist in it indefinitely in circumstances where it does not pay, as it is not paying at present in Syria, Mesopotamia and Arabia.

The contrast between academic Pan-Turanianism and the Pan-Turanianism of the Committee of Union and Progress can be drawn with precision.

The first aim of the Ziya Bey group was to purge the Turkish language and culture from foreign (*i.e.*, chiefly Arabic) influences. They were ready to violate some of the strongest prejudices of Islam for the sake of carrying this aim to its logical conclusion. The first aim of the Committee is to purge the Turkish State from foreign (*i.e.*, chiefly European) influences : extra-territoriality of foreign subjects, foreign control of Ottoman finance, railways, raw materials, and education. The doctrinaires dared to defy Islam; the Committee are far too prudent to defy Islam, but they have defied Europe. When the Concert of Europe broke down, they intervened in the war and denounced the Capitulations. And in 1916 they passed a "language ordinance" making the use of Turkish compulsory, after a year's delay, for banks, newspapers, trams, railways, steamship companies, book-keeping of private firms, and all business of a remotely public or legal character.†

Secondly, the doctrinaires proposed to strengthen the Turkish nationality in Anatolia by education and social reform. The Committee's method has been to exterminate the non-Turkish nationalities scattered through the country—first the Armenians and latterly the Greeks—and to give their lands and houses to "Muhajirs" (Mohammedan refugees from the provinces lost in 1912-13, partly Turks, but partly Slavs from the Balkan Peninsula and Greek-speaking Mohammedans from Crete). Another motive for the atrocities has been to make the war popular among the Turkish population by sating it with Armenian plunder—a purely temporary and opportunist aim—and they were also an appeal to that reactionary spirit of Mohammedan fanaticism against which the doctrinaires have declared war.

Thirdly, Tekin Alp seeks to change the political ideal of the Ottoman Turk from Imperialism to Irredentism—from ruling over alien Christian nationalities in Europe to "liberating" kindred Turkish populations in Russia and Central Asia. For the Committee it is rather a quantitative problem. In the Balkan War they lost territory, population and military prestige on their European frontiers. In the European War they hope to compensate or even out-balance these losses by corresponding gains in Asia and Africa; and here appears a fourth motive for the Armenian massacres, for the Armenians are an alien block separating the Ottoman Turks of Anatolia from the Azerbaijanis of Northern Persia and Russian Trans-Caucasia.

It is clear from the foregoing analysis that Pan-Turanianism is not the only weapon used by the exponents of Turkish aggrandisement. They possess another and an older weapon in Pan-Islamism. And in nothing is the opportunism of the Committee of Union and Progress more evident than in their attempt to use them both together. For, as has been shown above, the two creeds conflict. If Pan-Islamism were really a religious doctrine it would not be so incompatible with Pan-Turanianism as it is. But just as Pan-Turanianism is not really a racial movement, so Pan-Islamism is not really a religious movement. Both of them are political programmes for increasing the power of the Ottoman Empire abroad—rivals in the same field.

Most of the religious revivalism in Islam during the nineteenth century has been definitely anti-Ottoman. The Wahabis of Nejd and the Mahdists of the Egyptian Sudan both regarded the Turks as little better than Franks and Infidels; the Senussi retired to the Libyan desert to escape the contamination of Stambul. It is noteworthy that the supporters of all these movements were Arabs, were uncivilised, and were independent, by force of arms, of either Ottoman or European control. The Ottoman doctrine of Pan-Islamism appealed, on the other hand, to settled, civilised Mohammedan populations under the government of European Powers like Britain, France, and Russia. These populations had seen enough of European institutions to wish for them themselves. They aspired to become self-governing nations playing an independent part in international politics, and they admired Turkey because they believed her to be a Mohammedan State which already realised their ideal. They were not sufficiently well-informed to see through Turkey's European masquerade to the weakness and corruption underneath; they only saw in Turkey a model of what they hoped themselves to become, an existing guarantee for the political future of the peoples of Islam. For Islam is theoretically a political as well as a religious society. The Khalif is the temporal ruler of all good Mohammedans, as well as their religious head. It is true that this political unity broke down within a century of Mohammed's death, and has never been fully restored. But if the Khalif cannot exercise this universal power, the best alternative is that he should be an independent sovereign, powerful enough to make his wishes felt by the other sovereign Governments of the world, and this condition is fulfilled by the Sultan-Khalif at Constantinople; for the Ottoman Empire is the strongest and most enduring Mohammedan State there has been since the fall of the Abbasids.

The possibilities of political propaganda on these lines were perceived and cleverly exploited by Abd-ul-Hamid. The Ottoman strategic railway from Damascus to Medina, largely built out of the contributions of the Faithful from foreign countries, is a good example of his diplomacy; and this policy has been continued by the Committee of Union and Progress. In Tripoli, for instance, before the Italian conquest, the Ottoman Government was regarded by the natives as an irksome foreign oppression, but Enver Bey succeeded in winning over native sympathies; the Libyan Arab now looks on the Turk as his natural ally against the European invader; and even the Senussi have made common cause with him during the European war. It will be seen presently how the same policy has been developed in Asia.

Now this Pan-Islamic propaganda would be crippled at once by a logical following-out of the Pan-Turanian idea. If the Ottoman Empire is not an Islamic Great Power but a Turkish National State, and if Turkish Nationalism and Islam are ultimately irreconcilable, then the special ties which link the Mohammedan populations of other States to Turkey are broken. There is no more salvation for them in Turkey than in the British Empire or Russia or France, and the Committee of Union and Progress have no more claim on them than their established Governments. The Committee are well aware of this, and have avoided committing themselves openly to the Pan-Turanian creed where it is in flagrant contradiction to the Pan-Islamic. The Allies have laid hold of anti-Islamic and anti-Arab declarations by Pan-Turanian writers and acts of tyranny and repression by officials of the Committee of Union and Progress in the Arab provinces, and these have served excellently as anti-Turkish propaganda in the Arab world. But it would be difficult to convict the Committee, as a party or a government, of a Pan-Turanian programme which would discredit their Pan-Islamic professions.

The policy of the Committee, in fact, is to exploit both movements at once. While they find Pan-Islamism the more useful of the two abroad, it is clear that they set more store by Pan-Turanianism at home. Their object being to convert the Ottoman Empire into a highly organised militaristic State on the German pattern, they naturally find a more appropriate basis in common language than in common religion; and the following passage occurs in a resolution passed at the Congress of the Committee of Union and Progress in October, 1911 :—

"The character of the Empire must be Mohammedan, and respect must be secured for Mohammedan institutions and traditions. Other nationalities must be denied the right of organisation, for decentralisation and autonomy are treason to the Turkish Empire. The nationalities are a negligible quantity. They can keep their religion but not their language. The propagation of the Turkish language is a sovereign means of confirming the Mohammedan supremacy and assimilating the other elements."

This smooth assertion of contradictory principles is an excellent example of the Committee's attempt to blend the two ideas in their internal policy. It also reveals on which they lay more stress. The suggestion that the subject nationalities "may keep their religion but not their native language" is a complete reversal of the traditional policy of the early Ottoman conquerors, who allowed the Albanian and Bosnian nobility to keep not only their language but their estates when once they had accepted the Mohammedan faith.

† The stringency of the original draft was afterwards somewhat relaxed in the passage of the Bill through the Senate.

ROYAL SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS OF OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

At an Election of Four Pupils at £20 a year on the 18th December, 1917, the following was the RESULT of the POLL:—

SUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss E. D. Fitzpatrick	7,100	Miss B. Merritt	4,263
Miss R. E. S. Wood	4,558	Miss D. M. Ridgeway	3,744

UNSUCCESSFUL.

	Votes.		Votes.
Miss L. B. Thacker	2,437	Miss E. Dunham	374
Miss C. F. MacLennox	2,367	Miss E. Franklin	351
Miss A. J. H. Sherwood	2,113	Miss R. I. Snook	346
Miss V. H. D. Safford	1,734	Miss E. M. Morris	128
Miss W. F. Bunting	1,117	Miss P. M. Bartlett	145
Miss N. M. Reid	1,074	Miss D. Owen	99
Miss D. B. M. Holman	394		

By Order
F. W. T. ATTREE, Col. Late R.E., Secretary.

25, Haymarket, S.W.1.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

Devonshire Square,
London, E.C.2.

At the general meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company on Tuesday, the chairman, Lord Ernest Hamilton, went fairly fully into the causes of the fall in profits during the past year. The decrease in the net results—the net profit was £24,062 6s. 9d., as against £51,957 3s. 1d. in 1915-16—was mainly due, he stated, to the increased price of coal and to the increase in the cost of insurance against war risks. These items were respectively £48,000 and £124,000 higher than the previous year. As to the prospects of the coming year, he expressed the view that the position was very doubtful, and he went on to explain that the company was suffering through the operation of what are known as Blue Book rates in regard to four small ships trading between Egypt and the United Kingdom. The ships, he explained, were small, were slow sailers, and being old and designed on rather obsolete lines were very expensive to run. The Blue Book rates in this case fell far short of the actual running expenses, so that these four ships were entailing an actual loss to the company.

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The general prosperity of banking institutions is reflected in the announcement that an increased final dividend is recommended by the directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia. The distribution now proposed is 5s. per share, as against 4s. a year ago and 3s. in 1915, making the return for the year ended September 30 8s., as against 7s. in 1916 and 6s in 1914-15. The dividend works out at the highly satisfactory rate of £6 3s. 1d. per cent.

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The remarks I have made from time to time regarding the volume of India's pre-war trade with Russia were fully borne out by Mr. Chadwick, Indian Trade Commissioner, in the paper he read before the Royal Society of Arts, a summary of which is given on another page. India was under the impression that, outside tea, her exports to Russia were a negligible quantity, and, including that commodity, the direct trade only amounted to one and two-thirds millions a year. But that was very far from being the case, India's trade with Russia really totalling three or four times that amount. What may be called the hidden balance was accounted for, of course, by re-exports from Germany. According to Mr. Chadwick, there are possibilities of increasing direct trade between India and Russia after the war, and he also called attention to the possibilities of increased trade with France and Italy.

As regards Russia, however, the position is complicated at present by the fact that communications are not calculated to encourage direct trade intercourse with India, and a considerable interval must doubtless elapse before the Persian route is developed into a really serviceable trade channel. And in the meanwhile the possibility has to be faced that Germany will be able to re-establish her old trade influence over Russia, and should that happen, I fear that the Russian market would not be a profitable medium for Indian trade. Already, it may be pointed out, the Germans are taking advantage of the Russian situation by trying to re-commence trade while the armistice remains in force. Indeed, one correspondent spoke of the German troops being equipped with goods for the purpose of barter as soon as prolonged fraternisation made the process possible. This, if it be correct, affords a charming glimpse of the German mentality. With the enemy it is evidently a case of "Trade follows the gun," instead of "Trade follows the flag."

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Lord Inchcape's speech at the general meeting of the P. and O., to which I referred briefly last week, is by far the most important utterance made on behalf of the mercantile marine during the war. It shows very plainly that shipping interests are deeply concerned regarding the future of the industry, owing to the absence of an official announcement by the authorities as to their post-war policy. That the Government should contemplate adding to their enormous responsibilities the control of this great industry is unthinkable, and it is a pity, therefore, that some more definite statement of policy has not been made than is contained in the remark of Mr. Bonar Law that the amount now being invested in standard ships would come back to the Treasury when the ships were sold.

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There is, of course, no question that there have been indications calculated to disturb shipping interests. As Lord Inchcape put it, "we observe a disposition on the part of a certain section in this country, notwithstanding all that shipowners, by their enterprise and energy, have done for the nation, to wrest their business from them, and to work the shipping industry as a national affair." It would be interesting to know if those whose minds run on these lines ever realise exactly how much the supremacy of the mercantile marine, which has placed us in such a commanding position in the war, and without which we could not possibly have held our own successfully, owes to individual unfettered effort, and whether they are of the opinion that with nationalisation the industry would continue to enjoy the same able guidance that it has done in the past.

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There is also the interesting point to remember that the process of nationalisation could hardly stop short at shipping. Sooner or later, all other industries would be involved. As to what the result of that would be I cannot do better than quote Lord Inchcape's words. "It would be against all recognised public policy," he pointed out, "to make a profit out of industries conducted by the State, the revenue from income-tax would disappear, we should be living on each other. I make bold to say that the 5 per cent. Loan, which now stands in the neighbourhood of 93, would be nearer 50, and repudiation would be on the horizon." It is not a pleasant vista to contemplate, but can anyone venture to say that, it is at all unlikely, should that improbable eventuality come to pass?

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Comment hardly seems called for on the prospectus of the additional £1,000,000 6 per Cent. Cumulative Preference shares created at the recent meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. The prospects of the undertaking, at one time so strangely underestimated, are now fully realised, and in no quarter is there the slightest doubt regarding the richness of the company's properties. The undertaking is still in its infancy, and the original programme of development is far from completion; and, bearing this in mind, the result achieved during the past financial year may be left to speak for itself. The shares are offered generally, but special consideration is to be given on allotment to shareholders in the Anglo-Persian and its associated enterprise, the Burmah Oil Company, so that the general public will be fortunate to participate in the issue.

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An interesting light is thrown on the German view of trade after the war by a series of essays just issued by the Central Union of the German Wholesale Trade. In one of them attention is called to the fact that large sums will have to be paid to foreign countries for imports, and it is pointed out that use must be made of the connections of the wholesale trade to obtain credit, so that payments will be better regulated. In this connection, emphasis is laid on the necessity of exporting goods of high value, such as potash and dyes, to obtain credits abroad. Evidently, however, the union is of the opinion that the expedient may not be sufficient, since it depends naturally on the willingness of other countries to take German goods, and so we get the pathetic observation that the problem would be greatly simplified by setting aside a large amount of gold for the use of importers.

COMMENTATOR.

"Premier"
The Whisky de Luxe
Is held in high esteem by those who know it because of its delicacy of flavour, its creamy smoothness and beauty of bouquet.
WRIGHT & GREIG, LTD., Distillers, GLASGOW and LONDON.
Agents for Mesopotamia: ANDREW WEIR & CO.

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The Romance of the Persian Oilfields.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

From Cæsar onwards, the commentators have laid it down that the art of war consists of doing the right thing, and doing it at once. But the writer of future commentaries will have to change this maxim. In the modern war of nations the point of supreme importance is to have done the right thing, and to have done it ten years before.

Of course, this is only a rather elaborate way of saying that war has become so technical a business that improvisation has been ruled out. The extent to which a great and powerful nation can still improvise is, indeed, remarkable. Witness "Kitchener's Army," and the huge host of well-trained and magnificently equipped fighting men the British Empire has poured into Flanders since the first hundred thousand stood the shock of the German onrush, and so gave civilisation time to mobilise its resources. Experience has shown that when urgency arises you can hurriedly turn citizens into soldiers and (metaphorically) beat your ploughshares into swords; but it has also proved that there are some things which you cannot improvise. And first and foremost of these is oil.

Mr. Walter Long, in the House of Commons the other day, dwelt on this subject at length. "Oil," he said, "is more important than anything else. You may have men, munitions, and money, but if you have not got oil all other advantages will be of comparatively little value." Few things are more striking than the rapidity with which the world has been rushed by the war into what may be described as the Oil Age. In essentials all fighting force depends on high motive power, and in some way or other high motive power is derived from oil or its products. The fast ships which give control of seapower, submarines, aeroplanes, high explosives, all these are directly and absolutely dependent on oil. The nation which in future faces the risks of war with another nation without having first secured to itself an adequate supply of oil on which it may rely in every conceivable combination of circumstances will be courting well-merited defeat. Probably all of us recognise this fact to-day, but how many recognised it a few years back? It is not too much to say that, but for the insight and vigorous initiative of a small handful of men, the British Empire would have been permanently shut off from any large and dependable source of supply, and would have been placed in the dangerous position of having to purchase this vital necessity from foreigners, or even, in certain contingencies, of not being able to get it at all.

A great deal has been heard of late of the development of the oil wealth of Persia, under the ægis of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, but the general public has little idea of the romantic story which lies behind that young, vigorous, and essentially British undertaking. It may be well briefly to recapitulate the facts here, if only for the purpose of paying a well-deserved tribute to an Englishman whose services to his country have been almost wholly overlooked.

An Englishman's Enterprise.

That Persia was rich in oil was known in a general way to geologists for many years, and spasmodic attempts to exploit the country were made from time to time. The first man who took the business seriously in hand was William Knox-d'Arcy. In or about 1901 d'Arcy obtained a concession from the Persian Government, and set to work systematically to locate oil. In five years he spent out of his private resources no less than £300,000! He abundantly proved the existence of rich oilfields, though his first strike (near Khanikin) was too remote from the seaboard to be commercially practical. At this stage the foreign oil magnates, who had for years completely dominated the trade of the world, awoke to the great possibilities of Persia, and all sorts of tempting proposals were made to d'Arcy to sell a controlling interest in his concession. But d'Arcy was not out for money. He knew what the possession of vast oilfields meant to Great Britain, and he determined that Great Britain and no other country should control the supply from Persia. The financial burden being too great for his own shoulders, he enlisted the interest of the then First Lord of the Admiralty—Lord Selborne—and through him the co-operation of the Burmah Oil Company, and of that great Empire builder, Lord Strathcona. In 1908 oil was struck in another rich field, situated only 150 miles from the Persian Gulf port of Mohammerah, and in 1909 the Anglo-Persian Oil Company was formed with a working capital of £1,200,000.

It is a little sad to have to relate that when the Anglo-Persian Oil Company first made its appearance it was contemptuously and even spitefully referred to by a section of the Press as "the d'Arcy Relief Company." As has already been shown, the insinuation was as baseless as it was mean. Had D'Arcy been looking simply for money he could have secured much better terms from German or other foreign financiers. d'Arcy was not a man who cared about advertisement, and his pioneer work in founding this great enterprise is the only monument he has left. Now that he is dead, without, unhappily, living to see the complete fructification of his hopes, it is at least fitting to pay him this tardy tribute.

From 1909 to 1913 the Anglo-Persian Company did a great amount of development work. It laid a pipe-line to Abadan (a port on the Persian Gulf), built a refinery at the latter place, and carried out a great amount of geological tests. Hopeful as the prospects were, however, there came a time when the cost of this necessary development proved a heavy strain on the company's resources. Money kept going out—very little came back—and there were those who, to use an expressive Americanism, "began to get cold feet." The foreign magnates, who had been quietly watching and waiting, came along again with their tempting offers. One foreign controlled company in particular showed a very strong desire to "come in"—provided it secured control. Many great commercial enterprises have gone through critical days in their inception, and for a period the future of the oil fields of Persia hung in the balance.

Fuel for the Navy.

One man, however, never lost faith in the commercial future of the enterprise, and moreover formed the vision that so great an asset must at all costs be maintained as a national possession. This man was Mr. Charles Greenway, the chairman and managing director of the company, who with a robust faith in the great future of the enterprise and characteristic resourcefulness and energy determined to endeavour to induce the Government to provide the further money required to bring it to a successful issue. Many people were very sceptical. What precedent, they asked, was there for the British Government providing funds for commercial enterprises of a highly-speculative character? The story is told that Mr. Greenway broached the subject to a well-known legal adviser, and the legal adviser suggested that Mr. Greenway should consult a doctor. "You must have been over-working," he said, by way of dismissing the matter. But Mr. Greenway was not to be discouraged. A staunch supporter was found in Lord Fisher, the constructive genius of the modern Navy. Lord Fisher had early grasped the importance of oil, and he saw clearly the vital necessity of securing adequate supplies for the British Navy. Mr. Winston Churchill—then First Lord—took the matter up with his indomitable energy, and gradually "enthused" the Cabinet. Mr. Lloyd George gave the great weight of his personal support, and amongst the other leading men who were instrumental in carrying the project through were Mr. McKenna and Sir Francis Hopwood (now Lord Southborough), the then Civil Lord of the Admiralty. But to Mr. Churchill more than to any single Minister belongs the credit, and the nation has every reason to be grateful to him for the courage he displayed in forcing the matter through an apathetic, and, it must be admitted, rather hostile House of Commons.

The negotiations which ultimately led to the Government investing the substantial sum of £2,200,000 in the company received a considerable measure of publicity, and were widely commented on in the Press. It is interesting at this time of day to take up Hansard and read the debates in the House when the vote was asked for. If members ever re-read their own speeches those who have still a sense of shame may well blush to be reminded of some of the things they then said. It would be unkind to particularise, but it may be recalled that one member, who described himself as an expert in the oil trade, damned the proposal root and branch. He observed that it was a sound maxim that a greengrocer should not grow his own cabbages, proceeded to throw cold water on the idea that oil could ever be discovered in payable quantities in Persia, and wound up by solemnly assuring the Government that wisdom lay in depending for their supplies on the "competitive market" which was always sure to exist in oil." The "competitive market"—when the Oil Trust dominated the world's markets absolutely, and hardly a ton could be produced except at their price and on their conditions! A great deal more of this sort of nonsense was talked, but finally the Government secured its vote by a handsome majority.

The activities of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company since the great war began are necessarily shrouded behind a veil of secrecy. It is known that the company has rendered important service to the Allied cause by providing oil and oil products to the British Government at a time when both were urgently needed, but beyond this general statement nothing can be said. It may, however, be pointed out that the Persian source of supply has had its influence on the price of the commodity charged by other producers, and so the British taxpayer has gained in more ways than one.

Government Holding.

At the annual general meeting of the company, held on December 3, the chairman, Mr. C. Greenway, gave an interesting survey of the position, which deserves to be widely read in detail. A few of the main figures from his speech may, however, be conveniently quoted here. Working under all the limitations and disabilities imposed by the war, the company has in the past three years made very rapid progress. In 1916 the trading profit amounted to £171,723; in 1917 this jumped up to 415,327, while in the current year the business already done justifies Mr. Greenway in predicting that the trading profit will reach the huge figure of £800,000 to £1,000,000. The company's capital has been increased from the original £1,200,000 to no less than £6,000,000, and ultimately will no doubt reach a much higher figure. Contracts have already been secured for future delivery of something like 15,000,000 tons of oil products.

Some of the figures quoted by Mr. Greenway are bewildering in their immensity, although it must carefully be borne in mind that only a comparatively small section of the area embraced in the company's concession has so far been touched. The output is already larger than the pre-war production of the whole of the Roumanian and Galician oil fields, to obtain which it is estimated that more than £40,000,000 sterling of capital has been sunk and more than 2,000 wells opened out. Moreover the quality of Persian oil is exceptionally good. The crude product is rich in benzine and kerosene while it yields good lubricating oil, fuel oil of high thermol efficiency, and first-rate paraffin wax.

Mr. Greenway scored one notable point. When the Government, as already noted, entered into a contract to provide the company with £2,200,00 of capital, sapient critics averred that the bargain was financially unsound, and prophesied that all this money and probably more would all be lost. Financial writers enlarged on the theme, and spoke gloomily of "millions of the taxpayers' money" being sunk in an unprofitable enterprise. As a mere matter of fact, the Government has so far actually paid in cash £2,200,000, some of which has only recently

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been handed over, and Mr. Greenway made the offer to the Government, that if it felt at all dissatisfied with its bargain, he would undertake to find purchasers for its interest for not less than £6,000,000, and perhaps £8,000,000. An investment which trebles or quadruples in value in an average period of eighteen months is one which most of us would be glad enough to get into! Nor may we take £8,000,000 as even an approximate estimate of the ultimate value of the Government holding in the company, and Mr. Greenway looks forward to the time when the annual yield in the shape of dividends will be multiplied many times over. Every schoolboy knows of Disraeli's famous purchase of Suez Canal shares, and no doubt in years to come future generations of schoolboys will applaud Mr. Winston Churchill's acuteness in acquiring control of the Anglo-Persian undertaking. Reputations for financial acumen have been built up on slenderer foundations.

Oil's Universal Use.

In this article so far attention has been confined to consideration of oil as an element of war, or, at least, as a commodity produced under war conditions. Somehow or other the war dominates our thoughts and colours our views on every subject. But peace will be restored to a stricken world one day, and with peace the demand for oil will be greater than ever. If we are to repair the wholesale destruction of wealth and wealth-producing plant which Europe has witnessed in these four devastating years, in any reasonable space of time, a great and concentrated effort is called for, and first and above all we shall have to improve our communications and increase our mechanical efficiency. Now, improvement of communications and increase of mechanical efficiency largely turn on the problem of an adequate supply of oil. The huge expansion that is coming in aeronautics means oil and still more oil. Ploughing by tractors instead of horse-drawn ploughs means oil and still more oil. It is not necessary to labour the argument. We are living in the oil age.

Here, at last, one may see the true significance and importance from an Imperial point of view of the dominating position which control of the great Persian fields gives to the British Empire. In other parts of the world production of oil is beginning to show signs of exhaustion. Many once rich fields are already exhausted, and as demand increases there is reason to fear that the supply will not be equal to meet it. The nation which has not its own supply under its own control, and which has to depend on what it can purchase from others, will be hopelessly handicapped; certainly no nation so placed can hope to retain front rank as a commercial Power. One may even go further and say that possession of adequate oil supplies should give the nation fortunate enough to possess them a commanding position in the struggle for supremacy, and in this connection the suggestion of Mr. Greenway, that the policy initiated by the Government in acquiring a controlling interest in the Persian fields should be further extended by the formation of an "All-British" company to acquire similar interests in other oilfields, developed or undeveloped, to add further to the security and prosperity of the nation, is deserving of the most serious consideration. While other fields, notably American and Russian, are giving out, the yield from Persia is as yet only in its first stages. As has already been stated, only a small portion of the vast concession obtained by Mr. d'Arcy has so far been tapped, and geologists are confident, from tests actually made, that great new areas of oil-bearing land remain to be opened up. Is it too much to say that this huge actual and potential wealth is going to play an important part in giving the British Empire a new impetus in the twentieth century which will ensure her commercial supremacy for generations to come?

The Fiat Company, at Turin, Italy, which has a capital of 50,000,000 liras, has recently absorbed the three following companies:—The Ferriere Piemontesi Steel and Iron Foundries, Rolling Mills, etc., capital 9,000,000 liras; the Officine gia Fili Diatto Railways and Trams Rolling Stock Works, capital 4,000,000 liras; and the Industrie Metallurgiche Torino Steel and Iron Works, with a capital of 4,000,000 liras.

INDIAN TRADE.

Post War Prospects in Russia, France, and Italy.

At a meeting of the Royal Society of Arts on December 13 a very interesting paper on "The Trade of India with Russia, France, and Italy" was read by Mr. D. T. Chadwick, I.C.S., Indian Trade Commissioner. He said that although the Asiatic markets were very important to India, the European ones were the most valuable. In 1913 foreign countries in Europe took one third of all India's exported goods, and the United Kingdom one quarter; and, curiously enough, India's trade with European foreign countries was practically equally divided between enemy countries and the Allies. Thus, although the channels through which trade would flow after the war were still most obscure, India was obviously very directly interested in the commercial needs and possibilities of the Allies, and, in cases where they had been buying Indian produce through Germany or Austria, in seeing whether direct relations could not be substituted for enemy trade.

Enemy Influence in Russia.

The extent of German penetration in Russia, he declared, almost surpassed the imagination of those who had not been there. In the big towns German and Russian were the languages of business—French or English was of little use. Over 10 per cent. of the ordinary commercial and news journals published in Russia before the war were printed in German. Even British trading houses had in the past given sole agencies for Northern Europe to Hamburg firms. Several Russian banks were organised or developed by German interests; large and compact properties in the towns were owned by Germans; behind all this was a very well equipped Consular service which Germans used freely.

In thinking of German trade with Russia it was wrong to think of it as confined to trade in manufactured goods. As far as India knew, Indian trade with Russia outside tea was almost negligible, being only worth about £400,000 a year. Including the tea trade, which had largely been developed by Russian merchants in Calcutta, the total of consignments direct from India to Russia was about one and two-thirds of a million sterling a year. The Russian returns, however, showed that before the war goods known to be of Indian origin to the value of three and two-thirds millions sterling reached Russia, and if an estimate was added for those whose identity of origin was lost in transit, due to rehandling or regrading, or polishing, etc., Russia's imports of Indian goods were worth between five and six millions, and covered a variety of articles, although in India they deemed the trade a small one, and one mostly restricted to tea. Manufacturers and merchants repeatedly said, he went on, that they had regularly bought Rangoon rice in Hamburg, Indian kips at Leipzig, jute from German houses, and so with pepper, castor, beeswax, etc. One merchant in Moscow went so far as to say, "Yes, you had the goods, but the Germans knew how to sell them."

Openings in Russia.

The largest openings, said Mr. Chadwick, seemed to lie with certain foodstuffs, oilseeds, light hides, reagents for soft tannage, medicinal plants, spices, beeswax, lac, and rubber. In oilseeds the position was peculiar. For linseed there was, of course, no need, and for castor an increasing one. There was a large and growing demand for edible vegetable large and growing demand for edible vegetable grades of copra. Another rapidly increasing civil demand was for long boots with soft uppers—which might also mean reagents for soft tannage such as myrabolams. Lac was in large demand in village industries round Moscow, whilst there was always a big market for scrap rubber for making goloshes, which were widely used by all grades of the community in the towns. The demand for Indian products was thus both varied and growing.

Trade with France.

The trade from India to France was old-established and considerable—viz., about 12 millions a year—and goods in the main went direct between the two countries. As a result of war there had been a large development in the industries of the Rhone Valley, and several of the biggest mills of the north had opened factories there. This would possibly create a new area using some of their Indian goods. In new lines of Indian goods there should in all probability be openings in France for a few articles. First, hides. Hitherto France had mostly bought Indian skins, and had purchased what hides she needed through Germany. The tanning industry had been developed, and was getting into closer touch with the original sources of the raw material. Hides might thus form a new line to France. Jute sacks for Havre, made exactly to specification as to markings and size, might be in demand in spite of the duty, if shipping freights continued high. He thought that in the main Indian trade with France would follow its usual course, with those possible additions, and, perhaps, tea, which was steadily growing in favour.

The Italian Market.

India's exports to Italy before the war were worth about five millions a year, and consisted almost entirely of raw materials for industries, such as cotton, jute, hides, oilseeds. The only foodstuffs taken in any quantity were wheat and pepper. There was not much scope for introducing new articles of food and drink from India, for Italy grew her own rice, did not drink tea, and preferred the cheaper South American coffee. It was in the development of her industries that the chief market for the future would lie, and the progress made there was remarkable. Italy promised to offer an alternative market to some extent to Germany for several of India's products, notably in cotton and hides, and perhaps in oilseeds. The Italian cotton mills already used a greater proportion of Indian cotton than did any of the other large European countries. Indian hides were bought to some extent in Germany, besides being imported direct. Moreover, a very considerable amount of chrome leather for uppers for boots—for which Indian hides were well suited—was imported from Germany. During the war that process had been developed in Italy, and much attention had been paid to the organisation and development of tanning industries. There was scope in hides for a considerable development, and it was a trade notoriously under German control. He also believed there were possibilities in regard to oilseeds. Tanning materials, mica, lac, rubber, and gums were asked for. Indian hemp was required, but complaints against quality were to be heard. Indian wheat was very largely blamed for the presence of dust, barley grains, and weevils; and although it was well suited for the manufacture of paste and macaroni, the Italians said they only bought it when the Russian and Roumanian crops were short.

OPENINGS FOR BRITISH TRADE.

Since the outbreak of the war, applications have been received at the Department of Commercial Intelligence from a large number of firms in all parts of the United Kingdom and abroad who wish to get into communication with British manufacturers or producers of various classes of goods which have previously been obtained from Germany and Austria-Hungary. Applications have now been recorded for the names of manufacturers or producers of the following (amongst other) articles; British manufacturers or producers of these articles now in a position to supply are invited to make application for the names of the inquirers:—Brace fittings (rustless metal); buckles for ladies' and gentlemen's trench coats; buttons for ladies' and gentlemen's trench coats; garter fittings (rustless metal); machinery for making wooden toothpicks; machine for marking thermometers; tie fittings (rustless metal); and whalebone for brushes.

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ENGINEERING NOTES

Concrete Railway Sleepers.

In view of the high price of timber and the great demand for its use in other directions, the possibility of using concrete railway sleepers instead of wood is attracting the attention of many railway and engineering concerns at the present time. The question may also interest those concerned with railways in the Near East, where some important extensions and connections of existing railway lines have had to be postponed owing to the scarcity of timber for sleepers. As it happens, the principal material for the construction of concrete sleepers can be found in abundance in one or two of the Ægean Islands; some particulars, therefore, of experiments which have been carried out with concrete railway sleepers in various parts of the world may be of interest. In America the Pennsylvania lines have over 4,000 in use, and they and other railways have carried out trials with many different types. In England the South-Eastern and Chatham, the Midland, and Great Northern Joint Committee, the Great Central, the Great Eastern, the London and South-Western, and the London and North-Western have either tried them at different times or are arranging to do so. The Italian railway administration has long been using them extensively, and the French railways in Indo-China have been using them for many years on a very large scale. Trials have also been made with them on railways in France, Spain, Sweden, Bavaria, and India. Still, it cannot be said that, as yet, they have been definitely adopted anywhere, and evidently there are still difficulties which remain to be overcome, one of which is concerned with the attachment of the rail to the sleeper, and another the tendency for the concrete to crack and disintegrate. However, in view of the present difficulties of obtaining the required timber, and the possibility that they will continue long after the war, the question of using concrete sleepers is worthy of special consideration.

A Labour-Saving Cultivator.

Farmers and planters in the East are often in despair over the difficulty of finding efficient hands at the proper season for the cultivation of such plants as cotton, beets, vines, a variety of garden vegetables, etc., which, as a rule, are growing in rows or hills. From a general point of view, with the average Oriental farmer the employment of the ordinary plough ceases after the preparation of the field for sowing or drilling is accomplished. All subsequent processes for the cultivation of the plants, such as digging between the rows, hilling or hill-digging, etc., are done by hand with old-fashioned tools. The full development and generally the success of the plants depend on carrying out that kind of cultivation in time. Hence the anxiety of the farmer to secure the services of as many hands as he requires, even at high wages. Oriental landowners and farmers are showing a steadily increasing disposition to discard their old-fashioned agricultural implements and to replace them with the more convenient and labour-saving devices that are now available. A new cultivating machine of recent design, which can do the work of many hands in a plantation, will be of much interest to planters and farmers generally in the East. This machine is expressly designed for the cultivation of cotton, beets, vines, or any other plants in rows or hills, and can be obtained with an outfit of several different styles of blades, which enable it to be used for widely varying purposes. By simply loosening four nuts on the wheel standards the space between the wheels can be changed from 46 inches, the greatest width, to 34 inches, the narrowest, thus making it possible to cultivate rows from 24 inches apart to 54 inches. Ordinarily, four hilling shovels, 2½ inches wide, are used on each of the two gangs. The shovel standards can be raised or lowered or revolved at any angle desired by the operator. In addition, they can be set closer, and five shovels be put on each side of the gang, two or three being used on each gang. There is also a special disc attachment which enables the user of this cultivator to use either discs or shovels for his work.

The Perils of Restriction.

It is evident that in Sheffield, as in many other engineering centres, the belief is widely held that Government prohibitions and restrictions born of an understandable eagerness to help the war, are damaging foreign and colonial trade to a remarkable degree. As an instance the case of the most expensive Sheffield steels is pointed out. It is well known that for many years now the quality of Sheffield steel has been unsurpassed. Other nations may have been doing better as regards total production, but in point of quality Sheffield has always been an easy first. Thus Sheffield enjoyed a monopoly in this class of trade, for engineers all the world over relied on Sheffield steel alone for superior work. Substitutes were not tolerated, and just before the outbreak of the war Sheffield's pre-eminence seemed unchallenged and unchallengeable. To-day this valuable monopoly has been lost; and, according to a reliable source, local firms are denied facilities to cater for it, and the probability is that vast markets in the East and on the American continent will become the cockpit of bitter competition after the war, owing to the fact that Sheffield's isolation has enabled others to establish sound connections. Strenuous times are therefore ahead, and it behoves Sheffield firms to prepare for them. The same may be said with regard to a variety of British engineering products for which there is a great demand at the present moment, even in British colonies and protectorates, but which cannot be supplied owing to the existing restrictions. In the meantime foreign manufacturers avail themselves of every opportunity to do business in those markets and with methods which will make competition with them difficult after the war.

Italy as Motor Exporter.

While British manufacturers are under restrictions, statistics issued by the Italian Ministry of Finance, show that our Ally, now the most important motor exporting country in Europe, is still increasing the number and value of her automobile exports, while imports of motrs into that country are on the down grade. For the six months ending June, 1917, the number of motor vehicles exported was 4,148, of which 3,904 were lorries and 344 touring cars. The value of these vehicles was 66,008,805 liras. These quantities were nearly double those for the corresponding period of 1916. The Italian motor factories are meeting all the home requirements, as is shown by the import figures, which give only three lorries in the first six months of 1915, nine in 1916, and ten during the present year.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Business on Limited Scale.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Wednesday.

The market has continued to present a strong appearance, and prices have again tended to go against buyers. Business on the whole has been on a rather limited scale. Here and there producers have picked up fair lines, but there has not been any general buying movement. The Control Board has completed its arrangements for the curtailment of production in weaving. From the beginning of next week all firms will have to reduce the output by 30 per cent. compared with normal times. The Egyptian cotton situation shows very little change. The growth is understood to be doing well, and prices keep fairly steady. Egyptian yarns, after being more active, are now rather quieter, but some producers have strengthened their position during the last few weeks. The undercurrent of demand in piece goods for Egypt keeps up fairly well, but there are more difficulties than ever in arranging transactions. Isolated sales have occurred in sized materials and also in printing cloths. India has given very little support, the offers mentioned in dhooties and jaconets for Madras being too low. No improvement has transpired in the offtake for China. Manufacturers who use bought yarn are now feeling rather severely the competition of those firms who both spin and weave. The upward movement in prices for American yarns continues, and it is now practically impossible to obtain early deliveries of certain counts and qualities. Only a retail trade has been done in export numbers.

According to *Reuter's* Melbourne correspondent, Mr. Hughes heartily applauds the British Metal Industries Bill.

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EGYPT'S TRADE.

Improved Imports in October.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 25.

The Customs returns for October, just published, show a slight set-back in the export trade of the country, though imports have picked up somewhat. Thus, during the month exports amounted to £E2,201,634, and imports to £E2,711,844, as compared with £E4,063,213 and £E2,264,304 respectively in October, 1916. The position for the whole ten months now stands at a reduction of £E366,434 in imports, and an increase of £E5,782,409 on the figures for the corresponding period of last year.

Imports.

The chief imports during the month were: Preserved meat £E144,116 (all from Australia), flour £E161,091 (all from the Empire, mostly from India), coal £E264,228 (all from England—a decrease of 62,500 tons over the same month last year), cotton tissues £E398,176 (80 per cent. from England and the balance from Italy), sacks £E238,534 (all from India), tea £E57,081 (India), stationery £E59,349 (45 per cent. from Italy, 30 per cent. from England, whence practically all the writing and printing paper came), and 15 per cent. from Holland), worked iron and steel £E64,962 (70 per cent. from England, 16 per cent. from America), cotton threads £E56,556 (75 per cent. from India, 13 per cent. from Spain, and 10 per cent. from England), silken goods £E59,933 (60 per cent. from China, 20 per cent. from Italy, and 20 per cent. from Japan), and tobacco £E310,683 (70 per cent. from Greece, 14 per cent. from Japan. No sugar, petroleum, liquid fuel, benzine, fuel wood, or chemical manures were imported during the month.

Exports.

The most important exports were eggs £E23,989, cotton seed £E84,083 (in each case Great Britain took all), sugar £E111,284 (50 per cent. to French possessions in the Mediterranean and 45 per cent. to India), gum £E55,720 (80 per cent. to France and 16 per cent. to Italy), skins and tanned goods £E123,772 (45 per cent. to Greece, 35 per cent. to Italy), cotton £E1,593,728 (56 per cent. to Great Britain, 14 per cent. to Italy, 15 per cent. to France, 7 per cent. to Japan, and 6 per cent. to Spain)—America and Russia took no cotton, the export of which was £E1,769,646 less in value, and 371,985 kantars less in quantity than during the corresponding month last year—and cigarettes £E37,606. No cotton-seed cake was exported during the month.

Growth of Trade with India.

Turning to the share taken by the various foreign countries in Egypt's external trade during October, we find that under imports Great Britain has declined very much, from about one-half to one-third; the Empire's share is, however, more than kept up by the Colonies, India sending nearly five times what she did a year ago. The United States also fell off very much owing to no petroleum imports, but Greece made a most noticeable improvement, due to larger tobacco imports. Except for an increase in entries from Japan and China the other countries for all practical purposes maintained their proportions. Under exports Great Britain's share fell from over 70 per cent. to under 50 per cent., the United States dropped to practically nothing, and Russia and Portugal took nothing. On the other hand, France, Spain, Greece, Italy, and Japan substantially increased their share. During the month silver money amounting to £E185,479 was brought in, as to two-thirds from India and one-third from England.

Trade with the Sudan flourished during the month in question. Imports from Egypt into the Sudan rose from £E96,392 to £E151,586, and traffic in the opposite direction from £E70,705 to £E178,023. The principal imports into Egypt from the Sudan were live-stock £E86,375—about 50 per cent. more in number than a year ago, cereals £E18,213, gum £E59,266—up to date the total weight is six times what it was at the end of October, 1916. The chief exports from Egypt into the Sudan were: Sugar £E41,176, and cotton tissues £E27,580.

THE C.P.R. AND THE WAR.

Replying to a cablegram from Lord Mount Stephen, first president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, congratulating him on his speech on the work of the company in connection with the war, Lord Shaughessy, vice-president and chairman of the company, says:—"Many thanks for cable. Company pleased and gratified to have been able to render such important assistance and to be in a position to do more if occasion requires. You were the pioneer, and without you the enterprise would have perished in its infancy. In intervening years we passed through some heavy weather but the ship was built on staunch lines and came through safely. No one has more right to feel pleasure and pride because of present position than yourself."

THE CONTROL OF TRADE.

At the last meeting of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce it was decided to place the following resolution upon the programme of the Associated Chambers annual meeting in March with reference to Government control of trade:—"That this Association views with apprehension the methods adopted by the Government in connection with the control of trade and industry as affecting the legitimate business of manufacturers, merchants and traders, and while recognising the necessity for reasonable restrictions in the national interests urges that they should not be continued after the war except where absolutely necessary in the economic interests of the country, which require that the existing channels of business in connection with imports and exports, combined with the practical experience of persons engaged therein, shall be utilised to the fullest possible extent."

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CONTRACTORS TO GOVERNMENT.

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The Treasury has been consulted under the Notification of the 18th January, 1915, and raises no objection to this issue.

It must be distinctly understood that in considering whether they have or have not any objection to New Issues the Treasury does not take any responsibility for the financial soundness of any schemes or for the correctness of any of the statements made or opinions expressed with regard to them.

A Copy of this Prospectus has been filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Subscription List was Opened on the 19th December, 1917, and Closes on or before the 24th December, 1917

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

(Incorporated under the Companies (Consolidation) Act, 1908.)

SHARE CAPITAL - - - £5,000,000.

DIVIDED INTO

2,000,000 CUMULATIVE SIX PER CENT. (participating up to 8 per cent.) PREFERENCE SHARES of £1 each (of which 1,000,000 are already issued),

3,000,000 ORDINARY SHARES of £1 each (all issued and paid up).

The Company has also issued

£2,000,000 of FIVE PER CENT. FIRST DEBENTURE STOCK

(this Stock is redeemable by a sinking fund, and the amount issuable is limited to one-half of the Share Capital of the Company for the time being issued).

Issue of 1,000,000 Cumulative Six per Cent. (participating up to 8 per cent.) Preference Shares of £1 each, at £1 2s. 6d. per Share,

Payable—2s. 6d. per Share on Application, 5s. per Share (including the premium) on Allotment, 15s. per Share on 15th January, 1918.

The Shares now issued will rank for dividend as from the 1st October, 1917.

The permission of the Stock Exchange has been granted for dealings in the Shares now offered.

ABRIDGED PROSPECTUS.

The Company was registered on the 14th April, 1909, and, in addition to the Concession and the Shares in the First Exploitation Company, Limited, and the Bakhtiari Oil Company, as referred to in the full prospectus, has acquired the following further interests:—

(4) 27,680 fully-paid Shares of £1 each (making a total of £477,680 out of an issued Capital of £544,000) in the First Exploitation Co., Ltd.
(5) 282,000 fully-paid Shares of £1 each (making a total of £582,000 out of an issued Capital of £600,000) in the Bakhtiari Oil Co., Ltd.
(6) 200,000 fully-paid Shares of £1 each (the whole Capital) in the British Tanker Co., Ltd.
(7) 300,000 fully-paid Shares of £10 each (the whole Capital) in the British Petroleum Co., Ltd.
(8) 200,000 fully-paid Shares of £1 each (the whole Capital) in the Homelight Oil Co., Ltd.
(9) 362,582 fully-paid Shares of £1 each (the whole issued Capital) in the Petroleum Steamship Co., Ltd.,

and various other smaller investments.

The Company has, since its formation, carried out a large amount of exploratory and development work, with the result that large areas of very productive Oil territory have been proved. The further knowledge which has been gained during the past few years' operations leads to the conclusion that the Concession held by the Company covers a petroliferous area of enormous extent and great richness. The Oil now being produced is all obtained from flowing Wells of large volume, and consequently the cost of production is very low.

The Crude Oil is of a high grade, containing unusually large percentages of Benzine and Kerosene, good qualities of Lubricating Oils and Mineral Wax, Fuel, Oils of high thermal efficiency, and it also yields a satisfactory percentage of Aromatic Hydrocarbons.

Two Pipelines (one of 6 and 8 inches and another of 10 inches) have been laid from the Fields now being worked to the seaboard on the Persian Gulf; extensive up-to-date Refineries, Storage Tanks, Jetties, etc., have been erected and equipped; and a large fleet of Tank and other Steamers, Tugs, Lighters, etc., and also extensive Distributing Installations, have been built or otherwise acquired.

To provide additional funds for Pipelines, Refineries, etc., His Majesty's Government in the year 1914 subscribed at par for 2,000,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, 1,000 Preference Shares of £1 each, and £199,000 Debenture Stock; but only one-half of the Refineries for which this Capital was provided has yet come into operation.

The present issue of Participating Preference Shares is for the purpose of providing the Capital required for further considerable extensions to the Refineries, Pumping Stations, etc., which have to be immediately undertaken in order to meet urgent war requirements.

Up to March, 1916, the Company was more or less in the development stage. Notwithstanding that the delay in completion of the new Pipe-line consequent upon the disturbances in Persia in 1915 materially affected results, the net profit for the year ended 31st March, 1917, after charging Debenture Interest, the Royalties payable to the Persian Government, and making liberal allowance for depreciation, amounted to £344,109 15s. 8d., as shown by the audited accounts, although only a small portion of the Plant provided out of the Capital subscribed by His Majesty's Government had then come into operation.

For the current Financial Year, taking the actual results for the first eight months and estimating the remaining four months, the net profit, after paying Debenture Interest, allowing for Royalties and making liberal provision for depreciation, will amount to not less than £800,000, which is equivalent to six and one-half times the amount required to pay the cumulative dividend of 6 per cent. on the 2,000,000 Preference Shares and to two and one-third times the amount required to pay this cumulative dividend, plus 6 per cent. on the 3,000,000 Ordinary Shares and the additional 2 per cent. on the Preference Shares.

The profit will be substantially increased when the remainder of the above Plant comes into operation, and another large increase may be anticipated when the further extensions to be carried out with the present issue of Capital are completed. Moreover, a considerable additional income is anticipated from Dividends on the Shares which have recently been acquired in the British Petroleum Company, Limited, the Homelight Oil Company, Limited, the Petroleum Steamship Company, Limited, and the other concerns above enumerated.

Sales have been effected at remunerative prices of 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 tons of the Company's Products, ensuring substantial profits for many years to come.

The whole issue has been underwritten under a Contract dated 15th December, 1917, and made between the Company of the one part and Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co., of 8, Crosby Square, E.C., of the other part, for an underwriting Commission of 2 per cent., with an overriding Commission of ⅛ths per cent., and a Commission of ¼ per cent. to Messrs. Robert Fleming and Co. for procuring and arranging the underwriting.

Copies of the last-mentioned Contract, and of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, may be seen at the Office of the Company at any time during business hours.

Application for Shares should be made upon the Form accompanying the Prospectus, and be sent to any of the Company's Bankers, together with a remittance of the amount of the deposit.

Where no allotment is made the deposit will be returned in full, and where the number of shares allotted is less than that applied for, the balance of the deposit will be applied towards the sums payable on allotment, and/or in respect of the final call, and any surplus will be repaid to the applicant.

A brokerage of 1¼d. per Share will be paid on allotments made upon applications bearing Brokers' stamps.

Full Prospectuses, upon the terms of which alone applications will be received, and Forms of Application may be obtained at the Office of the Company, and of the Burmah Oil Company, Limited, in Glasgow and London, or from the respective Bankers and their branches.

Dated 19th December, 1917.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman and Managing Director.

CHARLES GREENWAY, 13, Wilton Crescent, London, S.W.

Vice-Chairman.

ADMIRAL SIR E. J. W. SLADE, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., 128, Church Street, Kensington, London, W.

Representative of His Majesty's Government.

The Right Hon. LORD INCHCAPE, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., 4, Seamore Place, Mayfair, London, W.
SIR HUGH S. BARNES, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O., East India United Service Club, London, S.W.
JOHN T. CARGILL, Chairman, The Burmah Oil Company, 175, West George Street, Glasgow.
SIR CAMPBELL K. FINLAY, Warfield Grove, Bracknell, Berks.
DUNCAN GARROW, Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.
JAMES HAMILTON, 175, West George Street, Glasgow.
F. W. LUND, 81, Gracechurch Street, London, E.C.
H. E. NICHOLS, Britannic House, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.
FRANK C. TIARKS, The Manor, Davies Street, London, W.
COL. SIR T. R. WYNNE, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., 6, The Albany, Piccadilly, London, W.

Bankers.

National Provincial Bank of England, Ltd., Head Office, 15, Bishopsgate, London, E.C., and Branches. Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh (Head Office); Glasgow; London, and Branches. Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

Solicitors for the Company.

Ashurst, Morris, Crisp, and Co., 17, Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

Auditors.

Brown, Fleming, and Murray, C.A., 175, West George Street, Glasgow.

Secretary.

F. Macindoe.

Offices.

Registered Office.—Britannic House, 23, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C. Glasgow Office.—175, West George Street, Glasgow.

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COMPANY MEETINGS.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL STEAMSHIP

The twentieth ordinary general meeting of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company, Ltd., was held on December 18, at Old Broad Street, London, Lord Ernest Hamilton (the Chairman) presiding.

The Acting Secretary (Mr. Alfred C. Silley) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Gentlemen, the net profit for the year, after deducting London office expenses, debenture interest, directors' fees, depreciation, etc., amounts to £24,062 6s. 9d., as against £51,957 3s. 1d. last year. The falling off in the net results is mainly due to the increase in the price of coal and the increase in the cost of insurance against war risks. Our coal bill is £48,000 higher than last year, and our insurance bill is £124,000 higher than last year. On the other hand, we have taken £230,000 more in freight on goods, but we have taken as against that £93,000 less on account of transport. Several of our ships throughout the period under review have been under Admiralty charter; a few of the smaller vessels have been free in the Red Sea; the s.s. "Kosseir" has been used to maintain the Cyprus contract, and four ships have traded fairly regularly since the beginning of the war between Egypt and the United Kingdom. These four ships have so far mainly been utilised, for the purpose of taking out coal for the purposes of the company's services in Egypt and returning with cotton seed and similar freights. With regard to the present uses to which these four ships are being put, I shall have a few words to add later on in my remarks. I regret to have to report that one of our steamers was sunk by a submarine. I do not think there is anything further to add with regard to the past year's working.

The shareholders are naturally always anxious to have some forecast as to the prospects of the coming year, and I think it is my duty to inform the meeting that the position in this respect is extremely doubtful. As most of you no doubt know, the Ministry of Shipping have requisitioned the greater part of the trading tonnage of the kingdom. Under this heading come our four small ships which since the beginning of the war, as I have already mentioned, have been regularly trading between Egypt and the United Kingdom. Since June—that is to say, very nearly from the date of the closing of last year's accounts—these four boats have been running under the control of the Ministry of Shipping. Under this system, as you are all aware, the trading profits of the ships are taken by the Government. The running expenses of the ships have to be defrayed by the company, and in return the company receives certain payments which are based on what are known as Blue Book rates. In the case of certain liners—I may, perhaps, say the majority of liners—there is the possibility that these Blue Book rates constitute an adequate rate of recompense. In our case they certainly do not. Our ships are small, are slow sailers, and, being old and designed on rather obsolete lines, are very expensive to run. This being so, the Blue Book rates fall short of the actual running expenses, so that these four ships running backwards and forwards between Egypt and the United Kingdom are at the present moment running at an actual loss to the company. This is so far only as direct loss is concerned. There is the further element of indirect loss which constitutes an even more serious feature. As I have already informed you, these four ships, so long as they were free, were used to feed our Egyptian services with coal. Under the present control system we are not at liberty to ship coal for our own uses except under special permission, which is not always obtainable. As a consequence we are in the position of being forced to buy coal at practically any price which the local merchants in Egypt choose to ask. We are forced to buy this coal in order to maintain our Government contracts, which, except for this self-sacrificing action on our part, would come to a standstill for want of fuel. The result is that the Cyprus mail contract service is being run at present at a very serious loss to the company. The company's two workshops at Alexandria and Suez, which are mainly employed in doing Admiralty work are in constant difficulties for coal supplies, and have, in fact, been forced on occasion to use cotton seed as a substitute fuel, and all the profit which should accrue from the Red Sea service is neutralised by the famine prices at which we have to buy coal in order to keep them going. Under these circumstances the question arises, and will naturally present itself to the mind of shareholders, as to how far it is justifiable for the Board of Directors to sacrifice the profits of their shareholders in the interests of patriotism.

We have made formal protests to the Ministry of Shipping, pointing out the great hardship of our peculiar case, and asking for special exemption to be granted us from conditions which may adequately pay other shipping companies differently situated from our own, but which certainly do not pay us. The question also arises as to how far we are under obligation to carry on the Cyprus mail contract on terms which were agreed upon before the war, and which even then did not leave us any extravagantly handsome margin of profit. The freights which we are allowed to charge in connection with this service are controlled by the Government, but the prices at which we have to buy coal are not controlled. This constitutes, in our opinion, a very grave hardship to a small company of this character, and I cannot believe that it can be intended that we should carry on a service which is a distinct advantage to the Government and without which they would be in a very awkward position, and at the same time that we should be forced to suffer financially for doing what we hold to be our duty. (Hear, hear.) All these matters have got to be very carefully considered, and for this reason it is impossible for me to forecast the future with any degree of certainty. I mention these facts, however, because I think it my duty to let shareholders know the extraordinary difficulties under which the Board is at present labouring. We are doing our very utmost to safeguard your interests as far as they can be safeguarded without coming into direct conflict with the Government. We have not the slightest desire as a Board to act in any manner which might be considered unpatriotic. At the same time we strongly hold the belief that though it may be right for shareholders in a shipping company to be called upon in such times as these to make certain sacrifices in the interests of their country, still we think that in our peculiarly situated case the sacrifices we are asked to make are altogether out of reason and ought not to be enforced. (Hear, hear.)

He proposed that the report be received and adopted.

Mr. Allen seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. H. Skeel asked whether the chairman could give him any information as to the oil position in Egypt. Some of them had been cheered to know that there was oil there, and he would like to know whether there was any possibility of that helping them in the future as regarded their coal bill.

Mr. Hugh Reeves said that as a considerable ordinary shareholder he thought those present should congratulate the Chairman and directors on the very substantial balance-sheet presented. The Chairman had confined his remarks chiefly to the financial difficulties which they foresaw in these peculiar times of stress. The shareholders were obliged to him for pointing out what those difficulties were, and, as the last speaker but one had said, they would back them up in any way they could to get fair treatment. Why, as a shipping man said the other day, should the shareholders who had produced the most essential asset of the country—tonnage—be unnecessarily badly treated? Why should the people who produced the thing which went to the salvation of the country be treated as if they really should not be considered at all? (Hear, hear.) He had gathered from the Chairman's remarks that the company had done a very much bigger business during the year under the peculiar stress and strain which they knew had attended shipping ventures, but that unfortunately, had not resulted in an increased profit. However, looking at the capital values as stated in the balance-sheet, he discerned a certain amount of cautious management, and due care for the interests of the shareholders in that their capital assets had increased very materially. Looking at the matter from this point of view and putting a reasonable value upon the company's ships—and he happened to know something about the freehold property in Egypt—he regarded the position as peculiarly encouraging to the ordinary shareholder. If they took away from the liabilities side the debentures and the copious provision for sundry creditors and put a fair value upon their land and not an extravagant value upon their shipping they got a clear asset of about £1,000,000 for the shareholders. He thought this was a rather encouraging position for them, and he hoped that the directors would be able to rectify the difficulties which they foresaw and be in a position to pay the shareholders a good dividend next year. He congratulated the Board on the results they had obtained. (Applause.)

Mr. H. P. Henley asked whether the company would not give notice to the Government to cease running to Cyprus and so save a loss which was now being incurred. He also wished to ask, with regard to the item "Steamship realisation balance awaiting settlement," whether that matter had been settled.

Mr. F. T. Woolley, the representative of the auditors, said that the item referred to represented the value of the steamship which was submarined. No settlement had been arrived at with the underwriters at the time the accounts were made up. The steamer no longer existed as an asset, and therefore they had put it into a separate account.

The Chairman remarked that the matter had now been settled on quite a satisfactory basis. With regard to Mr. Wicksteed's first point, he must not attach too much importance to the book values of the ships. They

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were arrived at by an automatic system of annual depreciation, and as the shareholders would have gathered from the rather rough estimate which Mr. Reeves had given, they did not in any sense represent the actual value of the company's ships. As a matter of fact, they had an up-to-date valuation of all the ships, but he did not know that this was the proper place to make such a valuation public—(hear, hear)—and if Mr. Wicksteed would allow him he would not answer his question more fully. He did not think it would be in the interests of the company to do so. With regard to the investments, almost all of them had been made since the war, and they were all in War Loans and Government bonds. There was very little depreciation; in fact, the cost price very nearly represented the actual sale value. As to the Cyprus contract, it was originally made for seven years, and he thought it had still two years to run. The directors had made representations to the Government to be allowed to drop the contract, but they had not entertained the Board's request, and they were at present in the position of being forced to carry on that contract on pre-war terms, which, in their opinion, ought not to be enforced in abnormal times like these. (Hear, hear.) Running expenses—coal and everything else—were at famine prices. They as a company were perfectly prepared to pay their proper proportion—80 per cent.—of excess profits duty, but they did not want to be taxed to the extent of over 100 per cent. They were not absolutely sitting down under these impositions. (Hear, hear.) At the present moment they were contesting them as far as they could legally do so, and they had some hopes that they would bring about better results anyhow, improved conditions of running, or, to put it in other words, obtain some material and valuable concession from the Ministry of Shipping or some other Government Department. With regard to oil in Egypt, he personally had heard nothing about the possibilities of economically using oil fuel in the Red Sea. He did not know whether Mr. Allen could add anything on that point.

Mr. Allen remarked that the supply was too intermittent for the matter to assume a practical aspect.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

The Chairman next moved:—"That a final dividend of 10 per cent. on the Ordinary shares of the company for the year ended June 30, 1917, be and is hereby declared payable on December 31, 1917."

This was seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously agreed to.

The re-election of Lord Ernest Hamilton and Mr. Geoffrey Head, the retiring directors, was then proposed and agreed to.

Mr. Reeves, in seconding the motion, said that Mr. Allen, with his usual modesty, had not taken up the time of the meeting in explaining all the excellent services which had been rendered to the shareholders, particularly by the Chairman. He (the speaker) had already made some remarks giving his view of the achievements of the past year, and he hoped later on to try to express that in a practical manner. He was sure they could not make any mistake in re-electing their Chairman. With regard to Mr. Geoffrey Head, he was in a different category; he joined the Board at the time when they lost Mr. Temperley. Some of them hoped that Mr. Geoffrey Head was a purely shipping man, but it did not turn out that that was the case, and they had since been fortunate in obtaining other expert assistance. Mr. Geoffrey Head, however, was an expert insurance man; he was well placed in the City of London, and although since the beginning of the war he had been giving his services to the Ministry of Munitions and therefore had been absent from the Board, he thought it would be very ungracious on their part not to re-elect him. He had therefore much pleasure in also seconding his re-election.

The motion was carried unanimously.

The Chairman thanked the shareholders very heartily for his re-election, and added that he was very glad that Mr. Reeves had made the remarks he did with regard to Mr. Geoffrey Head. They would all have felt very sorry if he had not been re-elected on account of his absence, which was simply due to his desire to serve his country in a time of emergency.

Mr. Bailey moved: "That Messrs. Edwin Guthrie and Co. be and they are hereby reappointed auditors of the company, associated with Messrs. Peat Waterhouse and Co., of Alexandria, as before, at a remuneration of 400 guineas per annum, such fee to cover travelling expenses, any remuneration for any special services rendered to be settled by the Board."

Mr. Abbott seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr. Reeves said that before the meeting concluded he wished to submit a resolution of which he had given private notice. He moved the same resolution successfully last year, and he hoped he would be equally successful on this occasion. It was to the effect that the income-tax in respect of the fees payable to directors in this country—such of them as bore English income-tax—be paid to them in addition to their modest salary. This was a business which was turning over, without capital, something like a half to three-quarters of a million of money. All they provided for their six directors was a sum of £2,000 per annum. The shareholders could see that £300 a year each for the responsibility of conducting a business which required the daily attention of one or more of the directors and certainly the weekly attention of every one of them was an insignificant sum. In fact, it was very difficult at the present time to get men of position in the City of London to take up such positions of responsibility. He hoped the directors would accept this slight recognition as a mark of the shareholders' goodwill for the services they were rendering.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith, in seconding the proposition, said he felt that directors of companies were placed in an unfortunate position with regard to income-tax, and he thought that it would sooner or later become a general practice for shareholders to agree that the very large increased income-tax should be borne by the general body of shareholders rather than by the directors themselves.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Reeves said there was another matter which he wished to bring before the shareholders for acceptance or otherwise. They would remember that a couple of years ago they succeeded in obtaining the assistance of Mr. Bowen Rees as a useful adjunct to the Board, but owing to the fact that his business kept him in the Near East, he was unable all last year and this year to attend Board meetings and give the company the assistance which he had promised. He had naturally, by reason of his absence, lost his position on the Board. They had left working in London three gentlemen. He did not say this was insufficient strength for dealing with a company whose assets amounted to nearly a million pounds, but he would like the Board to bear in mind that it might be in their interest to co-opt some other suitable person. If someone could be found it would be no detriment but an advantage to the company to make up the Board in this country to four members. The other two members of the Board were more permanently in Egypt than they were before the war, because they could not go backwards or forwards. If the directors did co-opt another member he did not think that it should be done at their expense. He had already pointed out that the remuneration of the Board was a very modest one, and therefore it would be contradictory to suggest that if the opportunity were taken to co-opt someone else they should bear the whole expense out of their own pockets. He wished, therefore, to move that if under Article 87 the directors co-opted another member during the current year, their remuneration should be increased by an additional £300.

Mr. Vere Herbert Smith seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman said he wished to thank the shareholders very much, on behalf of his colleagues and himself, for the very kind vote they had passed, and also to express their great appreciation not only of the act itself, but of the very kind words which accompanied it from both the proposer and the seconder. He was sure they all valued it very highly as an evidence of the shareholders' goodwill and confidence in their work. Neither he nor his colleagues had the slightest reason to think that Mr. Reeves was going to make such a proposition, and therefore they appreciated it very much indeed. With regard to the other suggestion of Mr. Reeves, he thought it was a fair and reasonable one. The directors in London numbered only three, and if they came across some gentleman whose services might be of the greatest value to the company, he did not think the extra cost to the company of £300 a year was either here or there, because he might be the means of increasing the profits of the company, or decreasing its loss, whichever way they liked to put it, by very large sums indeed.

The proceedings then terminated.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Bombay Baroda Railway.

The report of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Company, Ltd., includes the audited home accounts for the half-year ended September 30, and also the detailed accounts of the working of the railways in India for the six months ended March 31 last. For the half-year ended September 30 the detailed accounts prepared in India were not completed until near the end of November, and cannot therefore be received in time for inclusion, but will be presented at the meeting in June, 1918. Capital expenditure charged off during the half-year ended March 31 was Rs.10,82,290 for the broad gauge and a credit of Rs.66,957 for the metre gauge, of which Rs.1,18,067 and a credit of Rs. 2,58,418 respectively are on account of rolling stock. Gross earnings for the period amounted to Rs.3,94,95,035, increase Rs.14,31,399, expenditure Rs.1,60,27,610, decrease Rs.1,44,804, net earnings Rs.2,34,67,425, increase Rs.15,76,203, and percentage of expenditure to gross earnings 40.58, decrease 1.91. The latter low percentage is abnormal chiefly on account of the restriction of revenue charges due to the war. Coaching traffic increased Rs.8,51,358 on the broad gauge and Rs.6,25,014 on the metre gauge; goods traffic increased Rs.6,83,669 on the former and decreased Rs.6,30,146 on the broad gauge and increased Rs.51,935 on the broad gauge and increased Rs.51,,935 on the metre gauge, and telegraph increased Rs.7,611 on the former and Rs.5,643 on the latter. Total net earnings of the whole year amounted to Rs.4,16,06,792. Stockholders received 6¾ per cent. on the capital stock, against 5 per cent. for the previous year. Information from India justifies the directors in recommending the payment in January next of an interim dividend in respect of the current financial year of 10s. per cent. in addition to the guaranteed interest then due.

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The accounts for the first half of the year up to September 30 have been closed, and the main results cabled from India are :—Gross earnings, broad gauge, Rs.2,28,23,000, against Rs.1,80,73,000; metre gauge, Rs.1,66,96,000, against Rs.1,65,09,000; total, Rs.3,95,19,000, against Rs.3,45,82,000; working expenses, broad gauge, Rs.93,91,000, against Rs.78,56,600; metre gauge, Rs.76,65,000, against Rs. 76,93,000; total, Rs.1,70,56,000, against Rs.1,55,49,000; net earnings, broad gauge, Rs.1,34,32,000, against Rs.1,02,17,000; metre gauge, Rs.90,31,000, against Rs.88,16,000; total, Rs.2,24,63,000, against Rs.1,90,33,000.

COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, Limited, have declared a third quarterly interim dividend of 3s. per share, free of tax, payable January 15.

Land Bank of Egypt.—A dividend of 7s. 6d. per ordinary share and 2s. 1d. per founders' share is payable 17th instant, on presentation of coupons Nos. 15 and 11 respectively at the Comptoir National d'Escompte, London.

The directors of the Imperial Bank of Persia have declared a dividend for the half-year to September 20 of 5s. per share, free of income tax, payable on and after January 1, for which purpose the transfer books will be closed from the 20th to the 29th inst., both days inclusive.

British Burmah Petroleum.—Transfer books of the issue of £525,000 Six per Cent. First Mortgage Debenture stock will be closed from 18th to 31st instant, inclusive. Warrants payable on January 1.

The directors of the Bengal Coal Company, Limited, have declared a dividend of Rs.25 for the half-year to October 31, with a bonus of Rs.15 per share, Rs.1,30,000 to depreciation, Rs.4,40,000 to mines development, Rs.5,00,000 to dividend equalisation; balance, Rs.1,60,000 forward.

The directors of the Assam Railways and Trading Company have declared dividends on the Pre-Preference shares at 8 per cent. per annum, and on the New Six per Cent. Preference shares at 6 per cent. per annum for the half-year ending 31st instant, payable January 4 next; also "A" stock dividend of 4 per cent. for the half-year ended June 30 last, payable 22nd instant.

The Preference stock transfer books of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company, Limited, will be closed from the 20th inst. to January 5, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing the interest warrants payable to the shareholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt.—General meeting will be held in Alexandria on 27th inst., 4 p.m.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.—General meeting will be held at company's offices, 5, Rue Adib, Alexandria, on 28th inst. In addition to the ordinary business, approval will be asked of an agreement between the company and Mr. Eugene Debourg, the managing director. A copy of the agreement can be seen at the London office six days before the meeting. Transfer books will be closed from 22nd inst. to January 8.

Cheleken Oilfields.—Annual meeting will be held at Salisbury House, E.C., on 28th instant, at 12.30 p.m.

Oil Outputs.

Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah production for week, 22 tons (previous week, 22 tons); Hurgada, 2,840 tons, against 2,692 tons.

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ON 'CHANGE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Throgmorton Avenue, Wednesday.

Our market has not been quite so active, and, although a good deal of business was done in the early part of the week, things have become much quieter during the last few days. No doubt this is in a measure due to the approaching holidays, for which our market will be closed from the Friday night until the following Thursday morning. The general undertone continues to be a very confident one, and everything points to a renewal of activity and to higher prices in the coming year.

In Government stocks there is no change to report, except that there are sellers to a very small extent of both Egyptian Unifieds and 3½ per cent. preferences at current quotations. Bank shares have remained firm, with some business doing, and Delta Light Railway Preferences have been traded in to some extent round 6⅛.

In Land shares, Allotments have continued in strong demand, but there have been no sellers. Aboukirs have changed hands to some extent without altering the price. Behéras are exceptionally 3-16 lower at 12 13-16, due to a small sale on an unwilling market. Delta Lands early in the week were largely dealt in, and rose to 15s. 3d., but they are closing only 3d. better at 15s. Egyptian and Foreign Trusts on foreign and local buying jumped up 1s. to 9s. 3d., and are closing 9d. up at 9s., the improvement being due to the somewhat tardy recognition of the big rise in many of this concern's holdings. New Egyptians have been the centre of a large business, and are again 3d. firmer at 16s. 6d. A feature has been the persistent demand for United Egyptian Lands, which have improved 4d. to 1s. 6d.

In Miscellaneous shares, Alexandria Water are rather weaker at 12½ ex div., as also Egyptian Markets at 27s. 6d. Khedivial Mails have further receded 1s. to 34s. on the somewhat pessimistic remarks made at the meeting. Salts and Sodas has been a feature of strength, and have improved almost another 2s. to 38s. 3d., on the report showing a dividend of 25 per cent. and earnings much in excess of this figure.

In Greek securities the only change to record is a rise in Larissas, which have recovered the dividend just deducted.

Oil Shares.

Anglo-Egyptians (B) rose 6d. to 26s. 6d.-27s. 6d. Otherwise the market was indifferent, Anglo-Persian preferences declining 3d. to 24s. 6d.-25s. 6d.; while Spies fell 3d. to 6s. 9d.-7s. 9d.

The Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has decided to publish a book containing coloured pictures of all useful birds, mentioning their uses.

The electrical works at Kolin, Bohemia, have been closed down through lack of coal, with disastrous results to the whole of the surrounding country, says *Reuter's* Zurich correspondent. Fourteen towns and 35 village communities are without light. Eight sugar refineries, eleven large mills, fifteen engineering works, the railway works and numerous other industrial establishments are all obliged to stop work.

THE ALEXANDRIA WATER COMPANY, LIMITED

Interim Dividend.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an INTERIM DIVIDEND of FOUR SHILLINGS per £5 share on COUPON No. 58 is PAYABLE on and after the 15th December, 1917, at Messrs. Barclays Bank, Limited, 1, Pall Mall East, London, S.W., and 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., or at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Limited, in Alexandria, upon the making of a declaration as to ownership in the form required by the above Banks, forms of which will be supplied upon application.

Dated Alexandria, 15th November, 1917.

By Order of the Board,
H. R. C. BLAGDEN,
Managing Director.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

The Board having decided to PAY a DIVIDEND on the 5 per Cent. Cumulative Preferred Shares for the half-year ending December 31, 1917, WARRANTS will be POSTED on the 31st instant, and BOOKS will be CLOSED from December 17 to December 31 inclusive.

ROBERT H. EDGAR, Secretary.

15th December, 1917.

NEAR EASTERN STOCKS & SHARES

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE.	Price. July 27 1914	Price. Dec. 12	Dec. 19
GOVERNMENT STOCKS.			
City of Alexandria 4 %, 1909	99	78½	78½
Egyptian 4 % Unified Debt	98	84	84
Do. Pref. 3½ %, 1890	88	72½	72½
Greek 5 %, 1881.....	57	61	61
Do. 5 %, 1884.....	56	61	61
Do. 4 % Monopoly, 1887.....	49	52	52
Do. 4 % Rentes, 1889	45	42⅝	43
Do. 5 %, 1890.....	56	56	56xd
Do. 5 % Fndg., Ln., 1893	54	54	54
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1902.....	77	63	63
Do. 4 % Rails, Loan, 1910.....	—	59	59
Do. 5 % Ln., 1914 (Lon. Iss.) ..	90	74	74
Do. 5 % Currant	—	93	93
Montenegro 5 % Loan	82½	—	—
Persia 5% 1911	91	81	81
Roumania 4½ % Gd. Ln. 1913	92	—	—
Serbian 4% Unified Bonds	67	—	—
Turkish 4%, 1891	94	—	—
Do. 3½% Eg. Trib. Bonds, 1894	84	—	—
Do. 4% Unified.....	79	—	—
BANKS.			
Agri. Bank of Egypt (Br. war.) ..	4½	—	—
Do. 4% Cum. Pref. (Br. war.)..	7⅞	—	—
Anglo-Egyptian Bank.....	12	14⅛	14
Bank of Athens.....	£2	—	—
Bank of Roumania.....	8½	8⅞	8⅞
Imperial Bank of Persia	7⅞	7⅞	7⅞
Ionian Bank, Limited	3⅞	—	—
Land Bank of Egypt. Ord.	6½	6⅞	6⅞xd
National Bank of Egypt	13⅜	17	17
RAILWAYS.			
Egypt. Delta Light 5½% C. Pf. Warrants to Bearer	8½	6⅞	6⅞
Ottoman-Smyrna to Aidin Ord...	17⅜	—	—
Pirœus, Athens, etc., Rail. 4½%..	90	—	—
Do. Do. 3% Bonds	61	—	—
LAND.			
Aboukir Co. (Bearer Shares)	1⅛	21/-	21/-
Anglo-Egyptian Land Allotment	2⅜	3⅛	3⅛
Béhéra Co.....	8½	13	12⅝
Do. Pref.	4½	4½	4⅝
Daira Sanieh.....	2/2	3/-	3/-
Egyptian Delta Land and Invest.	9/-	14/9	15/-
Do. and Foreign Trust ..	5/-	8/3	9/-
Gharbieh Land Co.....	1⅜	1⅝	1⅝
New Egyptian Co.	9/3	16/3	16/6
Sidi Salém Co.	1⅜	26/7½	26/7½
Union Foncière d'Egypte Ord. ..	1½	2½	2½
United Egyptian Lands	1/9	1/2	1/6
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Alexandria Water Co.	12½	12½	12½xd
Egyptian Markets Ord.....	1⅞	27/9	27/6
Egyptian Salt and Soda Bearer ..	⅝	36/4½	38/3
Khedivial Mail Ord.	⅜	35/-	34/-
Do. do. Prefs.	3⅜	3⅞	3⅞

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Dec. 7.	1917. Week Dec. 6.
Cattle markets	1,090 ..	294
General markets	393 ..	501
Receipts (£)	1,483 ..	795
Total for year	51,767 ..	52,014

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Receipts for ten days ended November 20.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E.
Nov. 11-Nov. 20.....	8,272 ..	9,923
April 1-Nov. 20	130,553 ..	158,333

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
December 11	180,000	610,000
December 12	210,000	320,000

It is reported from Amsterdam that the subscription period for the seventh Hungarian War Loan has been extended to the end of December. Subscriptions so far received are believed to amount to four and a-half milliard kroner.

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RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

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NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

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Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

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Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

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Board of Directors:

The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
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A Weekly Review of the Politics and Commerce of the Balkan Peninsula, Egypt and the Sudan, Morocco, Asia Minor, Arabia, Mesopotamia, Persia, and India.

No. 347.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1917. (Postage, ½d. Foreign, 1d. (Annual Subscription, £1.) Price 6d.

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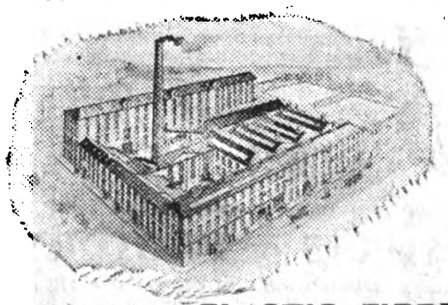
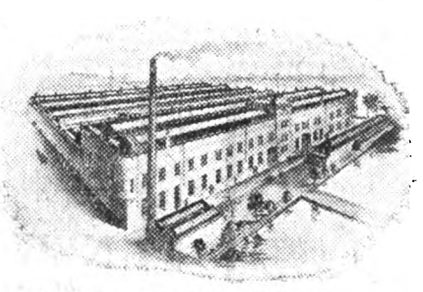
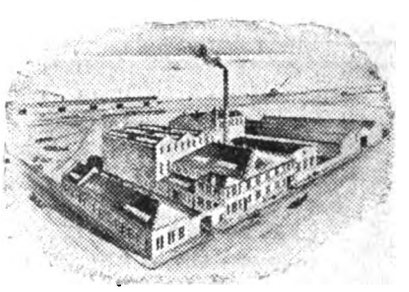

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 347.—Vol. XIII. FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1917.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

General Allenby has made a further advance in Palestine, and the British Expeditionary Force reports the crossing of the Nasr-el-Aujeh on rafts and light bridges and the seizure of prisoners and booty. The Turks may have anticipated a long halt after the capture of Jerusalem, but it appears that they are not to be gratified. Their *communiqués* contain little information, as usual, but they allege British bombs in Jericho and British failures everywhere—not a very convincing piece of fiction.

On the other hand, the Turkish Foreign Minister has been reassuring the newspapers. He remarks that "the last word about Jerusalem has not yet been spoken. The military operations on the Mesopotamian and Palestine fronts are now developing favourably, and I am firmly convinced that a favourable solution will be found of pending questions with Russia." Clearly nothing is here for tears, according to the official view of Constantinople. But the world at large will hold that the one solid ground for Turkish satisfaction in the above statement is the collapse of Russia. The disappearance of the claimant for Constantinople may outweigh in modern Turkish eyes the loss of Jerusalem. The collapse of Russia may well be interpreted at the Porte as giving another lease of life to the Ottoman Empire, and there is no doubt that Germany is exploiting this fact to her own advantage among her Allies.

That Russia must be counted definitely out of the war is shown by several facts, quite apart from the actual armistice; the most significant indication is the order of the Bolshevist Government to the munition factories to cease making munitions of war, as these are no longer necessary. After that it is, of course, quite useless for M. Trotsky to keep up the pretence that he will break off negotiations, if the Germans do not agree to play the "no annexations" farce in the proper spirit of the time. The Teuton, although rather a heavy comedian, will probably do as requested in order to keep up appearances, and concede the shadow so long as he gets the substance; but with the order to cease making munitions public property, he knows how much he has to fear from Trotsky's anger. When the geese gnashed their teeth, it is not recorded that the fox fled.

Turkey is, therefore, no doubt, calculating on a reprieve. And it is conceivable that although both she and Germany may recognise that it will be beyond their power to recapture Palestine and Mesopotamia, they may hope to indemnify their losses at the expense of Russia. Petrograd, in its present mood of flinging away ambition, has no particular interest in the Caucasus; but Constantinople has. The Jews in power at Petrograd are not likely to be much moved by the sorrows of the Armenians, whom they object to as Christians, commercial competitors, and old friends of Russia, and, to a less extent, of English philanthropy; there is nothing in the Lenin-Trotsky manifestoes to show they feel any indignation at the Armenian massacres, and by that token we assume that they will be ready to give back Erzerum and Erzingan, the fruits of one of the most brilliant pieces of work done by the old Russian Staff—now unhappily destroyed—in the present war.

Moreover, they may also make renunciation of Trebizond, and that ancient city, the last home of the Byzantine Empire, which was restored to Christianity last year, will probably be handed over again at the peace negotiations. It is noteworthy that Turkish vessels are already resuming trade in the Black Sea, but their traffic will be liable to more interruptions than that of the German bagmen who have already arrived in Russia, since the Ukraine has refused to follow the policy of Petrograd, and the destiny of the Black Sea Fleet (now somewhat diminished in prestige) remains obscure. If it falls to the new Republic proclaimed at Kieff, it may fulfil some functions in the war even yet; if it comes under Bolshevist control, its guns might as well be turned into knitting-needles at once.

It is still uncertain how far Russian treachery to the Allies will involve Roumania. That M. Trotsky intends to do her as much damage as he can is quite evident from his handling of the American Red Cross mission. Apparently this incredible person construed it as a crime that America should do anything to relieve the necessities of Roumania and he would probably have guillotined the American Ambassador had he dared. As it was, he merely insulted him and jeered at his silence, just as a week or two before he objected to Sir George Buchanan for making a speech. This is the new autocracy; even Sir Oracle only insisted that no dog should bark when he opened his mouth, but M. Trotsky objects to silence as well. It would not be very astonishing to see a nervous breakdown on the part of this dictator.

The immediate consequence is, however, that he has prevented assistance from reaching Roumania, which is, no doubt, what he wanted to do; but at the same

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time the growing strength of the Ukraine movement is an encouragement to the heroic Government at Jassy. The Germans are said to be using the period of the armistice to concentrate troops against the Roumanian and South Russian front. There can be no doubt that Petrograd would be only too willing that they should do so, since Petrograd discerns a danger to itself in the Ukraine-Roumanian spirit of independence. Bolshevik troops have been threatened against the Ukraine, they may also be threatened against the Roumanians. Fortunately these undisciplined hordes prefer to kill by words, like their leaders.

Meanwhile, the line which German policy will attempt to take is foreshadowed by an announcement in the *Münchener Neueste Nachrichten* that a deputation from the Courland Diet has arrived in Berlin with the message that the Diet assembled at Mitau has decided by unanimous vote that more intimate relations with Germany should be established. This will no doubt be treated as a demand for a German protectorate, or something not far short of economic and political subjection to Berlin. By what means this unanimous vote was obtained is not, of course, divulged —there has always been a strong German element in the province—but every effort will certainly be made to secure its imitation in other occupied countries. Some attempt to secure a similar movement has apparently been at the back of recent intrigues in Bucharest, but these seem definitely to have failed. We are not, however, at the end of that chapter.

The actual proposals which the Germans may make to the Russians have not yet been officially divulged by either side, but the demands of Bulgaria have again been shouted from the housetops. They are, of course, the Dobruja, with Macedonia and part of Serbia. There seems not the least likelihood that Russia will boggle over the terms. At the moment her statesmen are far more interested in the reform of the calendar—a project which has already advanced to the extent of abolishing Christmas and Easter.

A report has appeared in the *Politiken* of Copenhagen to the effect that the Turkish envoys who have been despatched to Switzerland to discuss the exchange of prisoners of war with the British delegates have brought with them proposals for a separate peace. The terms mentioned are definite: to the effect that Turkey will leave the Central Powers and join the Allies on condition that her lost territory is restored; it is further stated that these terms have been expressly endorsed by Enver Pasha. The *Politiken* is an excellent and sober newspaper, but even the best newspapers sometimes print unfounded rumours. No doubt Turkish sentiment has developed in favour of a separate peace since a year ago, and General Allenby will probably assist that development considerably in the next few weeks. But it is unlikely that the thing has gone anything like so far as the Copenhagen newspaper suggests.

In any event, Mr. Lloyd George's speech last Thursday contains, as it were, a reply by anticipation to any such proposals based on restoration of territory. He repeated his words of a few months ago at Glasgow —" What will happen to Mesopotamia must be left to the Peace Conference when it meets, but there is one thing that will never happen: it will never be restored to the blasting tyranny of the Turk. The same observation applies to Armenia—a land soaked with the blood of innocents massacred by the people who were bound to protect them." That must be taken as the considered basis of any scheme of separate peace, and it is doubtful whether Turkey is yet ready to accept it. No doubt Germany is offering her the restoration of her territories, as well as, perhaps, of Egypt and Cyprus in the shape of interest, if she will continue to believe in the ability of Berlin to win the war.

International Jewry has not been slow to mark its approval of the British Government's provision with regard to Palestine. A meeting has been held in New York, at which a Jewish speaker, speaking in Yiddish, declared that Great Britain's promise " in effect added another chapter to the Bible "; while the chairman of the meeting remarked that what Zionists were rejoicing over was " only a scrap of paper, but a scrap written in English, signed by the British Government, and, therefore, sacred and inviolable." We commend that *therefore* to the attention of Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg.

While these congratulations mark the temper of Jewry, the first actual plan, so far as we are aware, for the reconstruction of Palestine has been put forward by Mr. J. Ettinger at a meeting of the Jewish National Fund Commission for England. For some years past, as is fairly well known, he stated that extensive experiments had been carried out on farms and in communities in Palestine; but, in view of the new position, it is now necessary to embark on a far-seeing and comprehensive scheme. Mr. Ettinger remarked that all that this generation could do was to lay the foundation, but the Commission had in view a settlement of two million Jews, with eight hundred or a thousand cities, garden cities, and towns.

One interesting feature of this meeting was the announcement that the Jewish National Fund Commission had received congratulations from the Jews in enemy countries. The German Press has, of course, attempted to deny that the British Government's action in Palestine will have any effect on the opinion of German Jews; but the Jew cannot be dragooned in thought like the Prussian.

The Kaiser's Christmas speech is as poor in quality as a war-cake. Omitting the theological portions as beyond our province, he takes up the position that the war has come to an end in the East, but that in the West, " if the enemy does not want peace, then we must bring peace to the world by battering in with iron fist and shining sword the doors of those who will not have peace." It is perfectly true that in the East and the Near East the year closes with black prospects for the Allies, so far as Europe is concerned. But as soon as we extend the eye to Asia the situation is almost reversed—and the Kaiser is strangely silent about Jerusalem. If he is entitled to felicitate himself on his Bolshevik friends, he must nevertheless make a heavy discount on his Turkish stock.

Whatever the future of the Near East may be, it seems evident that the old Austrian ambition to have a leading part in its development is doomed to disappointment. The Near East requires financing, and German banks are now opening in the Balkans; Austrian ability to do anything of the kind no longer exists. The belated report of the Austro-Hungarian Bank shows that the Governments of Austria and Hungary have borrowed the total sum of 13,200,000,000 krones (nominally the krone is slightly more than a franc) against bonds; on the other hand, the holdings of gold have fallen from 1,094,900,000 krones to 264,200,000 krones, or more than three-fourths of the total amount held at the beginning of the war. The proportion of gold to paper is now less than 2½ per cent. gold to over 97½ paper.

These figures spell bankruptcy. But it would be interesting to know where the gold—never very frequently met with in Austria—has gone to. As to that the Bank has maintained a profound silence since the beginning of the war. Not much of it can have gone to Switzerland or other neutral countries. The loans of Sofia and Constantinople have been frankly contracted with Berlin and not Vienna. It was thought at one time that this gold had simply been stored in the vaults of the Bank as security against the paper, but the figures show that such is not the case, and it would seem that those who have held from the first that the largely swollen gold deposits of the Reichsbank in Berlin have owed a considerable part of their amount to the export of gold from the Austro-Hungarian Bank have been justified in their suspicions.

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Austrian gold is no doubt a good security for Austrian loyalty, but Berlin has made certain, not only that Austria shall not leave the alliance without heavy loss to herself, but also that the financing of Eastern projects shall be done in Berlin, and not in Vienna. One of the minor conundrums of the war has, therefore, been settled by the publication of these figures, which throw a light on the past and future policy of the Central Empires by emphasising the subjection of Austria.

The alleged peace terms put forward by Germany through a neutral Legation at Washington are pretty much what was expected. Poland is to be an independent State under Austrian suzerainty; Roumania, Serbia, and Montenegro are to retain their original boundaries, right of access to the sea being granted to Serbia; Turkey to remain intact; England to pay Germany for her colonies, the money to be used for the restoration of Belgium, Northern France, Serbia, and Roumania; Russian territory conquered by Germany to be under a German protectorate. The daily Press has pointed out the ingenuity of making England pay for the devastation caused by the German armies; but the significance of the Near East proposals has been generally overlooked. Bulgaria, according to this proposal, gets nothing out of the war, since both Roumania and Serbia are to recover their territory. Yet Germany gets part of Russia, Austria the bulk of Poland, and Turkey gets back what she has lost, while Bulgaria is to lose what she has won. Sofia will probably have something to say to this, since Bulgaria is out for territory and nothing else, and has no mind to be sold by her Allies.

A recent question in the House of Commons confirmed the information that under the old régime Russia had suggested to Great Britain that the Sultan of Turkey should no longer be recognised as Khalif. At the same time it provided an opportunity for an official statement on the part of the British Government to the effect that it had never departed from the attitude that the Khalifate was a question for Islam alone to decide. No other attitude was conceivable, but it is well that the declaration should have been made emphatically in view of the interest that the enemy has in misrepresenting Great Britain's action or her intentions in this matter. Neither Germany nor Turkey has acquiesced willingly in the fiasco of the Holy War, proclaimed with such unction when the Young Turks threw in their lot in the war with their German paymasters. Every effort has been made to suborn the Moslem populations that had been loyal to one or other of the Allied Powers, and in Germany itself the fiction has been maintained of a Mohammedan India and Egypt merely counting the hours of their release from the British "yoke" at the hands of a liberty-purveying Germany.

With the help of some Egyptian nationalists and a few Indians of a similar kidney a brave show has been made in Germany of the two countries groaning under British oppression. But against the gratifying presence of a handful of Allied Adullamites in Berlin had to be set such stubborn facts as the loyalty and prosperity of Egypt and the success of the Arabs in their secession from the Ottoman Empire. To overcome this difficulty recourse has been had to organised propaganda with the double object of misleading the German people in regard to the attitude of the Moslem world, and of trying to bring the Moslem world to the condition in which it is depicted in Germany as already being. British designs against Islam have been a favourite theme, and it was inevitable that the possibility of interference with the Khalifate should be exploited strenuously. We cannot hope that the official statement of the British Government will obtain any wide publicity these days in Germany and Turkey. It should, however, be circulated not merely once, but repeatedly, throughout the rest of the Moslem world, in order that Arabs and others may have the facts in their possession when the echoes of German misrepresentations reach them.

LETTER FROM CAIRO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 24.

The Financial Adviser's Illness.

It has been with the greatest regret that everyone has heard of the illness of Lord Edward Cecil, the Financial Adviser. He returned about six weeks ago from England, where, as it may be remembered, he had been occupied on war work since the spring, and he at once took up the reins of office again at the Ministry of Finance. It was, however, soon evident that his state of health left very much to be desired, and, after working strenuously for about ten days, picking up the threads and interviewing the leading residents and Egyptians, he was forced to give in and obey the doctor's orders to take a complete rest. He has been at Helwan for the last ten days, where it is hoped that the air and complete quiet will restore him. It is understood, however, that he will not be able to return to work for some time, and that the doctors have advised him to proceed as soon as possible to Switzerland. This breakdown in health of Lord Edward has come as a great disappointment out here, for great things had been hoped for from his resumption of office, and everyone joins in wishing him a speedy return to health, so that he may be able to take up again the work which he had carried out so well since the outbreak of war.

The Entertainment of the Troops.

A very successful fête was given last Saturday evening in the Ezbekia Gardens in aid of the funds of the Egyptian branch of the United Services Welfare Fund. The fête was under the patronage of the Sultan, General Allenby, and Admiral Jackson, and attracted a huge crowd all day. Amongst the visitors during the afternoon were the High Commissioner and Lady Wingate. The U.S.W.F. is charged with the supervision and financing of most of the entertainments given for the soldiers and sailors in Cairo and Alexandria, and under its auspices concert parties are organised to visit the various hospitals and camps. These parties consist of civilians as well as of military, many of them giving first-class performances, and some possess funds enabling them to pay their own way. Altogether the rank and file are well provided for when they are in hospital or on leave; but the man who does not get anything near the same attention paid to him and is indeed at times sorely neglected is the officer, especially the young one, up on leave or in garrison, who finds few efforts made to provide him with clean and healthy amusement or distraction. If only someone would take upon himself or herself the work of organising entertainments for officers or of bringing them into closer contact with congenial society, which undoubtedly exists in Cairo and Alexandria, they would earn the deepest gratitude of a large body of men, many of whom have admitted to me that even on leave they find time hanging heavily on their hands, and that they would give anything for a taste of the home life they miss so and for a few moments' conversation with women of their own class.

The Control of Cotton Exports.

A new committee has been set up in Alexandria by order of the Commander-in-Chief, General Allenby, for the control of the export of cotton from this country. The committee is to be known as "The Cotton Export Regulation Committee," and is presided over by Mr. A. King Lewis, the Director-General of Customs, and from the 20th inst. no cotton can be exported except under licence issued by this committee. Licences will be issued to exporters in respect of each country proportionate to the average quantities exported in recent years by each exporter, and, save so far as may be necessary for securing a reasonable margin to meet unexpected circumstances, they will be granted up to the maximum amount exported to each country during the 1916-17 season.

The object of the setting up of this control is stated in the official notice to be to provide for the distribution of the Egyptian cotton crop among various countries, more especially with due regard to the shipping space available. Cotton exports have, of course, been controlled in the past in the sense that nothing could be

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sent out to a neutral country unless and until investigation had shown that no leakage into enemy countries could take place. The new control now set up will go further; for it will, it is understood, give preference to exports to Allied countries over those for neutral countries. By these means the very restricted amount of shipping at present available will be devoted as much as possible to meeting the requirements of the Allies, instead of, as so often has happened in the past, space being taken up by exports to neutrals at the very time when cargo was waiting for shipment to one or other of the Allies who happened to be badly in need of further supplies, but who, owing to the absorption of space by neutral shipments, had to wait until further shipping became available.

At the present moment Alexandria is crammed full of cotton and cotton seed, and it is computed that, at the rate exports are taking place, it will be some considerable time before the existing stocks can be cleared. So great has the congestion become that the Cotton Seed Control Board, which is entrusted with the purchase of the cotton seed crop on behalf of his Majesty's Government, has found itself compelled to issue a notice to the effect that it cannot receive any consignments of seed at Alexandria after the 27th inst. This is decidedly unfortunate, as the factories up country are hard at it ginning the crop, and every day more and more cotton and seed are becoming available, for which there exists in the interior little or no store accommodation, and which in normal times are sent direct to Alexandria. It is not quite clear how the situation is going to be handled; but it is understood that the authorities are fully alive to the serious position, and that they are considering how best to provide relief pending more shipping being made available for this country.

The Cambrai Victory.

The magnificent victory gained over the Germans at Cambrai has made a tremendous impression on the Egyptians, many of whom are frankly amazed at the simultaneous and consistently successful activity displayed by the British on all the fronts. This victory is all the more welcome out here seeing that it has been achieved by Lieut.-General Sir Julian Byng, who held the Egyptian command at the time war broke out, and who left here to take up the command of the Canadians in France in the autumn of 1914. Sir Julian and Lady Byng were most popular in Egypt; the latter charmed everybody by her delightful personality, whilst the General established a great reputation for efficiency, determination, and generalship, which has been more than justified by his work in France.

The late Major Evelyn de Rothschild.

Amongst the wounded in the recent fighting in Palestine was Major Evelyn de Rothschild, who was brought up to Cairo, but who unfortunately succumbed to his wounds last week. He was accorded a military funeral, which was exceedingly impressive. A service was first held in the Synagogue, where the Grand Rabbis of Alexandria and Cairo officiated, with the assistance of the Jewish chaplain to the Australian forces. British troops headed the procession, which included deputations from the Jewish communities and the local Jewish institutions. Immediately behind the coffin, which was borne on a gun carriage, walked Lord Dalmeny, representatives of the Residency, the Headquarters Staff, and the leaders of the Jewish community. Lord Dalmeny and Major Evelyn de Rothschild were, of course, cousins, and the former came up to attend the funeral direct from the battlefield where his brother had just been killed.

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THE PALESTINE FRONT.

The news from Palestine describes a satisfactory advance near the coast, and gives the first detailed information of that advance from Hebron which decided the fate of Jerusalem.

Dealing with the first, it comes as a surprise to learn how very incomplete our advance has so far been at the el Aujeh line. It is satisfactory to know that the river has been successfully passed by a midnight attack (December 20-21) near its mouth—with naval co-operation—and an advance made to within two miles of the little port of Arsuf. This is a famous site. The name is probably derived from the Phœnician god Reseph, and, if so, it is an interesting illustration of reversion to an older form, because in the Seleucid age the city which stood here was called Apollonia. During the Crusading days this spot changed hands several times, being captured both by King Baldwin and King Richard I. Close to the old ruins is the Mosque known as the Haram of 'Ali ibn 'Aleim, or more popularly "Sidna Ali"—a much-revered Moslem shrine, so called after a warrior who bravely defended Arsuf against the Crusaders. The minaret, standing as it does upon a precipitous cliff above the sea, is a prominent landmark on the coast.

Further east our line is not quite so advanced. It includes Mulebbis, the native village near the well-known Jewish colony of Petach Tikvah. This is one of the largest of the colonies, extending to about 8,000 acres, with about 3,000 inhabitants. Much of the land is recovered from the marshes by drainage; large numbers of eucalyptus trees have been planted, and also valuable orange groves. S.E. of this lies Fejja and Rantieh, the latter on the railway, both occupied three days before Christmas.

In the mountain region we are again reminded how near the Turks are to the Holy City by the news that only on the 21st they were driven out of Ras ez Zamby, a lofty point east of the Jerusalem-Nablus road and only two miles N.E. of Bethany.

More interesting to those who know the land is the account given in the *Daily Telegraph* of the rapid advance along the southern road, which, by relieving the opposition to our advance from the west, undoubtedly led to the retreat of the Turks from Jerusalem. Clearly the Turks began along this southern line to find their position insecure before our approach. The Ras esh Sherifeh—that dominating point over 3,300 feet high which lies to the west of Solomon's Pools—although elaborately prepared for defence, was found evacuated, enabling our men to get to the springs and their great reservoirs, and to water their horses. These three pools—seven miles directly south of Jerusalem—are probably of Roman construction, in spite of their name. They lie in the course of the Wady Artas, the lowest and largest being 582 feet long, 177 feet broad, and 50 feet deep. There are four springs in this valley (but never in recent years more than partially filled) which supply the low level aqueduct running from these pools, and in ancient times there were two other aqueducts which fed these pools—one a 28-mile channel from Wâdy Arrub, and the other a system of wells connected together by an underground channel (a *khariz*) in Wady Biar. Both are now useless and broken.

From the Pools no direct attack was made on Bethlehem—which lies well to the east of the high road—but the important Christian village of Beit Jala (possibly the Goloh of Josh. xv. 56, II. Sam. xv. 12) was captured and the road defences turned. In Beit Jala there is a Greek orthodox church and school and Latin seminary and school, and a small German Protestant community, so that the small community has a considerable choice of religion. To the east of the town, between it and Bethlehem, is a wide open valley, full of most prosperous olive plantations. Happily, the Turks, finding their retreat in inevitable danger of being cut off on account of this turning movement, retired hurriedly all along the line, and apparently there was not much further opposition.

E. W. G. M.

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PERSIA AND THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Tabriz, October.

Turkish Propaganda in Persia.

A movement of some significance is on foot in this part of the world and deserves more than passing attention. I may, perhaps, preface my remarks by explaining the difference between the word "Turk" as it is understood in England and the meaning attached to it in Persia. We do not call Osmanlis Turks. The latter term is applied to Mohammedans living in Azerbaijan and in Caucasia, who were at one time Persians, when Caucasia was a part of the Persian Empire. Nowadays Persians, however, are those who live in the provinces of Farsistan, Irak-Ajemi, Mazandaram, Gilan and Khorasan. The inhabitants of Azerbaijan and Caucasia are called Turks, while those in other provinces have their own special tribal names, such as Bakhtiari, Luri, Kashgazi, etc.

Some Caucasians have recently appeared in Persia on a special mission, and have styled themselves either Social Democrats or patriots. They posed as Caucasian nationalists and their object apparently was to preach in Persia "the great idea." By this was meant that the Persians, being more intelligent and more advanced than their northern neighbours in democratic and republican principles, ought not to retain the anomaly of a monarchy. They urged that the Shah should be dethroned and Persia declared a republic, on the lines of the United States of America. After a certain amount of this preaching, a good deal of "demonstration of patriotism" and still more of promises of what would accrue from a republican Persia, the Caucasian delegates came to the conclusion that the Persians were, after all, still a long way behind Russia, and were too immature and unintelligent to benefit by the great idea.

This incident was followed at no great interval by a second movement, the objects of which may be set out as follows:—It was urged that (1) Azerbaijan is not a part of Persia; (2) that the inhabitants are not Persian, but Turks in the Caucasian sense of the term, and (3) that they should separate themselves from the rest of Persia and join the Caucasian Turks to form a separate independent state. This new nation was, of course, to be separate from Russia and to comprise Caucasia, Azerbaijan, Turkistan, Gherguzistan and Bashgiristan. The advocates of this movement claimed to be members of a Society in Caucasia known as Turk Federationists, and in this instance it would seem as if the word Turk carried a double significance. On the one hand they laid great stress on the establishment of a new nation, but in the same breath they put it forward as their second aim that all Moslems of whatever sect or tribe should become autonomous. There remains, however, a third idea about which less is spoken of openly at present, and it is that the new nation, as soon as it becomes an accomplished fact, should declare itself part and parcel of the old Osmanli Empire. It is believed here that Caucasia and Azerbaijan were promised to Turkey by the German Emperor in the event of victory, and it would seem as if the intention now was to ensure that these two provinces should still become part of the Sultan's Empire whichever way the war goes.

A German Spy.

In this connection I may cite an incident which occurred only a few days ago. The authorities arrested on the Baku-Tiflis train a "mollah"—a well-dressed typical Mussulman Mollah, save perhaps for his dark glasses. His peculiar accent gave rise to suspicion, and he was found to be a German. The blue eyes explained the dark glasses. His arrest created considerable sensation, and for a moment the attitude of his fellow-passengers was distinctly threatening. He declared that he had no fear of death, that he had expected to be arrested sooner or later. His one surprise had been that he had not been detected earlier, and he made some scathing remarks about the Russian police, who had allowed him to be at large in the country for two years.

The Demand for Reforms.

Azerbaijanis, it is needless to say, could never entertain the foolish idea of separating themselves from the rest of Iran in order to join themselves to the Caucasus. Still less are they likely to join the Osmanlis, whom they hate as Sunnis. They have no wish to become subjects of a Sultan whose aim, through the Committee of Union and Progress, is to Turkify all the races under his jurisdiction. At the same time the Azerbaijanis, while having no intention of betraying Iran, recognised that it was a propitious moment for obtaining concessions from the Central Government. The programme they put forward was as follows:—(*a*) The dismissal and exile from Tabriz of the former Governor-General Sirdar Rashid (who has since been assassinated); the exile of Basir-Sultanieh, a Russophil landowner, and three or four others who in the past had placed themselves under Russian protection, and had received Russian passports. (*b*) The opening of the Mejlis. (*c*) Permission to begin at once preparations for the election of members to the Mejliss. (*d*) That pardon and permission to return from exile should be given to those members of the Mejliss who are still in banishment. (*e*) An immediate reconstitution of the Cabinet, and the appointment of Ministers who would be neither Russophil nor Anglophil, but simply Persophil.

CYPRUS NOTES.

(From a Correspondent.)

Since the break-up of summer mild weather has prevailed. The rainfall since October has been sufficient to freshen up pasturage and to hearten all flock-owners; and has been of great benefit to carob trees. It has been insufficient for farmers in general, who are looking anxiously for December rains in all districts. Government is doing its best to encourage increased sowing of cereals, and of all vegetable produce. With this object the growing of tobacco has been wisely prohibited except under special licence, which is only granted in very exceptional circumstances. It is not allowed at all in the limited areas of naturally irrigated lands, or in those which have lain fallow last year, and which should consequently bear crops in the coming season, under the ordinary system of rotation. It should be explained that, except in lands watered by the few perennial torrents that exist, Cypriot farmers only cultivate half their holdings annually, leaving the remainder to recuperate. Artificial fertilization is very restricted and backward. It is, of course, unfortunate that tobacco cultivation should receive this temporary set-back just when the revival of this dormant industry is giving good promise of success. Those who raised good crops last year did very well, declining in many cases 10s. the oke (2 4-5 lbs.), or about 3s. 7d. the pound. A large number of agriculturists have in consequence applied for licences. Were these granted, cereal crops would suffer proportionately. It is satisfactory, on the one hand, to note that the results now reached point to a prosperous development of the tobacco industry after the war; and on the other, that excellent prices will no doubt continue to be realized from all cereal produce in the coming year by those who must perforce suspend for the present operations in the new and enticing field.

A new tariff of retail food prices has come into force from December 1, all previous orders being cancelled by public

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notice. The consequence is, that various articles of consumption again practically disappear from the markets, and much illicit trading goes on, although many cases come before the Provost Marshals, the temptation to profiteer prevailing here as elsewhere. Government continues to issue wheat and barley from its tithe stores, and bread made of meal mixed in equal proportions is sold to the poor at 3¼ piastres (about 4½d.) the oke. Another quality containing 25 per cent. of barley is made for officials by bakers who deal exclusively in this kind. Bakers in general are now free to deal as they please. Hitherto the grain of 1916 only has been used; that of last harvest will be drawn upon about the middle of December. While all classes feel the further rise in prices, officials with small salaries still suffer most, and rumours are current that another bonus will be granted to those of certain grades.

Famagusta once more in its checkered annals shares with Nicosia a foremost place, and is rapidly growing in importance. Lighters and other coasting craft have been commandeered for use at that port, which daily becomes more and more a scene of activity. The news from Palestine causes the liveliest interest among all classes. Events there seem to promise the renewal of that intimate relationship between the island and the venerable mainland which ought to exist, but which has declined through the centuries and withered under the deadening influence of Turkish misrule.

BRITISH RED CROSS UNITS IN ROUMANIA.

The last of the two hospital units sent last year to Southern Russia and Roumania by the Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has now safely returned to England. The two units (called, for the sake of convenience, Unit "Y" and Unit "Z"), under the command of Dr. F. G. Clemow, C.M.G., sailed from Liverpool on September 2, 1916, and arrived in Archangel on September 14. Here a special train was made up, consisting of "class-cars" for the personnel, nine closed wagons for the material (which filled over 1,200 cases and bales), and open wagons for the fourteen motor ambulances, lorries, and cars with which the units were provided. The journey from Archangel to Odessa occupied ten days. Thence both units proceeded by train to Reni, and thence by boat to Galatz, where, working as one unit, they established a hospital of 240 beds in a large building, the Scuola Normala. Large numbers of severely wounded Roumanians from the fighting line in the Dobruja were admitted to the wards. At the end of December, however, it became necessary to evacuate all the hospitals in Galatz, and the units left there on Christmas Eve, and, with stores and motors intact, returned to Odessa.

After some delay here, Unit "Y," under Dr. Clemow, proceeded to Ismail, on the Danube, and opened a hospital of 140 beds in the largest building in the town—a girls' gymnasium or high school. Unit "Z," under Mr. James Berry, F.R.C.S., of the Royal Free Hospital, returned to Roumania and opened a tent hospital in the grounds of a large villa near to the town of Tecuci. Much valuable work was done here among the Roumanian wounded until the end of August, when the unit returned to England.

The hospital of Unit "Y" was attached to the Russian Naval Division in Ismail, and large numbers of sick and wounded were treated during the seven months it was open. Repeated and serious air-raids added to the numbers of wounded. In addition, a field dressing station was opened at Patlajanka at the exact apex of the Danube delta. In the autumn several members of the unit were compelled to return home on the expiry of their contracts with the British Red Cross. The remainder offered to establish a field hospital with the Russian army on any active front. The offer was accepted, and the unit proceeded to Roman, on the Roumanian front, for service with the 4th Russian Army. But by this time (the end of October) all prospect of active military operations on this—or indeed on any other Russian—front had ceased, and the unit consequently returned to England.

Both units throughout received every courtesy and facility from the Russian Red Cross Society and the Russian and Roumanian military authorities. That their services were appreciated is shown by the fact that the members of Dr. Clemow's unit received decorations and medals from the Russian authorities, and those of Mr. Berry's unit were similarly recognised by the Roumanian authorities.

NEAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Man Power in India. Dec. 19.

Mr. H. A. L. FISHER, replying to Sir J. D. REES, said: As a result of the establishment of a Central Recruiting Board in India the recruiting situation has been reviewed in all its bearings, the minimum requirements of the future ascertained, and a provincial and district organisation created by the civil and military authorities acting in concert for obtaining by voluntary enlistment the requisite number of combatant and non-combatant recruits. In these arrangements the principal native States have, at the wish of their rulers, been included. Speaking in the Imperial Legislative Council, the Viceroy has described these measures as highly successful. A steady flow of reinforcements to the various fronts has been maintained, and the raising of new units facilitated.

Cyprus and the War.

Colonel YATE asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, considering that in the Report on Cyprus for the year 1916-17, No. 941, practically the only mention of the war was the statement that financially the island had been beneficially affected by the war, and that several thousand able-bodied Cypriots had been recruited on generous terms of pay to serve as muleteers with the Salonika Army, and had been able to remit substantial savings to their families in the island, he would have a report published showing what help in men, both for combatant service and in labour battalions, etc., and in materials, the colony had provided towards the prosecution of the war?

Mr. HEWINS: In present circumstances I do not think that there would be advantage in adopting this suggestion.

Colonel YATE: Will the hon. gentleman ask the authorities in Cyprus to try to put what information is available in next year's Report?

Mr. HEWINS: I will consider it.

War Prisoners in Bulgaria. Dec. 20.

Mr. JAMES HOPE, in a written reply to Lord H. CAVENDISH-BENTINCK, states that thirty British incapacitated non-commissioned officers and men were repatriated from Bulgaria in August last, and that no doubt further similar exchanges will take place from time to time. The question of the transfer to a neutral country of British combatant prisoners of war who have been interned in Bulgaria for eighteen months or more, is under consideration.

Great Britain and Persia.

Major D. DAVIES asked whether the Leader of the House was in a position to give an assurance, in view of the recent statement from Petrograd that the late Russian Government had agreed to Great Britain exercising a predominant *rôle* in the former neutral sphere in Persia, that the South Persian Rifles were not introduced as a first step towards a British occupation or annexation of that district?

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER: In no sense was such an object contemplated. The force was created for the purpose of maintaining order and security for trade in South Persia. The existence of the force must not be construed as implying any change in the feeling of friendship we entertain towards Persia or in the pledges which have been given to respect the independence of that country, still less as indicating any desire for annexation.

THE HEJAZ CAMPAIGN.

The War Office make the following announcement:—

Reports have been received that an Arab force under Sherif Feisal, son of the King of Hejaz, destroyed a troop train south of Tebuk, on the Hejaz railway, some 350 miles north of Medina.

The whole of the Turkish detachment in the train were killed or captured, amongst the former being Suleiman Pasha Rifada, Paramount Chief of the Billi tribe, who, foolishly throwing in his lot with the Turks, was travelling in company with them.

Three hundred rifles were captured and a large quantity of ammunition, also £24,000 Turkish in gold.

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

A HISTORY OF SERBIA.*

Miss Waring's book is an interesting and spirited attempt to combine present politics with past history. Like other such attempts, it is not wholly successful, for the passions of to-day do not always reveal the mysteries of long ago. But it is, none the less, of real value, and its too great partiality for the Serbs is balanced by a sympathetic insight into their spirit and ideals. The chapters on the spirit of the Serbs (pp. 147-62) and Serbia and the War (pp. 228-49) are moving and picturesque. Yet there are many instances in which a somewhat polemical bias is evident. For instance, the map at the beginning of the book gives an ethnological picture of Macedonia, which is more favourable to the Serb than that of M. Cvijic himself was in 1909. In his map in the pamphlet, "L'Annexion de la Bosnie," M. Cvijic marks the area below Uskub, west of the Vardar to Ochrida, and east to Seres and Doxat, as belonging to Macedonian Slavs. These are distinguished from Serbo-Croats (*i.e.*, Jugoslavs). In her map, Miss Waring, following later Serb views, gives the whole of Serbian Macedonia to the Jugoslavs. This makes an obvious and important difference.

Again, we do not think it fair to speak of the "pretended tolerance of the Turk" in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The tolerance was real, and greater than that of Western countries at this time. In the centuries when Hus and Latimer were burnt for heresy, the Turks recognised a Greek patriarch at Constantinople, and tolerated free-thinking sects of Dervishes. But Turkish toleration, once the widest in Europe, is now the narrowest. The difference between Serbian and Turkish progress cannot be shown more strikingly than by the fact that Serbia gave full civil and religious rights to the Catholic subjects she acquired from Turkey in 1913.

Again, it seems a little hard to lay on Austria the full blame for the folly of King Milan in declaring war on Bulgaria (p. 167), and the discussion of the phases of the Jugoslav question (pp. 187, 189, 198) is in the direction of heat rather than light. It is well to remember that the Serbian case, in general, is so strong on the bare facts that it is weakened, not strengthened, by any suspicion of bias in an English writer.

Though venturing to deprecate these apologetics, we should emphasise the general merits of the book. Anecdote and illustration are happily used to enliven a vigorous narrative, and the general grasp of the subject is excellent. We should also be grateful to Miss Waring for having induced the Serbian Minister to contribute a preface. It is of special interest as coming from one who was at Vienna when the ultimatum was delivered, and who has an almost unique knowledge of the Jugoslav problem. There is probably no statement which presents within a dozen pages or so such a clear and masterly exposition of the modern problems of Serbia.

IN THE PATHS OF THE TRIREME.†

Such is the secondary title that we submit to our gay and gallant author for use in an English edition of this, the third of his Great War pictures drawn from the life. Or we might say drawn out of the jaws of death, for it shows him dodging the "marmites" and submarines with the usual gallantry of a Frenchman and the eye of an artist. He takes us over the paths of the triremes of Ancient Rome, as known to the galley-slave Ben Hur, or later to the Barbary slave Don Quixote. The climacteric of his playful and terrific dabs of vermilion, ochre, and blue is the storm-height of Achi-Baba, the shells from which he anathematises from the beach of Sedd-el-Bahr. Every page of his live story book is good, and a little exaggeration here and there may be pardoned a vivid imagination. Here are some of his sub-titles to the Great Adventure: "The Iliad à la Française"; "We Encamp on the Land of the Gods (Mudros)"; Achi-Baba, or the Forty Difficulties"; "The Naked Army"; "Malta, or the Glorious Ambassadors"; "Vengeance on the Spot by the Trawler 'Marie Frédérique'"; "The Submarine Combat seen from Thirty Metres Below"; "The Three Ways of Burying a Corpse"; "The Verminous Isle." The style of our author is even boyish, and he is at no pains to hide his delight at being a Frenchman, and an ally of Britain at that.

How a British cruiser captain dined and champagned the three officers of a captured submarine and forced them to sing "Gott strafe England," to the accompaniment of the ship's piano, is one of many gems in a veritably Entente Cordiale volume. We should like to reproduce at length in the French original the fine apostrophe of our gallant dead, but considerations of space forbid. A translation of the book into English should be made.

* "Serbia." By L. F. Waring, B.A. (Dublin). Home University Library. Williams and Norgate. 1s. 3d.)

† "Les Compagnons de l'Aventure." By André Tudesq. (Attinger Frères, Paris. 3 fr. 50.)

SPY AND HERO.*

The spirit is willing, but the pen is weak. Nevertheless, we owe to the author, *after* his "Criminal, Spy, and Hero," the making, the marshalling, and the memory of this weirdest of British "beachcombers" of the Great War, whom the Fates seem to have driven to select the Arab world for his self-imposed stage of glory, love, tragedy, and death. Every resident in the Near East will want to read this unfinished story; and here and there some may assist in its completion. .

Walter Greenway (his alias), at the age of twenty-five, with unblemished character, the humorous son of "upper-lower middle-class" parents, was caught by police in an untenanted house, having entered through an attic window. He pleaded a passion for climbing, a love of joking, and an invitation to dinner by strangers whose names he did not know and whose address he had mistaken. He was given three months' hard labour, and on release took to burglaring, moody with his parents, his best friends, and England as he knew it. After four years of this and constant convictions, he unburdened himself to the author, a police-court missionary, who induced him to go to sea, where he could get all the climbing he wanted without burglary. He deserted at Colombo, after earning the united goodwill of his skipper and mates. He reappears eight years afterwards, eight years of deliberate silence, or anonymity, the husband of the bewitchingly beautiful daughter of a majestic Arab sheikh, the father of two "kittens" (girls) and one "dog" (boy), minus his left arm, full of scars, and a victim to dysentery; loss and acquisitions alike acquired by service as a spy during the first Mesopotamian advance. Of his subsequent exploits it would perhaps be unfair in this review to give even a summary, but they took him to Baghdad, whence he escaped to die, under English military nurses' care, in the arms of his devoted and inconsolable Arab wife. England, through readers of *Blackwood's Magazine*, which has published fragments of this Quixotic drama, is still trying to get into touch with the grand old pro-British sheikh, his lovely daughter, and Walter Greenway's dog and kittens —all of whom are hiding for fear of Turco-German vengeance.

The mystery that still exists is the charm of the story—the real thoughts and deeds of the spy-hero—the fate of his beloved ones. In the book itself the good missionary-author repeats himself occasionally in back-parlour dialogues, but he has not only told a story, but helped to make one which will live. After the war we shall expect to know more of Walter Greenway, outcast, and of those he loved.

A WAR TALE.†

Good wine needs no bush, and Captain Brereton's war tales require no commendation. In "The Armoured Car Scouts" the reader is taken to Armenia, and is held breathlessly through a vigorous narrative which turns on the experiences of Guy Grammond with a British naval armoured-car detachment serving under the orders of the Grand Duke Nicholas. Of course, a German spy plays a prominent part in it. There is no lack of incident throughout the 384 pages. The author handles his subject in a masterly manner, and brings home to the youthful reader some of the realities of the Great War.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Treasure of the Tigris: The Tale of Mesopotamia. By Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Mockler-Ferryman. (London: A. and C. Black, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

Face aux Bulgars: La Campagne Française en Macédoine Serb. By H. Lubermann. (Paris: Berger-Leurault. 3fr. 50c.)

Les Dangers Mortels de la Révolution Russe. (Paris: Librairie Payot et Cie. 4 fr.)

Hungary. By A. B. Yolland, M.A. (London: T. C. and R. C. Jack, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

The Wonder Mist. By Henry Bruce. (London: John Long, Ltd. 6s. net.)

The Goal of India. By W. E. S. Holland. (London: United Council for Missionary Education. 2s. net.)

Prophecy, the War and the Near East. By G. H. Lancaster. (London: Marshall Bros. 6s. net.)

Lord Steene's Indiscretion. By Frederic Arthur Stanley. (London: John Richmond. 6s. net.)

The Puppet Show. By Lilian Harrison. (London: John Richmond. 6s. net.)

Armenia's Tragic Story: A Statement and an Appeal. By W. Llew. Williams. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. Price 1d.)

* "Walter Greenway: Spy and Hero. His Life Story." By Robert Holmes (Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 1917.)

† "The Armoured-Car Scouts." A Tale of the Campaign in the Caucasus. By Captain F. S. Brereton. (Blackie and Son, Limited. 6s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

CALENDAR OF THE WEEK

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

Gregorian (New Style).	Julian (Old Style).	—	Moslem.	Jewish.
1917. December 28	1917. December 15	Friday	1336. Rabia I. 14	5678. Tebet 13
29	16	Saturday.....	15	14
30	17	Sunday	16	15
31	18	Monday	17	16
1918. January 1	19	Tuesday	18	17
2	20	Wednesday	19	18
3	21	Thursday	20	19

The Serbian War Mission has arrived in America.

M. Nintitch, Serbian Minister of Finance, has left London for Paris.

The French Ambassador was visited on December 20 by the Roumanian Minister.

General Guillaumat, the new Commander-in-Chief in succession to General Sarrail, arrived at Salonika, on December 22.

M. Romanos, the Greek Minister in Paris, left London on December 23 for the Legation in the French capital.

Lieutenant-Colonel Florescu, the newly-appointed Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation in Italy, has arrived in London.

General Givkovitch, the Commander-in-Chief of the Jugoslav Division in Russia, has arrived in London, and has visited the Serbian Minister.

It is announced that Fathi Pasha, Egyptian Minister of Wakfs (Pious Foundations), has resigned. His successor has not yet been appointed.

As General Allenby is a native of Felixstowe, the London Society of East Anglians has sent him a telegram of congratulation on the taking of Jerusalem.

Mr. Lloyd George entertained M. Venizelos, the Greek Prime Minister, at luncheon on December 22. M. Venizelos left London for the Continent in the evening.

M. Michael Michaelovitch, who has been appointed secretary to the Serbian Legation in Rome, has arrived in London. He will leave shortly to take up his new duties.

At St. Mark's, Venice, Cardinal Lafontaine celebrated a thanksgiving service on December 23 for the liberation of Jerusalem, in the presence of the civil and military authorities.

Sir F. Evans, Acting Colonial Secretary, announces that over £5,000 has been collected at Gibraltar for "Our Day" British Red Cross Fund, and has been forwarded to the headquarters in London.

Autograph letters and historical MSS., by or relating to the Duke of Wellington and the Marquis Wellesley, Governor-General of India, "the property of a gentleman," will be sold at Christie's on February 19.

According to Reuter's correspondent at Madras, Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy, and Mr. Montagu, with their party, arrived there on December 21. They were met by the Governor of Madras, Lord Pentland.

The Government of the Federated Malay States has contributed £10,000 to the funds of the Belgian Red Cross Society and £5,000 each to the funds of the Roumanian, Serbian, and Montenegrin Red Cross Societies.

Sir Charles Lyall, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., D.Litt., will read a paper on "Four Poems by Ta'abbata-Sharra, the Brigand Poet," before the Royal Asiatic Society, 22, Albemarle Street, W., on Tuesday, January 8, at 4 p.m.

The Greek Minister is in mourning owing to the death of his younger brother, M. Panagiotis Gennadius, for many years Director of Agriculture in Cyprus, and one of the most distinguished of scientific agriculturists in Greece.

It was announced by Royal Proclamation in the *London Gazette* on December 22 that a branch of the Mint is to be established at or near Bombay, either in the buildings of the Indian Mint or on such other site as the Governor-General of India in Council may approve.

A special tribunal at Arrah, Bengal, dealing with the Katar riot case, sentenced 97 of the accused to terms ranging from ten years' transportation to five years' rigorous imprisonment. Fines were added in several cases.

In a lecture at the Grafton Galleries on December 20 on "The Great Serbian Retreat," M. Milan Tchurtchin paid a high tribute to the devotion of the British nurses to the Serbian wounded and their bravery during the retreat.

At a meeting of the Lord Mayor's Armenian Relief Committee held at the House of Commons on December 20, it was stated that urgent messages had been received from Armenia regarding the position of a large number of refugees faced with impending starvation.

Dr. J. B. Christopherson, Director of the Civil Hospitals of Khartum and Omdurman, who has been acting as secretary to the Commission on Medical Establishments in France, has left for Khartum. The work of the Commission in France has been completed.

General Georgescu, the representative of the Roumanian Army attached to the British Headquarters, has returned to London (says Reuter's Agency) from France, where, by command of the King of Roumania, he presented to Sir Douglas Haig the Roumanian Royal Order of Michael the Brave.

All Protestant churches in France celebrated the liberation of Jerusalem from Turkish rule on December 23. In Paris the British and United States Ambassadors were present at a celebration at the French Calvinist Church of the Étoile in the Avenue de la Grande Armée, at which President Poincaré and the Government were represented.

There is no foundation for any apprehension on the part of the Armenians that the Armenian religious community was not represented at the time of the British entry into Jerusalem. A representative of the Armenian Patriarch (Reuter's Agency is informed) was received by the British General Officer Commanding, together with the representatives of the committees of other ecclesiastical bodies, at the ceremonial entry of the British forces into the Holy City.

The Crown Prince of Serbia has sent the following telegram, in acknowledgment of birthday congratulations, to Dr. Ante Trumbitch, president of the Jugoslav Committee in London:—"I have been deeply touched by your greeting addressed to me as the future Sovereign of the democratic State of the Serbians, Croatians, and Slovenes. I do not doubt that our Allies will fully appreciate the superhuman efforts of our race made towards our union, and I wish you all to be persuaded that I will devote all my efforts to achieve this ideal."

The following cablegram has been received by the United States Government from the American Acting Consul-General in Cairo:—"Long awaited opportunity relief Southern Palestine has arrived. Syria and Palestine Relief Fund supported by Syrian Fund is uptaking military authorities urgent request assistance. From destroyed, deserted Gaza to Jaffa sick, wounded civilians reach our first camp hospital. Three more medical units immediately required. Authorities estimate total monthly expenditure medical camps twelve thousand dollars. Seed, grain, and transport facilities also needed. Conspicuous success Fords in desert prompts request for twelve lorries and six motor ploughs. Can you help?"

A Cyprus correspondent writes:—Mr. Grimshaw has been appointed President of the District Court of Papho. As a temporary arrangement, during existing vacancies, he will divide his time between Papho and Limassol.

Mr. Alan Stuart, who has been for many years President of the Limassol Court, has been transferred to Larnaca, and will similarly divide his time between Larnaca and Limassol.

Mr. Russch, King's Advocate, is on the sick list, suffering from typhoid fever. Mr. Stuart is acting for him, and is at present at Nicosia.

Mr. Bowring, Receiver-General, is laid up, and it is feared is suffering from typhoid.

The capture of Baghdad sent a thrill through political and military centres; the capture of Jerusalem has stirred the religious imagination of the world—Christian, Jew, and Moslem; but relief must follow swiftly, or the Syrian will only be released to die. The Syria and Palestine Relief Fund hear from their general director in Cairo, Colonel Phillott, that the need of the hour is provision for the sick. Southern Palestine has been stripped of every medical necessity, and lacks the rudiments of hospital equipment, to say nothing of doctors, nurses, and drugs. And sickness is increased by lack of clothing in the wet cold of winter in the Syrian highlands. "Only the lucky ones," says Dr. Lloyd, at the refugee camp at Khan Yunis, "have more than one blanket"—a native make, half cotton. Dr. Glazebrook, U.S.A., Consul-General at Jerusalem, says, "The economic conditions are appalling." The terrible death-roll in the Lebanon is confirmed on every side. The chairman of the Administrative Committee in Cairo—Bishop MacInnes—has sent repeated urgent calls for help.

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Major-General Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B., was mentioned again in Sir Douglas Haig's last despatch. So also was Second Lieutenant (Hon. Captain) Viscount Duncannon. In civil life General Lawrence is a director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, while Viscount Duncannon is the eldest son of the Earl of Bessborough, who is chairman of that bank, and also of the Bank of Roumania.

Captain Edward Allen Roe, Queen's West Surrey Regiment, who has been for the last two years in Egypt or Palestine, has been awarded the Military Cross. In congratulating him on this well-deserved award, his Brigadier-General stated that Captain Roe had always done splendid work in all operations in that theatre.

The Duke of Connaught, Grand Prior of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, with the members and associates of the Order, will attend a solemn service of thanksgiving, for the deliverance of Jerusalem from the hands of the Turk at the Grand Priory Church, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell, on January 11, at noon.

It is reported from Athens that a Civil Tribunal of first instance, held at Athens on December 20, decreed the preliminary sequestration of the real estate of M. Skouloudis and M. Lambros to the value of £200,000 and £160,000 respectively. These sums apparently are considered to represent the minimum fine to which their Ministerial acts have rendered them liable.

Subscriptions to the British Farmers' Red Cross Fund have now reached the splendid total of £750,000, apart from the proceeds of sales amounting to between £30,000 and £40,000. The Fund, as is well known, has been the means of contributing materially to the comfort and well-being of the sick and wounded in every theatre of the war, and has done notably good work in Mesopotamia.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, ETC.

El Bimbashi (temporary Kaimakam) C. W. Ritson has been promoted to the rank of Kaimakam.

The King of Serbia has conferred the Order of the White Eagle (5th Class) on the following officers:—Lieut. Joseph H. Franklin, R.N.V.R.; Lieut. Arthur K. Griffith, R.N.V.R.; Lieut. Arthur E. Hewitt, R.N.V.R.; Lieut. Thomas L. Fellowes, R.N.V.R.; Lieut. Ernest Proe, R.N.V.R.

OBITUARY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Lennox Tredcroft, J.P., who died at Merrow, Guildford, on December 20, in his 86th year, served in the Royal Horse Artillery in the Crimea, receiving the medal and clasp, and the Turkish medal and Order of Medjidie.

Mr. Edward Stanhope Pearson, late of the Bengal Civil Service, has died at Ealing, at the age of ninety-three years. He was the youngest son of the late Dr. Hugh Nicolas Pearson, Dean of Salisbury, and entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1842, retiring in 1872.

Colonel H. C. Marsh, late of the 18th Bengal Lancers, has died suddenly at Clarence Hill, Tunbridge Wells, aged eighty years. He served in the Afghan War of 1879-80, and with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, for which he obtained the medal, the bronze star, and the 4th Class of the Osmanieh, and he retired with the rank of colonel in 1886.

Colonel James Langford Pearse, formerly of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, and of Staines, died on December 21 at the age of fifty-eight. He saw service with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, taking part in the defence of Alexandria, the occupation of Kafr Dowar, and the surrender of Damietta, and he also took part in the Sudan Expedition of 1885.

DOMESTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BIRTHS.

NIXON.—On November 4, at Tavoy, Burma, the wife of Arthur B. Nixon, Indian Forestry Service—a daughter.

PUCKLE.—On December 16, at Peshawar, India, the wife of F. Hale Puckle, I.C.S. (Tempy. Capt., Mohmand Militia), of a daughter.

DEATHS.

FRASER.—On December 19, 1917, at The Vale, Weybridge, Elmira Jane, widow of John Fraser, Secretary of the Supreme Consular Court of Shanghai, and daughter of the late John J. A. Werry, Smyrna, aged eighty-seven.

LANE.—On December 17, at Aden, Guy Wilkinson Lane, Madras Police, third surviving son of the late Rev. E. Aldous Lane and of Mrs. Lane, Northcote, Lansdown, Bath.

MILTON.—On December 15, Charlotte Jeannette, daughter of the late Charles Munro, Esqre., Campbelltown, Argyllshire, and wife of Dr. Herbert Milton, Cairo.

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TURKEY AND THE MOSLEM WORLD.

In recent issues of THE NEAR EAST have appeared extracts from an informative article in a contemporary on the so-called Pan-Turanian movement. This week we publish from our Tabriz correspondent a reference to the propaganda work now in progress in this connection in Persia, and his statement shows that there is substantial ground for believing that Great Britain is confronted with a definite and organised endeavour on the part of Turkey's rulers and of those who now stand behind them which calls for more than passing attention. Briefly stated, the aim is the aggrandisement of the Ottoman Empire for purposes of military aggression on the approved Prussian pattern. At a moment when there is a general tendency to accept as an axiom the break-up of Turkey as a result of the present war, the danger accruing from the aspirations of the Committee of Union and Progress may seem remote. But this view takes for granted the absence of any political manœuvres on the part of the Turkish Government to recover lost ground when it finally realises the seriousness of the position, as well as the absence of any conflicting interests among the Allied Governments when the future of the Ottoman Empire comes to be settled, and it ignores the new situation that may be brought about in Asia by the disintegration of Russia. It would be a grave mistake to minimise the potentialities of the Pan-Turkish movement. Its scope extends, in the first instance, to some twenty-seven million people, of whom only eight million are in the present Ottoman Empire, while twice that number are to be found within the Russian Empire. But beyond Pan-Turanianism, or, rather, side by side with it, lies Pan-Islamism. They are in essence rival political programmes for increasing the power of the Ottoman Empire abroad. In feeling their way to their goal the Committee began by accepting the assistance of doctrinaire Pan-Turanianism. The course of events has opened a wider vista than that of merely Turkifying the peoples of the Ottoman Empire, with the result that Irredentism may become substituted for Imperialism. Moreover, in its purely academic aspect Pan-Turanianism has had the immediate effect of alienating non-Turkish Islam; but it is not outside the bounds of probability that the Committee may yet make a bid to retrieve this initial mistake by offering concessions to outraged Arab opinion.

With the British conquest of Mesopotamia, the advance in Palestine, and the secession of the Arabs, the Imperialist cause in Turkey seemed to have fallen upon evil days. It was at this stage that developments in Russia introduced entirely new prospects for the movement. Included in the sixteen millions of Turkish-speaking peoples within the Russian Empire are the Tatars of Kazan and of the Caucasus, and some twelve million Turks of Central Asia, who inhabit the country between the Volga and the Caspian Sea on the west, and Chinese Turkestan on the east, where they are linked up with the Chinese Mohammedans. Intellectually the Kazan Tatars are the most important of the three groups, but the greater industrial future that may be expected to be in store for the Caucasus in view of the Baku oilfields makes it possible that the Southern Tatars, with the added advantage of their geographical position, will ultimately become the political centre for the Turkish-speaking populations of Russia, if not of the rest of the world as well. The success or failure of Pan-Turanianism as an Ottoman-Turk Irredentist movement, it is pointed out, largely depends on the attitude which the Kazan Tatars adopt towards it, and this in turn depends upon the political evolution of Russia. Geography and material interests bind these Tatars to the latter country; but in the present situation they cannot throw in their lot either with the anti-nationality policy for which the Cadets are coming to stand, or with the extreme separatism of the Finns and Ukrainians, which would leave them isolated by independent and probably chauvinistic States, from the Tatars of the Crimea and the Caucasus. Self-interest prompts them to favour national autonomy within a federal Russian republic; any reactionary movement is liable to compel them to turn to the Ottoman Empire for support and thus to give Turkish Irredentism a powerful stimulus. In the same way, chaos or repression in Russia will cause the Tatars of the Caucasus to turn to their Ottoman neighbours; but with this difference that their proximity to Anatolia would prevent them from maintaining an independent existence under Turkish jurisdiction, and the economic and cultural development of Baku would be arrested. Again, so long as the Russian Empire remained intact there was little hope of Turkish nationalism making headway in Central Asia; but separatist tendencies, never wholly eliminated, have gained a sudden accession of strength from Russia's domestic troubles. The whole population is Turkish, and of the Sunni sect of Islam. If Russia releases her hold of this region, German-Ottoman diplomacy can be relied upon to embody it in a Turkish-Islamic State. The prospects in this direction would amply atone for losses in Southern Mesopotamia and Syria. A Berlin-Bokhara project would take the place of the frustrated Berlin-Baghdad scheme, and there would be an additional incentive for Constantinople to make its peace with non-Turkish Islam, and to win back the allegiance of the Arabs.

It requires little imagination to understand that a State, of the proportions outlined, under the ægis of the Committee of Union and Progress, backed by Germany, would prove a standing menace to the peace of the world and to British interests in particular. What steps, if any, can be taken to guard against such a danger? Clearly militarism has to be as completely exorcised from Turkey as it is proposed to exorcise it from Germany. In the peace terms granted to the Turkish Government there must be no short-sighted policy which will hold out to the Turks the hope of still remaining a great Islamic Power capable of playing an independent part in international politics. In Anatolia there will be all the opportunity and scope required for a genuine Turkish national revival; but it must be freed from dreams of world-dominion. To this revival Great Britain, France, and Russia can lend their cordial support, and the Turkish-speaking peoples of Russia, it is suggested, might play the same part as that which Russia herself has played towards the Balkan Slavs. The crux of the problem lies in the political future of that great expanse of territory which under the disintegrating influences of revolution threatens to pass through anarchy to permanent disruption. If the danger is clearly foreseen, it will be possible to guard against it in some measure. The first step is to appreciate the facts of the situation, and not to fall into the error of the pacifist or the war-wearied in imagining, as Lord Lansdowne urged the country to do, that if the war-aims of the Allies are secured in Western Europe the rest of the world can well be left to look after itself. There is no danger of Great Britain's weakening in her support of Belgium, France, or the other countries to whom her word is pledged: there ought to be no danger of her weakening where her own interests are at stake. But ignorance constitutes a serious pitfall; and if the potentialities of the Pan-Turanian movement are not adequately realised, Germany's ambition of undermining the British Empire in the East may yet be achieved by devious ways.

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INDIAN IDEALS AND EGYPTIAN EXPERIENCE.

BY JANUS.

Coles Pasha's wise and thoughtful articles on the reform of the Indian constitution will, I think, be cordially welcomed by everyone who is seeking for fresh light on the complex problems with which they deal. In one way and another the Egyptian administration owes a good deal to India, and now that India is in rather a tight place, though by no means threatened with constitutional bankruptcy, such repayments on account have a sentimental as well as a practical value, and should help to promote the harmony so desirable among the junior members of the Imperial family. The immediate aim of India's statesmen is, as Coles Pasha indicates, a move in the direction of what is called provincial autonomy, that is to say, to put the people of each province in the way of managing their own affairs. That again means responsible government, and a change in this direction is, I think, inevitable. I question whether opposition on the part of Anglo-Indians is likely to be so great as the articles suggest. There are, no doubt in India as elsewhere, old and crusted opponents of any change; but opinion has moved rapidly during the last few years, and I believe that, in official circles at least, a long step forward will be welcomed, always provided that when it has been taken the foot shall rest on solid ground, and neither remain suspended in mid air nor plunge into one of the many quagmires that lie so near the true path.

Egyptian experience is of particular value in connection with the apprehension, more frequently felt than expressed, that Indian Ministers and English officers will not work as a team. Egypt has shown, as Coles Pasha points out, an admirable example of team-work of this kind, and though both sides in India are at times liable to suffer from what the Babu described as "race-prejudice and colour-blindness," the danger can be avoided by self-control and tact, and still more by good will. Team-work of this kind has often succeeded in Native States in India, and perhaps I may be permitted to cap Coles Pasha's experience with my own. A few years ago I was one of a small band of English officers working under the orders of a Council of Indian Ministers. We were, I should say, a fairly average lot: there was a rather donnish educationist, a rabid sanitarian, a policeman burning with the honourable zeal of his calling, and, of course, a Sapper: all of us had been trained in British India, and I think all of us occasionally felt the position a little awkward, but on the whole we got on tolerably well, and, grumble as we might about the Ministers above us, we still claimed to be making better progress than the British provinces which lay around. This case is, of course, quite common in India, and for myself I have no doubt that, while individuals might prove "impossible," the Services as a whole would accommodate themselves to a system of responsible government, though they would claim the Englishman's privilege to grumble at the change.

The real difficulty in the way of introducing responsible government lies in the bilateral significance of the former word. If Ministers are responsible to the Councils, the members of the Council must in turn be made responsible to the people of the country, ultimately if not immediately to that silent and secretive person whom Coles Pasha aptly describes as the man in the mud hut. It is on this side that the administration in India has fallen so seriously behind. It is true that local government has advanced, but as yet it has scarcely reached the hut: the franchise for even local bodies is ridiculously narrow, and at the present time there is not even the nucleus of a body of voters which could keep the provincial Councils in check. Had village Councils been established on a reasonable scale even as late as ten years ago, such a nucleus would have been in existence by now, and the authors of past reforms bear a very heavy responsibility for neglecting this side of the question; but there is no use crying over spilt milk, and we have to make the best of the position as it stands. As I have said above, it is rather a tight place: the politicians on the Councils have secured power without responsibility: they demand much more power, and the demand must be met: but they have not the slightest desire to surrender their "unchartered freedom," and it is quite out of the question to ask them to wait till a body of experienced voters has been brought into existence. To put the matter metaphorically, the provincial boats are badly trimmed, but wind and tide forbid a halt, and the voyage must go on with such precautions as are possible, and with a certain temporary risk that some of them may capsize. Everyone must sympathise with Lord Chelmsford, who has to navigate the fleet, but bears no responsibility for its unseaworthy condition, and everyone must hope that the presence on board of Mr. Montagu, representing the owners, will conduce to a successful outcome.

The interpretation of this parable is that responsible government, with some judicious limitations, must be conferred on the provinces almost at once, and before the constituencices have learned how to form an opinion, or how to express it when formed. There are signs that the administration is at last tackling this question of constituencies in earnest, and for myself I believe that the peasants, who must have the final word, if the promise of self-government is not a fraud, will learn the rules of the game and begin to take an interest in it more quickly than many people suppose; but it would be idle to deny that the period while they are learning will be somewhat anxious, and that in one province or another there will be a real risk that Ministers may remain out of touch with the people, and attempt to introduce some measure which the people will not stand. To my mind, this is a strong argument for postponing any large alterations in the Government of India until responsible government has established itself firmly in the provinces. The people of India have deduced from their history the conclusion that all governments are essentially unstable; any sudden change will be interpreted as foreshadowing the collapse of their latest rulers, and many a man will hope for an early return of the good old days—

"When I rode a Dekhani charger, with the saddle-cloth gold-laced,
And a Persian sword, and a twelve-foot spear, and a pistol at my waist,"

and when

"From the Dekhan to the Himalay, five hundred of one clan,
They asked no leave of prince or chief as they swept thro' Hindustan."

There are still many dreamers in India, and it will be best that during the times of change they should continue to see the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief—their "Country-Lord" and "War-Lord"—representing the King-Emperor with undiminished authority and prestige. It is true that the existing system of military administration is altogether unsatisfactory, and, speaking for myself, I agree with Coles Pasha that a Minister of War is wanted on the Viceroy's Council; but the time is not suitable for such a change, and it would be better to carry on with the system as it stands than to do anything just now which might be interpreted by the masses as weakening the stability of one of the two pillars of the British Raj. Keep the Supreme Government as it is for the present, delegating indeed to the provincial administrations such powers as they require, and refraining from bureaucratic interference with their conduct of affairs, but standing by with the full power of the Empire at its back, until the changes in the provinces have been effected, and the new rulers have learned to know their masters, the men in the mud houses, the patient, silent millions who must be the first and final object of the Empire's regard. Let us get the foundations right first.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FUTURE OF DALMATIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

SIR,—As a Jugoslav, I have read with great interest the letters on "Italy and the Balkans," by F. Bonavia, and the able replies by Dr. Micic, that appeared in your columns in July and August last, and I hope that you will permit me to offer a few comments upon them.

I may say at once that, in my opinion, Mr. Bonavia has entirely failed to make out a case for Italy's supposed claim to Dalmatia on either historical, racial, or national grounds. More than this, I maintain that any attempt on the part of Italy or the Entente Powers to enforce such a claim would lead inevitably to the most disastrous consequences, and would absolutely prevent any peaceful or permanent settlement of the Jugoslav question or any satisfactory solution of the Balkan problem, with all its endless possibilities of discord and bloodshed for the future.

Mr. Bonavia argues, in the first place, that the Dalmatian coast at one time belonged to Italy, and that Italy may, therefore, justly claim it now. The answer is that the people inhabiting this country are now Slav to the extent of a little less than 97 per cent. of the population, that they are bound by the strongest racial and national ties to all the other Jugoslavs, and that they demand the right to govern themselves—that right of autonomy so dear to all small and enslaved nationalities, for which the Entente Powers are fighting to-day.

Mr. Bonavia tells us that Austria wrested Dalmatia from Italy and that it now ought to be restored. The answer is that neither Austria nor Italy ever had or could have the right to deprive the Jugoslavs of Dalmatia of their liberty and to coerce them into dependence upon a foreign ruler.

Mr. Bonavia cannot deny that the population of Dalmatia is overwhelmingly Slavonic. Dr. Seton-Watson has pointed out that in 1833 there were 16,000 Italians in Dalmatia and 360,000 Serbo-Croats; while in 1868 Tommaseo, the great Italian patriot, gave the numbers as 20,000 Italians and 400,000 Serbo-Croats. To-day barely 4 per cent. of the people at the outside are Italian by descent; and in reply to Mr. Bonavia's suggestion that the Italian element is so small because the Austrian rulers of Dalmatia have deliberately crushed or extirpated the Italians, I may quote from the well-known Slav historian, Tucic, the statement that "for opportunist reasons Austria has always favoured the Italian element" in Istria and Dalmatia; and, further, that if to-day Italy is apparently able to substantiate a claim to special interests in this part of the world, "this is the outcome of a chance state of affairs arbitrarily created by the Austrian Government." I may point out, also, in further disproof of Mr. Bonavia's statement that Austria has favoured the Slavs at the expense of the Italians in Dalmatia, this interesting fact—that, though the Austrian Government suspended all the Slav municipalities as soon as war broke out, the single Italian municipality of Zadar was alone unmolested and undisturbed.

I need hardly say that, if I could command enough of your space I could provide a large amount of evidence to support my contention that Dalmatia is wholly Slav in the only important senses—historically, racially, and in the political sympathies and aspirations of its people. But as Slavonic evidence may be regarded as prejudiced, I will refer to other authorities. Dr. Seton-Watson, in his "Balkans, Italy, and the Adriatic," tells us that "nothing could be more inaccurate and misleading" than to represent Dalmatia as ever having been an Italian province, for "Dalmatia is Slav, and has been so for a thousand years." As a logical consequence, this distinguished authority maintains (*e.g.*, in his contribution to "War and Democracy") that an Italian occupation of Dalmatia after the war is incredible and impossible. "Not only would it bring Italy inevitably into collision with the Southern Slavs: it would lead her on into the false and hopeless path of attempting to assimilate a hostile population by the aid of an insignificant minority which only exists in half a dozen towns, and in all the rest of the province is simply non-existent. The price paid would be the eternal enmity of all Slavs." Further, Dr. Seton-Watson argues that to separate Dalmatia from the rest of the Jugoslav States would "prevent even the beginning of a solution of the Southern Slav question." And the reason is that Dalmatia is in an ethnical, constitutional, and political sense an integral portion of Jugoslavia, and he concludes that "it is unthinkable that Serbo-Croat opinion would ever consent to the liberation of the one without the other." In almost the same words Sir Arthur Evans, addressing the Roya Geographical Society in January, 1916, told his hearers that Dalmatia is "as much an integral part of unredeemed Serbia as ever Lombardy and Venice were once parts of 'unredeemed' Italy." More evidence of the same sort can be drawn from numerous British authorities. Thus Mr. Arnold Toynbee, in his elaborate work on "Nationality and the War," simply declines to consider Italy's claim to the eastern coast of the Adriatic. "We have passed over her aspirations in Dalmatia without a word, because here the Venetian *régime* is a memory, and has resulted in no living racial fact. . . . Italy has as little justification for coming here as she has for ruling in Corfu or Zante." Similarly, Mr. Evans Lewin, in his recently published book, "The German Road to the East," observes, in regard to international rivalries in the Balkans, "Upon the question of Dalmatia it is not necessary to enter at any length . . . because Italians have practically no racial claims to the possession of Dalmatia. Whilst Italians inhabit the coastal towns they are an insignificant minority in the country at large. In Dalmatia, which is Slav, and has been so for a thousand years, Italy has no ethnographic claims whatever." Again, in "The Great Settlement," by Mr. Ernest Fayle, an important work on the readjustment of international affairs after the war, I find the following reference to this question: "Whatever claim Italy may base on historical associations, the overwhelming majority of the inhabitants of Dalmatia are Serbo-Croat, and not only national but geographical and economic considerations suggest that the natural fate of the province is union with an enlarged Serbia. Italy will be fully entitled to demand guarantees for the good treatment of the Italian inhabitants and for the protection of her commercial interests, but beyond this it is very much to be hoped that she will not go."

Unfortunately there are some Italians who would like to go a great deal further, and Mr. Bonavia is apparently one of them. But, to do the Italian nation justice, the views that he represents stand only for the restless ambitions of a small though noisy section of politicians and journalists who hold the same position in Italy as "Chauvinistes" in France and "Jingoes" in England. It is well to remember that the wild and reckless, not to say unscrupulous, projects of aggression and annexation which such men advocate get no countenance from the best type of Italian statesmen. Italians, at least, should never forget that Mazzini, the founder of Italian liberty and unity, frequently declared that Italy's eastern boundary stopped short at Istria, and that the eastern coast of the Adriatic was a region in which Slav elements predominated, and which must, therefore, be left to the Slavs. He described the ports of Dalmatia as necessary to the Southern Slavs, and he includes Dalmatia in "the Illyrian Serb State" which, he predicted, would one day arise on the Adriatic's eastern shore. Another great Italian patriot, Tommaseo, himself a Dalmatian by birth, declared that Dalmatia "had preserved the Slav character better than Italy its Italian." He denied that Dalmatia could ever be dependent on Italy, and in his most famous poem, his ode to Dalmatia, he prophesies the rebirth of his native land as part of the new Serbia, the Southern Slav State yet to be. And in the spirit of Mazzini and Tommaseo many of the most eminent of living Italians—Sonnino, Bisolate, Boselli, among others—have energetically disclaimed any intention of encroaching upon the national frontiers of the Jugoslavs. A year ago Signor Bisolate, then Minister of State, interviewed in Paris on this subject, said definitely, "The Italian race has suffered too much from oppression herself to oppress others. We shall not allow an 'irredentism' to arise against us." And he went on to assert that it would be Italy's mission to aid the Jugoslavs in assisting their national independence and vindicating their claim to freedom. Such influential newspapers as the *Secolo* and the *Corriere della Sera*, from which you yourself have quoted, have from time to time expressed approval of this just and sane policy, and I repeat that the only opposition to it arises from a small knot of fanatical enthusiasts who, in their eagerness to force their own nation's claims to the front, are for the moment wholly forgetful of the rights and interests of others.

What I have said so far seems to me to justify entirely my belief that Italy has no fair and reasonable excuse for demanding leave from the Entente Powers to intrude into Dalmatia. But even more important than this historical and political evidence should be in the eyes of the Powers the feelings of the Dalmatian people; there I can safely say that we are on firm ground, for I say, without fear of contradiction, from one who knows the country and the people as I know them, that the Dalmatians are Slavs heart and soul, that they have devoted themselves to the advancement of the Jugoslav cause, and that with it they will stand or fall. No section of the Croatian or Serbian people has displayed more energy and enthusiasm in the national cause than the Dalmatians; none have sacrificed themselves for it more willingly; none have rejoiced more proudly and enthusiastically in the glorious deeds by which Serbia has gained the right to claim for the whole great nation that she represents that liberty, independence, and power of self-government which the Allies have declared themselves ready to confer on all the subject nationalities of Europe. For the Dalmatians, like all the other Croats and Serbs, have taken these things very seriously. Dr. Seton-Watson has told his English hearers how, "at an age when our youth think of nothing but cricket and football, the students, and even the schoolboys, of Croatia, Dalmatia, and Bosnia became engrossed in political speculation, brooded over the wrongs of their disunited race, and dreamt of Serbia as the new Piedmont of the Balkans." And so, when Serbia won her triumphs in the Balkan wars, the Dalmatians "saw the dawn of day in the rising of the Balkan sun," and the hope then kindled, the certainty that sooner or later freedom would crown their efforts, has aroused in the hearts of all the Jugoslavs an enthusiasm and an inspiration that will not and cannot die. And because of these things it seems to me vitally important that the whole civilised world, and more especially the people of England, who have always been the champions of liberty and nationalism,

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should recognise the terrible dangers involved in dealing with the Jugoslav question and with Dalmatia on any but nationalist lines. Dr. Seton-Watson, discussing Italy's ambitions, has said that "any attempt to lay hands on Dalmatia would be resisted to the death," and that is literally true. The Jugoslavs have waited and hoped and struggled for freedom for centuries; the Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Bosnians, and Dalmatians have sacrificed themselves in countless thousands in the hope of breaking the tyrant's yoke; and the race which has overthrown the Turk and defied the Austrian will not, now that the hour of emancipation seems to have struck at last, tamely submit while its kinsfolk are handed over by the Powers for another foreign despotism to enslave. It is certain that the Austrians are better masters than the Turks, and it is probable that the Italians would be better masters than the Austrians; but that is beside the point. Good government, as the great American statesman said, is no substitute for self-government; and the Jugoslavs claim the right to rule themselves. It may be that all these fears and apprehensions are needless and groundless; it may be that the Allies have already induced the Italian extremists to take a more reasonable and equitable view of the situation, and that the agreement said to have been concluded at Paris three months ago provides for the establishment of the Jugoslav State of our dreams, including Dalmatia in the Serbo-Croatian-Slovene kingdom, which will assuredly rise from the ashes of the war. I can only trust that it may be so: but if it is otherwise, then nothing can be more certain than this—that a settlement which transfers Dalmatia or any part of it to Italy will settle nothing, and that a treaty concluded by the Powers on those lines will bring "not peace, but a sword." I am only a humble unit of the great Jugoslav family, and I send my voice in a faint whisper from far New Zealand, thousands of miles across the sea; but I know my country and my people, and when I, a Dalmatian of Brac (Brazza) say that the Serbs and Croats will fight to the death rather than accept servitude under another foreign tyranny in place of the promised freedom that their gallant deeds have won, I know that I do not speak for myself alone. May Britain and the Entente Powers be wise in time, for nothing but the emancipation of the whole Jugoslav race and its restoration to liberty and independence will ensure the future peace of Europe and the world.—I am, etc.,

GEORGE L. SKANSI,
Trustee, Mayor's Serbian War Relief Fund;
Editor, the *Zora*, Auckland;
President, Jugoslav League of Independence.

38, Hellaby's Buildings, Queen Street,
Auckland, New Zealand.

"TURKISH" CIGARETTES.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE NEAR EAST."

Sir,—The public have a wrong conception about what are called "Turkish cigarettes." Only a very small proportion of Turkish tobacco leaf is put into these cigarettes to blend the tobacco, which principally comes from Smyrna and other parts of Asia Minor, etc. The bulk of the tobacco which makes the Turkish cigarette so famous is really now "Grecian" tobacco, and not Turkish in any way. It is grown in Macedonia, as well as in many other parts of New Greece and Old Greece, the proportion used in manufacture being, say, 75 per cent. Macedonian, etc., and only about 25 per cent from Turkey. The latter amount can be done without, as most of the New Grecian Islands (Grecian Archipelago), now grow the same tobacco, if not better, as the Turks did in Turkey. I mean, of course, that these were something like the proportions before the war. Naturally now manufacturers are reluctantly obliged to use all sorts of substitutes, such as tobacco from China, Japan, etc., etc., seeing that very little tobacco leaf is imported from Greece through the war, and none whatever from Turkey. However, the main point of my letter is to call the attention of the public to the absurdity and foolishness of continually asking for Turkish cigarettes.

I do not think it is a compliment in any way to civilisation or to all the patriotic British, as well as Allied people to make any further use of the word "Turkish" under the present state of affairs and after all the horrors that the Turks have perpetrated on the poor unfortunate Armenians and Jews, as well as on the Greeks (the earliest of Christians, who number millions) living under the tyrannical Turkish yoke, I for one, as well as a good many others, would like to see these cigarettes sold under another name altogether.

They might be called by their real name—viz., "Grecian" or "Macedonian" cigarettes, but this thing does not depend entirely on the public. It depends principally on the manufacturers, who largely advertise the same, and also on the importers and brokers, that in future what were called "Turkish" cigarettes should be sold and advertised as "Grecian cigarettes," and the shopkeeper can explain to any purchaser the alteration in the name.

It certainly would be very unpatriotic indeed for us to keep up the word "Turkish," and by doing this we will not be doing justice to Grecian products or to Greece as an Ally of ours in the war. I do hope, therefore, that manufacturers, tobacconists, and the patriotic public will agree to the abolition, and to look upon anything Turkish with as much indignation and horror as they should look upon anything German, Austrian, or Bulgarian.—I am, etc.

NICHOLAS PAPANICOLY.

Primrose Club, St. James's, December 21, 1917.

THE PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST

The Pan-Turanian Movement.

Continuing his analysis of the Pan-Turanian movement, the writer of the article in *The Round Table*, from which extracts have been given in our two previous issues, deals with the activities of the committee of Union and Progress in the Middle East:—

Such, in outline, is the double-edged policy adopted by the present rulers of Turkey for the consolidation of the Turkish State and the extension of its dominion or its influence beyond its existing bounds. It may now be considered how this policy is operating in Central Asia.

The Eastern frontier of the Turkish Empire is separated from the Indian frontier of the British Empire by the two independent States of Persia and Afghanistan. The inhabitants of both are almost wholly Mohammedan, and in the northern districts of both there is a considerable Turkish-speaking population. The migrations from the Asiatic midlands between the eleventh and thirteenth centuries A.D., which carried Turkish-speaking tribes to Anatolia, the Caucasus and Eastern Europe, deposited them also in the provinces of Persia north of the Central Desert, especially in the most north-westerly province, Azerbaijan. Similarly, the provinces of Afghanistan between the Hindu-Kush and the Oxus are occupied by a predominantly Turkish population. They were once independent Turkish (Uzbeg) Khanates, like Khiva and Bokhara, and they were only annexed by Afghanistan during the years 1850-9.

These Turkish-speaking peoples provide an obvious opening for the propaganda of the Pan-Turanian school, and in Persia, at any rate, its exponents have been quick to seize it. But there are serious obstacles in their path. The Turkish speakers of Persia have at present no consciousness of Turkish nationality. They are separated from their neighbours in Turkey by sectarian differences; they are Shias, like the Persians, not Sunnis, like the Anatolian Turks. Moreover, as Tekin Alp himself admits, they still write letters in Persian and read Persian newspapers. But the chief obstacle to the spread of a Pan-Turkish Nationalist movement is the existence of a Persian Nationalist movement, of which, as it happens, Tabriz, the capital of Azerbaijan, has been the centre. Yet the Pan-Turanian doctrinaires are not discouraged by these difficulties. Tekin Alp proposes to give the Azerbaijanis a "Turkish soul"; and he tries to prove that this happy consummation would increase the internal strength of Persia. As a matter of fact, it would divide and weaken it. The forces of Persian Nationalism would be split asunder, and the Persians proper would be driven into hostility towards the Ottoman Empire.

The Committee of Union and Progress show no signs of committing such a blunder. Neither in Persia nor in Afghanistan, where the school of Tekin Alp might aspire to rouse the Uzbegs also to a sense of Turkish nationality, are they likely to press the Pan-Turanian aspect of their policy. Here, as in North Africa, their political instrument is rather Pan-Islamism. They pose as the liberators of Mohammedan States caught in the toils of British or Russian "imperialism," as the standard-bearers of the "Holy War" proclaimed in the name of the Khalif by the Sheikh-ul-Islam in October, 1914. They have suggested a Triple Alliance of Turkey, Persia and Afghanistan based on the principle of political independence for Islamic States. In the districts of Western Persia which they invaded they succeeded in persuading the Persian Nationalists to give them armed support; and they sent a mission to the Amir of Afghanistan which seriously embarrassed him in his neutrality. If this Pan-Islamic propaganda has so far borne little fruit, if the "Holy War" has proved a fiasco, it is mainly because Turkey has on the whole suffered military defeat. For the mainspring of Pan-Islamism, the presupposition of Turkey's championship of other Mohammedan peoples, is the prestige of the Ottoman armies. If those armies had marched victoriously into Tiflis, Cairo and Teheran, or if the Allies had never threatened Constantinople and captured Baghdad, Pan-Islamism might have produced far-reaching military and political results. And, even now, it is by no means bankrupt.

It was because it offered the wider possibilities of Ottoman aggrandisement that the Committee of Union and Progress have thus adopted the Pan-Islamic policy in Persia. But, if it finally fails, if it becomes clear that they cannot overthrow the Anglo-Russian *régime* and replace it by an Ottoman hegemony, they can fall back upon Pan-Turanianism and play for the smaller prize. They can try to detach from Persia her Turkish-speaking peoples and especially the Azerbaijanis, just across their eastern frontier. The Osmanlis have always coveted Azerbaijan; they occupied it more than once during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; in the winter of 1914-15 they overran it for a few weeks as an incident in their Caucasian offensive; and their designs upon the province might conceivably be assisted by domestic developments in Persia. If the Persian Nationalists came into power, they might adopt a chauvinistic policy, as Nationalists have all too often done in multi-national States. In that case the Azerbaijanis might be roused at last to the consciousness of being Turks, and might desire to cut themselves loose politically from Persia. But they might not turn in the first instance to the Ottoman Empire. While Azerbaijan borders on Turkey to the west, it borders on Russia to the north; and across the Russian frontier dwell the Tatars of the Caucasus, who belonged to Persia, like the Azerbaijanis, before the Russian annexation, and are closer to them in every way than to the Armenians and the Kurds across the Turkish frontier. It may be said, in fact, that the political destiny of the Azerbaijanis and the Caucasian Tatars will ultimately be the same.

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They are bound in the end to gravitate in the same direction; and whether it will be westwards or northwards depends on the fate of Russia.

The article then reverts to the influence of the Russian revolution and the events that have followed it on the aspirations of the leaders of the Pan-Turkish movement. Within the Russian State there is a far greater Mohammedan population and a far greater Turkish-speaking population than in the Ottoman State. The writer continues:—

The number of Mohammedans in Russia may be estimated at something under twenty millions; and of these over sixteen millions speak Turkish, whereas the Turkish-speaking population of the Ottoman Empire is not more than eight millions. A vast field is thus opened in Russia for Pan-Turanian or Pan-Islamic exploitation.

The Mohammedans of Russia are distributed in large but not contiguous groups between the central plain of European Russia and the fringes of the mountain frontier of Northern India. The first of these groups, in geographical order, is that of the Tatars of Kazan, who live along the middle course of the Volga between Nizhni Novgorod (which is only some 250 miles east of Moscow) and Samara. Their centre is Kazan, where the river makes its great bend from east to south. They constitute an almost isolated enclave, surrounded by Great Russians on the west and Finnish tribes on the north and south. Beyond the Urals, in Western Siberia, there is another group of Tatars, some fifty thousand strong, around Tobolsk; and southwards, where the Volga joins the Caspian Sea, are the Tatars of Astrakhan. The Tatars of Kazan and Astrakhan together number about one million and a half. West and south, again, come the Tatars of the Crimea (under 200,000) and the Mohammedans of the Caucasus (about 2,500,000 Tatars and 1,500,000 others), cut off from each other and from the rest of the Russian Mohammedans by a broad belt of Ukrainians, Russians, Germans and Kalmucks, while nothing but the Black Sea and an artificial land-frontier divide them from the Mohammedans of Turkey and of Persia. But by far the largest Mohammedan district in Russia is that which stretches from the south-east corner of Europe for fifteen hundred miles across Central Asia. First come the Chuvashes on the fringes of the Volga plain, and the Bashkirs of the Urals; next, on the great midland steppe, the flourishing tribal confederacy of the Kirghiz, and among the Trans-Caspian oases a dwindling remnant of Turkmens; and beyond these again the Turks of Russian Turkestan and the dependent States of Khiva and Bokhara—in sum, a body of about twelve million Mohammedans, occupying an almost unbroken area between the Volga and the Caspian on the west, the line of the Trans-Siberian railway on the north, and the frontiers of Persia, Afghanistan, and the Chinese Empire on the south and east.

With the exception, then, of this Central Asiatic mass, which is itself broken up by belts of desert, the Mohammedans of Russia possess no geographical unity. They are only linked together by the great strategic lines of communication constructed by the Russian Government—the Trans-Siberian, Orenburg-Tashkend, and Trans-Caspian railways. And even the political unity which their common inclusion in the Russian Empire gives them is somewhat superficial. For the different Moslem populations have been incorporated in Russia at widely different dates—the Volga and Siberian Tatars in the sixteenth century; the Crimean Tatars not till 1783; the Moslems of the Caucasus between 1783 and 1868: the Kirghiz in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the Uzbeg Khanates (Bokhara, Khiva, and Khokand) between 1868 and 1876; the Turkmens of Trans-Caspia between 1873 and 1886. And these historical differences are reflected in differences of administration. Kazan, for example, lies in the heart of modern Russia, and has long been in possession of ordinary Russian civil institutions; the Caucasus has been a vice-royalty containing some civil Governments and some military provinces, but not endowed with "zemstvos"; Trans-Caspia and Turkestan have been under military administration; Khiva and Bokhara have never been administered directly by Russia, their status being similar to that of the Native States in India.

Thus the Mohammedans of Russia are divided politically as well as geographically, and the two systems of grouping do not coincide. Yet another and a more important cross-division is created by their differences of culture.

In the first place, the Russian Mohammedans are not all of one sect. Central Asia and the Volga are more or less uniformly Sunni; but in the Caucasus there is an important Shia element in those districts which belonged to Persia before the Russian conquest, and the Caucasian Mohammedans have so far been partitioned between two rival religious primates, the Sunni Mufti and the Shia Sheikh-ul-Islam; while even among the Sunnis there has been no All-Russian ecclesiastical organisation. The Sunni community in the Caucasus, like the Shia, has been kept in isolation. The *Mohammedan Ecclesiastical Court* of Orenburg, (with its actual seat at Ufa), an official organ of the Russian Government, has exercised jurisdiction over the Mohammedans of European Russia (in the administrative sense); but the Crimea and the former territories of Lithuania were excluded, and its authority has not extended over Central Asia. In some Central Asiatic districts—for example, the Province of Siemiriechensk—the local Mohammedan ecclesiastical institutions appear to have been suppressed by Russia, while, on the other hand, the Khanates of Khiva and Bokhara have naturally retained ecclesiastical as well as political autonomy.

Secondly, there are profound social and economic diversities between different sections of the Mohammedan population. . . .

Thirdly, there is the division of language.

Over a million of the Russian Mohammedans belong to indigenous tribes of the Caucasus, speaking a variety of tongues; another million and a half, scattered through the Caucasus and the settled regions of Central Asia, speak Iranian dialects; the remainder, more than 16,000,000 in all, speak Turkish. But, while this vast Turkish-speaking element gives the Russian Mohammedans a certain predominant colour, its unifying effect is diminished by the existence of dialectical differences, which, heightening and also heightened by differences of culture and history, break them up into three main groups gravitating towards three distinct poles.

(i.) The centre for the Tatars of the Caucasus is Baku. They speak the same dialect as the Turkish-speaking population of the Persian province of Azerbaijan, and nearly the same as the Ottoman Turks of Anatolia. The Tatar Press at Baku employs the literary Ottoman language of Constantinople, which is Anatolian Turk diluted with Arabic and Persian. The dialect of the Crimean Tatars is also closely related to Osmanli and Azerbaijani, and there is considerable intercourse between the Crimea and Baku.

(ii.) The Tatars of Kazan, Astrakhan, and Tobolsk, with the Chuvashes and Bashkirs, are centred on Kazan. For the peoples of this group Turkish is, in the main, an adopted language. The Bashkirs and Chuvashes were originally Finnish-speaking tribes. The Tatars of Kazan, Astrakhan, and Tobolsk are a hybrid race, with Mongol conquerors imposed from above and Christian slaves introduced from below. The genuine Turkish element in them is small, and Kazan was Mohammedan in religion before it became Turkish in speech. The Tatar Khanate of Kazan was the direct successor of the Ugro-Finnic Kingdom of Bolghari or "White Bulgaria," and the "White Bulgarians" were converted to Islam in the tenth century, about fifty years before the Ukrainians and Russians were converted to Orthodox Christianity.

Kazan is thus an ancient Mohammedan, though a comparatively recent Turkish-speaking, centre. Its Islamic culture, which declined after its incorporation in Russia, has notably revived within the last generation. This revival is said to have begun in 1886, when two elementary school teachers were imported from Constantinople. From that time onwards schools were founded and students sent to Mohammedan universities abroad; but the great impetus came from the Russian Revolution of 1905, which struck off some of the shackles from the non-Russian languages in Russia and obtained a measure of freedom for the Press. Thus, whereas before 1905 the Volga-Ural Tatars had their Korans printed for them in Russian printing works, since 1905 a dozen large printing businesses are said to have been started by the Tatars in Kazan, Orenburg, and Ufa, where books are printed in Arabic for markets as distant as Egypt, the Hejaz, India, and the Dutch East Indies. In the same centres, it is said, between twenty and thirty weekly and daily newspapers have been established, printed for the Tatars themselves in their own Turkish dialect.

(iii.) The Turkish-speaking Mohammedans settled in the upper Syr-Darya and Amu-Darya basins are diverse in origin and blood, but they all speak the Chagatai dialect. Chagatai Turkish (or Eastern Turkish) differs widely from the Osmanli-Azerbaijani (or Western Turkish) dialects. Some of the commonest roots and suffixes are used with quite different meanings in the two groups, and each developed into a literary language on independent lines. Literary Chagatai has borrowed much less than literary Osmanli from Persian and Arabic. Famous books have been written in it—the Memoirs of Baber the Moghul in the sixteenth century, and Abu'l Ghazi's history in the seventeenth—and the literary tradition has never died out. Such Turkish newspapers as have yet been started in Tashkend and other cities of the Amu-Darya-Syr-Darya region are published in the Chagatai dialect, and it is unlikely to give way either to Osmanli or to Kazan Tatar.

The Kirghiz of the steppes and the Turkmens of the Trans-Caspian oases have yet to be dealt with, and they occupy a somewhat indeterminate position. As far as the Kirghiz tribesmen are developing any desire for culture and education, they appear to be gravitating north-westward towards the Kazan group rather than south-eastward towards the Chagatai group. The Turkmens, on the other hand, whose dialect belongs to the same "Western Turkish" group as that of the Caucasian Tatars, the Osmanlis of Anatolia and the Azerbaijanis, are drawn by their geographical position towards the Chagatai group.

The Mohammedans of the Russian Empire are thus split up by a number of cross-divisions, geographical, social, or economic, and linguistic or cultural, and none of the groupings coincide.

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COMMERCIAL & FINANCIAL SECTION.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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While practically all other securities show the effect of the war in the marked discrepancy between present values and those that obtained before August, 1914, Egyptian securities, on the other hand—at any rate, most of them—show a most satisfactory balance in the other direction. This fact throws a curious light on the unexpected influences of war. I am quite sure that if anyone had been asked what would be the effect of a world conflict on Egypt's economic condition, the answer would have been that such an eventuality would have the worst possible consequences. In actual fact the reverse has been the case; the troops in Egypt have more than compensated for the loss of the tourists, and the demand for the country's produce has meant a period of remarkable prosperity for the population as a whole. It is not surprising, therefore, that investors should have been attracted to Egyptian securities to such purpose that some of the shares stand at almost double their pre-war price. Whether peace will mean the continuance of these conditions it is impossible to say at present; it would certainly be an unkind turn of the wheel of fate if a factor which would impart buoyancy to the most unpromising market had the opposite effect where Egypt is concerned.

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Additional point is given to what I have said from time to time regarding the immense possibilities for business in Morocco after the war by some interesting notes by the Acting British Consul at Casablanca, Mr. H. W. Rabino, which will be found elsewhere in this issue. His remarks amount to this—that with the development of the country there will beyond doubt be considerable openings for British manufacturers, as the country's progress becomes more pronounced. And in this connection I feel constrained to lay stress on the point that hitherto the development of Morocco has proceeded at a remarkably rapid rate under French auspices, so that it is no use for our business men to hold their hands during what they consider a period of growth. If they want their fair share of the trade of the country they must be prepared to begin to compete for it now, for if the war ends without their having taken action they may find that more enterprising rivals have secured the business.

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To turn from the general to the particular. The openings Mr. Rabino instances are just what might be expected in the case of a country in Morocco's position. For one thing, he says, there are great possibilities for trade in building materials as soon as the spread of communications leads to the development of the interior. Then there is the cement trade, once practically in British hands, but almost entirely lost owing to competition. Here a new factor has to be considered in the shape of a cement factory at Casablanca, but it is Mr. Rabino's view that, despite this added competition, the demand for cement will be so extensive that British manufacturers would be fully justified in making special efforts to regain their position in this market. It seems, however, that the best British cement is not suited to Morocco, but rather the second and third qualities, and it would also be well for British manufacturers to bear in mind Mr. Rabino's comments regarding the methods of dealing in this commodity.

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I hope that Mr. Chadwick's comments on India's trade with France will be read and re-read in business circles in our great dependency, for he laid great stress on the point that in certain lines of goods India has failed to give satisfaction in the past. French dealers, it seemed, praised the way in which skins, coffee, castor, linseed, rubber, copra, and rice arrived, but condemned various articles, notably hemp, for the dust and dirt it contained. Amongst other complaints, it was declared that Indian tobacco was the worst marketed in the world, and that if it were better sorted and packed, and approximately graded, it would have a wide sale and a better price, while wheat was blamed for the presence of barley and the frequent mixture of small stones and dust. Obviously, all these matters can be, and, indeed, must be, remedied if India is to obtain the market to which her produce entitles her.

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Another point he made was that in the future India must expect greater competition in this trade from the French colonies. "More and more attention," he said, "is being paid in France to the economic development of her tropical colonies, both by improving communications and by testing new crops," and he pointed out that the import duties had hitherto been a large factor in determining the class of Indian goods sent to France. "The general effect of these rates," he added, "appears to be that where supplies from India are not essential for the well-being of a French industry, the goods on entry are subject to duty wherever they compete with products produced in France or in the French colonies." Rice affords an instance of the application of this process, Saigon rice being admitted free, while rice not grown in French colonies is subject to a duty of 3 to 8 francs per 100 kilos. Ground nuts, however—the best variety of which is grown in a French colony—are admitted free because the French colonies cannot supply the requirements of the Marseilles oil industry.

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As regards Indo-Italian trade, there will be general agreement with Mr. Chadwick's remark that "the interest to India of seeing Italy independent and strong, developing on friendly terms with the British Empire, seems obvious to anyone who looks at a map." His views on the development of this trade are, perhaps, best summed up in the statement that "the trade between India and Italy in both directions is greater, and seems to possess greater possibilities, than that between Italy and any other part of the Empire." It is in Italy, in his opinion, that India will find an alternative market to some extent to Germany for several of her products, notably cotton and hides, and possibly oilseeds.

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It is interesting to note that the view that German trade and commerce will be resumed under the most difficult conditions is apparently openly recognised in the most important business circles in Germany, judging by a recent article by a well-known German authority on economics, Herr Bernhad. He accepts the fact that the claims of reconstruction will make it impossible for years to come for German manufacturers to resume their pre-war volume of exports. On the other hand, certain industries, notably chemical manufactures, will be in a position to start exporting as soon as peace is declared. But—and here is the important point—these exports will, in his opinion, be of small significance compared with the great increase in imports. What these necessary imports will be he goes on to explain. In the first place, it will be essential to import vast stores of foodstuffs, and there will also have to be large consignments of raw materials to enable factories now closed to recommence operations.

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That is in brief the picture he draws of the position of Germany immediately after the war, and its interest for the Allies lies in the fact that it is nothing more or less than a confession of weakness - a confession all the more emphatic because it is delicately veiled. But then the writer could scarcely be expected to say in so many words that Germany is dependent on the Allies for her supplies, for that is what his remarks amount to. Knowing Germany as we do, after the bitter experience of almost forty-one months' warfare, we can realise that the reference to essential imports by a writer of Herr Bernhad's standing marks a distinct advance in public opinion. Presently, perhaps, we shall find Herr Bernhad writing not only that Germany must have imports, but that they must come from the Allies, if at all, and that it is at least possible that the continuance of Germany's attitude regarding "restoration and guarantees" may mean that the Allies may not feel inclined to share their resources with the enemy.

COMMENTATOR.

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II.—The Past and the Future.

Cotton.

The cotton industry has so far made little headway in Roumania. This is not surprising, as all raw materials have to be obtained from abroad. Before the war there were, however, fifteen factories engaged in this industry, representing a capital of about eight million francs. Their production in 1913 amounted to 15,396,221 metres, valued at about eleven million francs. This was sufficient to meet something like one-fifth of the country's requirements, as may be seen from the trade figures for the previous year, when Roumania imported cotton goods to the value of over fifty-two million francs. There seems little reason to hope for any great improvement in this direction in the near future, for it is not one of those cases where a high protective tariff is likely to be of the slightest use. The only effect of such a measure, indeed, would be, as in the case of sugar, to raise prices to a prohibitive standard for home consumers. And the knowledge of this fact is scarcely likely to induce the Government to take any such action. In this connection it may be pointed out that opinion in Roumania is more centred on the possibility of importing the raw cotton instead of taking it in the form of cotton yarn. So far no progress has been made in this way, and, despite the fact that for some years prior to the outbreak of war, the manufacture of cotton goods has been on the up grade, not a single cotton mill has been established in the country. For this there is a tendency to blame the tariff, which is certainly low in this instance, but whether satisfactory results would accrue from its alteration is problematical, to say the least of it.

Paper.

What little success has been achieved in the industry of paper manufacture, in which some seventeen million francs are invested, has been almost entirely due to the convenient operation of the protective tariff. Imported paper is subject to duties ranging from 24 to 46 per cent., and the effect of this has been that the home industry has been able to hold its own against foreign competition in the cheaper and rougher lines of paper. More than that cannot be said. In justice it must be added that the industry has been severely handicapped by the price of raw materials, home-grown wood costing 20 to 22 francs a cubic metre. Manufacturers were forced, therefore, to import wood from Austria-Hungary, where its price was only 9 francs a cubic metre, as they found that, even with the cost of transport and customs duties added, it still meant a saving of money. It should not have been necessary for them to do this, since Roumania had at her disposal abundant supplies of wood. The utilisation of her forests has, however, been hampered by the lack of adequate communications, this being the real root of the trouble. After the war, provided the forests are more or less unimpaired, which must be extremely doubtful, it should be a comparatively easy matter to ensure a fair supply of raw material for the industry at a price considerably less than that for which it could be imported. This would mean that the industry would at least be maintained at its former position, and the possibility would exist that its operations might even be extended in certain directions. As regards the higher grades of paper, which have always been largely imported, it is improbable that foreign competition could be successfully encountered unless Roumanian industrial conditions in the future are very different from what they were before the war.

Metal.

The manufacture of metal goods has hitherto been carried on only to an insignificant extent, despite the fact that Roumania herself has provided a constantly growing market for these goods. The rapid development of the petroleum fields, the growth of industrial enterprises, and the demand for improved agricultural methods, all contributed to the increasing demand for machinery of all descriptions. A few quotations from the statistics of Roumanian imports for 1913 will serve to show the range of her requirements. The imports of motors and agricultural machinery of all kinds were valued at 15,406,172 francs, of rails to 4,819,960 francs, of dynamos and electric motors to 8,933,660 francs, and of electrical apparatus for telegraphs, telephones, etc., to 3,089,983 francs. The home industry was on the most limited scale, so much so, indeed, that Roumania was practically dependent, even for war materials, on other countries. It is possible that this position may be improved after the war; certainly no field of industrial enterprise presents greater scope for expansion, or offers better prospects for successful development, since the demand for machinery is bound to be very great in Roumania after the war. But any advance that is made in regard to this industry is bound to be slow, since there is so much leeway to make up, and especially because a nation which, not very long ago, might rightly have been regarded as being an agricultural community pure and simple, cannot produce a race of citizens equal to industrial work at a moment's notice. It is, on the contrary, rather a matter for generations. Still, this industry is, of all industries, the one in which it is most essential that progress should be made, and it may be hoped, therefore, that the fact that results may seem far distant will not prevent every effort being concentrated on its improvement.

Post-War Prospects.

From this brief survey it will be seen that at the outbreak of war Roumania was still at the commencement of her industrial development. That this should have been the case is, as we have pointed out, not at all a matter for surprise, since thirty years is all too short a period in which to obtain any marked results. This needs emphasis in view of the fact that Roumania's slow development has given rise to the idea that the Roumanian people as a whole are not possessed of the qualities necessary for industrial success. It is, of course, possible that this view has some justification, but the facts rather indicate that the country's handicap has been the lack of adequate support from abroad in the shape of capital and skilled labour. This will not be the case in the future, for Roumania's steadfast devotion to the cause of the Allies has assured her the fullest consideration when the time comes for her needs to be satisfied. On this account we may be reasonably optimistic regarding Roumania's industrial future. Her past, with its record of ill-success and slow progress, has been wiped away by the war; she will start a new page under the happiest auspices, sure in the support of staunch friends, whose only desire is that she should realise her fullest promise.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

The New Department.

The new Joint Department of the Board of Trade and the Foreign Office, whose formation was announced in the recent White Paper on the future organization of commercial intelligence, has now been constituted. The new Department will be known as the Department of Overseas Trade (Development and Intelligence). It will be represented in Parliament by Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, M.P., who will occupy the position both of Additional Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and also Additional Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade. The Department will comprise the existing Department of Commercial Intelligence of the Board of Trade, including the management of the British Industries Fairs, the War Trade Intelligence Department; the section of the Foreign Trade Department of the Foreign Office dealing with Form K and with other matters relating to the promotion of trade abroad, and certain functions now performed at the Foreign Office in connection with commercial intelligence and with the Commercial Attaché and Consular Services. Sir William Clark, K.C.S.I., C.M.G., has been appointed Comptroller-General of the new Department, and Mr. F. G. A. Butler, C.B., C.M.G., formerly of the Colonial Office, has been appointed Director of the Overseas Division.

An advisory committee of business men to the new department is in process of formation, and will be announced shortly. The temporary headquarters of the department will be at 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2, to which personal letters for Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland should be addressed. The commercial intelligence staff will for the present continue to be housed at the same address. The office in Basinghall Street contains an inquiry bureau, where information on all matters affecting trade can be obtained on personal application, or inquiries can be addressed there either by post or telephone (Telephone Nos., London Wall, 4713 and 4717). The War Trade Intelligence staff will remain in their existing offices in Lake Buildings, S.W.1.

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MOROCCAN TRADE.

Openings for British Manufacturers

The following notes relative to openings for trade in the French zone in Morocco, furnished by the acting British Consul at Casablanca, Mr. H. W. Rabino, are published in the *Board of Trade Journal* :—

Building Material.

Building material is a branch of business in Morocco in which there are great possibilities, as, apart from a few of the coast ports at which building was being carried on very extensively at the commencement of the war, Morocco is in an undeveloped state. With the advent of railways and motor transport, it is highly probable that the larger towns such as Fez, Marrakesh (Morocco City), and Mequinez in the interior will be developed to the same extent, comparatively speaking, as Casablanca and Tangier.

At one time the bulk of the trade in cement was in United Kingdom hands, and large stocks were accumulated to keep the market supplied. In recent years, however, owing to the rise of keen French and Belgian competition, United Kingdom manufacturers have been able to secure only a small share of the total imports of this class of goods into Morocco. British cement is recognised as being far superior in quality, but prices—the first consideration in Morocco—cannot compete with those quoted for other makes. Business will become more difficult than hitherto now that a large cement factory has been established in Casablanca. Nevertheless, the present and prospective demands for this necessary article are such as would fully justify United Kingdom manufacturers in making special efforts to obtain a larger share of its importation into Morocco. The fact that British cement is always preferred for certain classes of work is a further argument in favour of their doing so. Cheap labour and the advantage gained by the production of the raw materials on the spot are important factors in the competition of locally made cement at Casablanca. This, however, does not yet apply to the other Moroccan ports, because the cost of packing and transport of cement to these ports tends to equalise the conditions as between imported cement and that manufactured in Casablanca.

It is said that the best British cement would be altogether too good for Morocco, but that the second and third qualities should find a good market. Cement intended for the interior of Morocco should be put up in barrels, unless the contrary is expressly stipulated in the order. Cement is usually imported from the United Kingdom into Casablanca in barrels of 180 kilogs. gross; while southern ports take barrels of 100 to 120 kilogs. gross. The usual terms of sale are cash against documents.

Contractors' Supplies.

The greater part of public and private constructional work entailing a demand for contractors' supplies will undoubtedly be executed by French contractors, who are favoured through having their own sources of supply. Consequently, no great opening can be anticipated in this direction for firms of other nationality. On the other hand, such items of contractors' equipment as spades, shovels, pick-axes, pumps, winches, etc., already have a market with the natives. These goods have been imported on a very large scale into Morocco by United Kingdom firms, both on order for native clients and as stock for retail sale. Stock so held has occasionally been bought up by French contractors, which would seem to indicate that encouraging prospects are not wanting in this line of business.

It is possible that no paving material will be imported into Morocco for some time to come, if ever, since the natural resources of the country may prove sufficient. But it may be pointed out in this connection that the material available is very inferior, in proof of which the bad state of the roads a few months after their completion or repair is instanced. The stone as yet available is, in fact, too soft to be suitable for road-making. Tar-macadam has not yet been introduced in any of the Moroccan municipal paving schemes, but, should the authorities eventually decide to adopt it, there would be a good opening for road tar, both artificial and natural. Concrete pavements are already in use, thus increasing the demand for cement.

It should be noted that the use of bitumen in making flat roofs has not yet been adopted in Morocco, although this method practically ensures a water-tight covering. The spread of European habits should provide an opening in course of time for materials employed in this method of roofing.

Sanitation Appliances.

As in the case of contractors' supplies, the European demand for sanitary appliances in French Morocco will always be met to a large extent by French firms and contractors who already keep stocks. The majority of the natives still use untrapped pipes, but it is quite certain that before long the adoption of sanitary slabs suitable for Oriental use, of the kind manufactured by almost every sanitary engineering firm in the United Kingdom, will become more or less compulsory. This article, therefore, is worth the serious attention of United Kingdom manufacturers. It is desirable that stocks of these goods should be held for sale against those possessed by competitors.

The demand for wall paper is unlikely to increase among the native population, and, in comparison with the various distempers and paints now available, it can scarcely be recommended. On the other hand, the inevitable increase in the European population as time goes on cannot fail to create a growing demand. Mr. Rabino considers that sample books of patterns would probably assist in securing moderate business; there is ample room for development. Distemper has already been introduced into Morocco, but is chiefly purchased in small quantities at present by way of speculation, and does not yet command an extensive market.

ADEN'S IMPORT OF PAINTS

Insufficient Consignments.

For the following particulars of the market for paints in the Aden district, we are indebted to a recent report of the United States Consul at Aden, Mr. Addison E. Southard :—

The consumption of paints of various classes in Aden amounts to $21,000 per annum. The value of turpentine, brushes, putty, and other painters' supplies averages $1,600 per annum. Preservative paints, such as zinc and lead pigments in oil, lead all other classes. Ready-mixed oil paints, enamel or carriage paints, and varnishes—which so far as their most important local uses are concerned may be classed as decorative paints—follow in the order named. The preservative paints that are sold in this market are almost exclusively British. Two well-known manufacturers have had their goods established here for years, and to the natives good paints and the trade names of these manufacturers are synonymous. On account of the increased prices and inability to obtain sufficient supplies of the old established paints it is likely that local importers will find it necessary to introduce other brands. They are expecting shortly to receive shipments of paint from a factory which is being established in Calcutta. So far as the Aden Port Trust returns show, the United States never has contributed to the paint imports here, but under the heading of painters' supplies for 1914 there were received from the United States 28 cwt. of turpentine, valued at $598. The demand for paints at Aden has noticeably diminished since the Turkish Yemen ports were closed to trade. Normally considerable quantities of the zinc and lead pigments in oil were re-exported to those places, where they were used principally in painting dhows, lighters, and similar small craft

Paints Required for Boats.

The bulk of the paints used in the port of Aden consists of zinc and lead pigments in oil. These are in greatest demand for use in painting dhows. A fair number of the native boats is built in Aden, and many from the neighbouring native ports come here for repairs, painting, etc. The owners of the considerable number of large dhows which come down from Muscat and the Persian Gulf during the winter months, to bring dates, carpets, and pearls to Aden, also take advantage of their stay here to give their boats a new coat of paint. When he can afford it the dhow owner will use a black zinc or lead paint for the bottom, zinc white for the sides, and zinc or lead yellow for the other parts of the craft, with the exception of the captain's quarters, which are finished with oil paints in such bright colours as blue or red. Lime for whitewashing is produced locally. There are said to be in the Turkish Yemen great quantities of red and blue stones which can be crushed into a powder suitable for making water paints. None of these red or blue stones, or of the powder made from them, were found in Aden shops.

The Wienerbankverein and the Oesterreichische Landesbank are interested in a huge Roumanian oil scheme, says the *Financial Times*. These banks have recently sent a special committee of experts to prospect certain oil-bearing lands with a view of constituting a great Austrian oil company in Roumania.

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ENGINEERING NOTES.

Tractors for Orchards.

One of the reasons that farmers in the East hesitate in the selection and purchase of an agricultural tractor is the question of size. As has often been mentioned in these columns, the great majority of farmers there are small holders, with more orchards than open corn fields in their holdings; and while for the cultivation of the latter an average-sized tractor is suitable, the same cannot be used in orchards or in fields with many trees. Thus, a smallholder has not sufficient work for the ordinary-sized tractor, and the purchase of one is not considered advisable. One of the smallest models of tractors seen recently at work may be found very serviceable for such smallholders in the East. It is a compact little machine, essentially intended to be of use for orchard cultivation. Its ability to manipulate in confined and restricted areas is an outstanding feature. The power unit is a four-cylinder one, with a bore and stroke of 3½ ins. by 4 ins. respectively, and it gives 12 b.h.p. at 800 revolutions per minute. Transmission is by planetary gear. One speed in each direction is provided. Fuel consumption on this model works out at from 1½ to 2½ gallons per acre. A pulley is provided for driving stationary machinery.

Sugar Production in the Near East

The heavy decline in the production of sugar through the enemy control of the largest part of the beet-growing area in Europe has induced France and other countries to seek new sources of sugar supply, and in this connection valuable assistance has been rendered during the past year by the Agricultural Department of the United States in the way of experimenting with the production of sugar from maize and sorgo. It has been found that the weight of sugar from an acre of maize is superior to what is obtainable from an acre of beet, and considering that the maize crop requires far less attention, not to speak of the fact that its preliminary cultivation is much less costly, the discovery is most important. Maize and a great deal of sorgo are grown in all the southern parts of Europe, and in the Near East and particularly in Greece, Serbia, Roumania, Bulgaria, Thrace, Southern Russia, Syria, and Egypt, and crops of both kinds are raised so easily and cheaply that there seems every probability of the Near East becoming the main source of sugar supply in the future. As there is often a discrepancy regarding the identity of these two kinds of cereals, it may be added here that maize is what is commonly known in this country as Indian corn, and in the Near East as Arabian corn or *Kahlabohchi*, Turkish *misirbughdayi*, and Serbian *Kukuruz;* whilst sorgo is commonly known as millet, and in the Near East as Kehchri. Great quantities of the latter are used in the East for feeding cattle and poultry, but it is also made into cakes, or boiled and eaten by the poorer classes of peasantry.

Japanese Competition.

In view of the apparent demand for all classes of machinery and implements in the East, it is not out of place to remind British manufacturers that Japan continues to make great efforts to capture the cheaper Far Eastern trade hitherto mainly in the hands of the manufacturers of Central Europe, and that in her sphere of energy the Middle and Near East is included. The fact is one of which most careful note should be taken by British manufacturers, who are certain to find Japan an increasingly serious competitor.

This year's Indian cotton crop is officially expected to show a 15 per cent. acreage increase compared with last year, but a 10 per cent. decrease in production, due to the heavy monsoon in the flowering time.

LANCASHIRE COTTON.

Fair Demand from Egypt.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Manchester, Monday.

This has been a holiday week in the market, and very few serious attempts have been made at business. Most traders have been disposed to mark time, and more attention has been paid to stocktakings and squaring up matters before the end of the year, rather than the arranging of fresh contracts. No particular change can be recorded in the outlook for the Egyptian cotton crop. Yarns made from Egyptian cotton remain deeply sold, and the prices ruling are very profitable to spinners. A very fair demand continues to be experienced in piece goods for Egypt, but the offtake has not been so important as in recent previous weeks. Inquiry in cloth for India has been at a low ebb, and our customers continue to resist the high prices which are required by manufacturers. Very little demand has been experienced for China. Late last week extensive contracts were arranged in heavy goods for Allied purposes. American yarns continue strongly held, and although business has been disorganised, the undercurrent of demand for prompt delivery remains healthy. Nothing very encouraging can be said with regard to export trade in yarns at the moment.

Indian trade returns for November, says Reuter's Calcutta correspondent, show that the imports amounted to 11,197,000 rupees, being an increase of 1,668,000 rupees on the corresponding period of last year. Exports amounted to 13,633,000, a decrease of 1,653,000 rupees as compared with November, 1916. In the pre-war years 1913 imports amounted to 10,973,000 rupees and exports to 12,974,000 rupees.

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EGYPT'S FINANCES.

September Returns Satisfactory.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, November 23.

The State accounts for September, just published, show a slight decrease in the surplus recorded the previous month, but the position still remains better than it was at the end of the corresponding month of 1916. During September revenue amounted to £E1,251,546 and expenditure to £E1,299,451. The principal items of revenue were land tax, £E155,405; Customs, £E160,511; tobacco dues, £E135,682; mixed court fees, £E65,103; railways, £E406,580; miscellaneous receipts, £E75,140; and ghaffir cess, £E29,626. The more important items of expenditure were irrigation, £E79,394; railways, £E220,303; ghaffirs, £E61,509; War Office, £E84,875; guaranteed debt coupon, £E153,563; and war gratuities, £E44,542.

Totals for Year.

The September account brings the first half of the financial year to a close. The total revenue for the period amounts to £E9,085,328 and expenditure to £E8,581,163, as against £E8,316,708 and £E8,116,994 respectively a year ago. Thus revenue has increased by over £E700,000 and expenditure by nearly £E500,000, leaving a surplus of £E504,165 to the credit of the current year, as against one of £E199,714 at the close of the first half of the preceding one. Of course, this year's accounts are swollen by the ghaffir tax, which did not figure in the previous year's returns. The receipts of the cess amount to £E406,968, but as, on the other side of the account, there is a total expenditure to date of £E350,178, the inclusion of this item merely affects the surplus to the extent of, roughly, £E50,000.

Increases in Revenue.

The main increases in revenue during the half year have been Customs, £E57,244; mixed courts, £E66,021; railways, £E75,433; military exemption fees, £E31,860; sundry extraordinary receipts, £E311,889; and, of course, the above-mentioned ghaffir cess of £E406,968. The sole decreases of any note were £E204,436 in the tobacco dues and £E31,943 in port dues; indeed, of the twenty-six items which go to make up the revenue all but six show improvements over the preceding year. The first half is always the lighter of the year by comparison with the second, which includes the heavier tax instalments, and normally covers the period of greatest traffic on the railways and in the Customs owing to the movement of cotton. We may, therefore, already look for a substantial surplus again when the current year's accounts are closed. Certainly, the position is eminently satisfactory.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

EUROPEAN OILFIELDS CORPORATION.

The Russian Situation.

Mr. Herbert Allen, presiding at the annual general meeting of the European Oilfields Corporation, Limited, on December 20, said he could conceive of few less pleasant or less satisfactory tasks than that of presiding, at the present time, over the general meeting of an English company operating in Russia. No one was interested in what they were doing a year ago; what was happening to-day they did not know, and what had yet to happen they could scarcely conjecture. The profit and loss account was practically a repetition of its immediate predecessor, but it afforded no criterion of what they were doing at the present time, and in no event could the current year be expected to turn out well for any Anglo-Russian enterprise. The directors had lost no opportunity since the revolutionary movement in Russia set in two years ago of withdrawing the company's surplus funds from that country, and altogether they had succeeded in getting over £92,000 at rates varying from 1s. 8¾d. to 11½d. per rouble, their average being 1s. 2½d. per rouble. The present rate was about 6½d., but, as a matter of fact, it was only nominal, the Russian Government having now put an entire stop on remittances. It had long been obvious that as Europe settled down to a long-drawn-out war the Russian exchange must go from bad to worse. The output of paper money had reached a total which almost baffled imagination, and notes of small denomination no longer had any value; they littered the streets like fallen leaves. They had long experienced great trouble with their workmen, and it had been much worse since the revolutionary outbreak last March, the men being encouraged in their excesses by Ministers more extreme even than themselves. The recent additions to wages in the Baku oil industry were estimated at five million roubles per month, which at normal rates would be equivalent to about £6,000 per annum. However, he was not going to be too hard on the Russian workmen, who, under far greater provocation, was behaving quite as well, and in some respects much more patriotically, than his British counterpart, besides which he was only following the teachings of English trades unionism. The doctrines of class hatred and plunder were preached with pretty equal vigour in both countries, and, furthermore, the Russian workmen, in listening to evil counsellors, had been influenced largely by hunger and despair, whilst labour in this country had begun to talk of revolution and confiscation not only before it felt the pinch of war, but whilst it was actually profiteering on the misfortunes of the country. As to the enactments, decrees, and proclamations of the crazy gang who, first under Kerensky and now under Lenin, were indulging in a travesty of national Government, if they were to take them seriously their own and similar companies might consider themselves *non est* so far as Russia was concerned, for there could be no just reason why, if private property was abolished, any line should be drawn between that of the individual and that of a joint-stock undertaking. The next thing they heard so much of now was the talk of repudiation by Russia of her national obligations. This had been described as national suicide, but Russia had already committed that. With her richest provinces already annexed to Germany, many more of them at the enemy's mercy, a score or so of independent Republics already proclaimed in other directions, and a currency valueless for purposes of exchange, it was difficult to see who was to look after Russia's foreign obligations and how. Besides, Russia was not alone in her doctrines of repudiation and confiscation. He would like to have the assurance of the Prime Minister, whose views on the subject of wealth and capital were not forgotten, that no Government of which he was a member would ever give countenance to any policy embodying the repudiation of the British obligations, levies on capital, or conscription of wealth. As to the revolution in Russia and what it would lead to, it was useless to draw analogies from the past history of other countries. But of one thing they could speak with certainty; Russia, with her fighting forces deliberately destroyed by her own rulers, was helpless to defend herself, and Germany would dictate her own terms; she would restore order in Russia when it suited her economic and political aims in that country. As to British assets and British interests in Russia—certainly in European Russia—they would be dealt with as Germany might dictate, and it was no use shutting one's eyes to that. With the Black Sea and its ports brought within the sphere of German influence, if not actually incorporated in the German Empire, it might be assumed that Russia's oil output, and more particularly that of Grozny, would once more flow westward and help supply Germany's requirements in the Balkans and Asia Minor. There was another thing they had got to remember, as business men, not as politicians. There was at present no Russian Republic; there was no properly constituted Government; there was an Empire, or part of an Empire, but no Emperor. The present so-called Government was merely a body of usurpers, having no mandate from the Russian people; no contract it could make would be good at law or binding upon future Governments. It had not been elected upon any constitutional franchise to any constitutional body; it had no credentials to represent Russia. In other words, authority was non-existent in Russia at the present time. They might wonder why he (the chairman) mixed business with politics. The reply was that business—not merely the business of the individual, but the business of the nation—and politics were inseparably interwoven, and never more so than in times of stress and danger like the present. If they were to win the war by silver bullets, then sound finance was their strongest weapon. It was all very well for them to talk, as they were apt to do, of Russia's political insanity, but when mob rule was made the subject of Government congratulations; when they were told, in so many words, that the establishment of ochlocracy in Russia was one of the great principles for which they had entered the war; when their public men could talk of five-hour working days and minimum weekly wages reckoned by the pound; when they were threatened almost simultaneously with repudiation of the national debt, the confiscation of all private wealth and the infliction of a

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In Greece—Ionian Bank, Ltd., Salonica; Banque Populaire, Athens, Piræus.

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100 per cent. income-tax, then surely England herself was getting beyond the incipient stages of the same malady that had vanquished Russia.

BOMBAY, BARODA, AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY CO

Increased Gross Receipts.

The 124th half-yearly general meeting of the Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Company was held on December 21, at the Cannon Street Hotel, Major A. D. G. Shelley, R.E., the Chairman, presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. S. G. S. Young) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman, in the course of his address, said :—Gentlemen,—My remarks on the detailed results of working for the six months ended March 31 last will be brief, as the main figures were before you at the last meeting, and you have already received the final dividend in respect of your share of the profits for the year ended at that date.

Expenditure on Capital Account.

As regards expenditure on capital account, the debit for the half-year is only about one-third of that in the corresponding period of 1915-16, which in turn was half that of the same period in the previous year. The programme of special works of improvement drawn up in 1912, and which it was anticipated would be carried through in about ten years, has, of course, been greatly affected by war restrictions. The other feature of the half-year's working, the increase in coaching traffic, is highly satisfactory. The increase occurred both in numbers and earnings under all classes, both on the broad and metre gauge sections of the line. The bulk of the increase was naturally in third-class traffic, but all classes, as well as parcels and other miscellaneous receipts, contributed to the increase of nearly Rs15 lakhs, or over 11 per cent., in the earnings. In the latter part of the half-year under review a considerable curtailment of the train service was effected in consequence of the imperative need to reduce operating expenses as much as possible. All railways in India have taken similar measures at the request of the Government, and since the close of the half-year the reductions in the train services have been followed by a general increase in the fares charged for all classes of traffic. This enhancement was necessary in order to restrict traffic to the carrying capacity of the reduced train service, and because the old scales of charge were insufficient to cover the greatly increased cost of operation which now prevails. There was little variation in the total earnings from the goods traffic of the half-year compared with those of the corresponding period in 1916—an increase of about Rs6¾ lakhs on the broad gauge being offset by a decrease of about Rs6½ lakhs on the metre gauge. On the expenditure side of the account the variation in total is small.

Fall in Working Expenses.

With an increase of over Rs.14 lakhs in the gross receipts and this decrease of nearly Rs.1½ lakhs in expenditure, the percentage of expenditure to gross earnings has fallen to 40.58, as compared with 42.49 in the corresponding period, with 51.97 in March, 1915, and with an average of 45.92 during the two corresponding half-years preceding the war. I have already reminded you at these meetings of the charge for postponed renewals which will have to be met as soon as materials are obtainable after the close of hostilities. With the prolongation of the war and the great rise in price of English stores of every description, that liability must continue to increase, and may seriously affect the net earnings of the railway for some years after the conclusion of peace. Although this may prevent the earning and distribution of bonus dividends in excess of the standard dividend of 5 per cent., your board consider that there need not be any apprehensions of a reduction in the standard rate, as the substantial reserve fund which has been accumulated with the view of avoiding marked fluctuations in dividends should, in their opinion, suffice to maintain it.

Turning now to the dividend prospects of the current year, i.e., the year ending March 31 next, the net earnings of the half-year to September are about Rs.34 lakhs more than those of the corresponding half-year. Since the close of the half-year traffic earnings have shown a tendency to decrease, but, although there are still three months of the year to elapse, I think I am justified in anticipating that, with the usual interim dividend of 10s. per cent. from sunplus profits proposed to be paid in January next, the total distribution from surplus profits for the year ending March 31 next is not likely to be less than that made from the profits of the preceding year, and will also allow of some addition to the reserve fund. With the grants proposed this year towards the various charitable funds connected with the war the total sums contributed to such funds amount to £1,675 from the general revenues of the line, and £1,690 from the stockholders' revenue account. I now beg, gentlemen, to move :—"That the report of the directors, with the accounts now presented, be received and adopted."

Colonel W. V. Constable, R.E., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. T. J. Bennett, C.I.E., the following resolution was afterwards unanimously agreed to :—"That, in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 10s. per cent. for the half-year ending December 31, 1917, an interim dividend at the rate of 10s. per £100 on the capital stock in respect of the profits for the financial year 1917-18 be paid to the holders of such stock who were registered in the company's books on the 10th instant."

The proceedings terminated with votes of thanks to Mr. R. Woolcombe, the company's agent, and to the Indian staff generally, and to the chairman and the directors.

COMPANY REPORTS.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Company, Limited, for the year ended August 31 states that the trading profit amounts to the record sum of £E236,038.029 millièmes. On the other hand, adds the report, the managing director, without the knowledge of the board, entered into certain cotton arbitrations which resulted in the loss of £E41,917.156 millièmes. The board is advised that these operations, although made in good faith and in the interests of the company, were outside the statutory powers of the company, and that consequently the managing director is legally responsible to make good the full amount of such loss. As the managing director contends that these operations were within the scope of the company's powers, and that, having effected them in good faith and in the interests of the company, he is not liable, the amount has been shown in the balance-sheet as an "amount in suspense." The directors have prepared an agreement with the managing director the effect of which will be that this liability will be admitted by him and will be discharged by a grant to him of the same amount by way of special remuneration for his services, and the net profits of the year will be reduced accordingly. Net profit, before writing off depreciation and making provision for reserves, amounts to £E229,509.830 millièmes. The directors have set aside for depreciation of the various factories £E19,757.950; made provision for completion of new works at Moharrem Bey for the exploitation of the new oil processes, £E20,000; for renewal of railway line and rolling stock at Wadi Natroun, £E10,000; transferred to reserve for bad and doubtful debts, £E3,000; and reserved as provision for the suspense item in the balance-sheet £E41,917.165, leaving a balance of £E134,834.724 millièmes. To this has to be added £E57,974.478 millièmes brought in. The directors propose a dividend representing 25 per cent. on the share capital (5s. per share), and that the balance of £E71,472.402 millièmes be carried forward. Meeting, 5, Rue Adib, Alexandria, to-day, 4.30 p.m.

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COMPANY NOTES.

Dividends, Payments, etc.

The directors of the Egyptian Markets, Limited, have declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent. (less income-tax at 5s. in the £1 for the year to December 31 on the ordinary shares, payable forthwith at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Clements Lane, E.C.

The 3½ per cent. debenture stock transfer books of the Bengal and North-Western Railway Co., Limited, will be closed from January 1 to 14, inclusive, for the purpose of preparing interest warrants payable to those stockholders whose names are on the register at the time of closing the books.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.—Coupon No. 31 due 31st inst. on the £100,000 first mortgage debentures will be paid on that date by the National Bank of Egypt, 6 and 7, King William Street, E.C.

Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock.—Dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, less tax at 5s., will be paid at Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie, and Co., London, and at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Alexandria, on 31st instant. Ordinary transfer books were closed from 27th to 31st instant, inclusive.

"THE BOARD OF TRADE JOURNAL."

On Thursday, January 3, the *Board of Trade Journal* will be published in a new form and with an extended scope. The aim will be to give authoritative information regarding all the activities of the Board of Trade and of the new department formed jointly with the Foreign Office. Special attention will be paid to plans for assisting trade restoration after the war. Official information concerning Government orders affecting trade, Customs regulations and tariffs, openings for trade, etc., will continue to be given, and advantage will be taken of the improved and developed service of trade Commissioners within the Empire and of commercial Attachés' and Consuls' services in foreign countries, to secure for publication in the *Journal* fuller reports on oversea markets. The President has appointed Mr. Harcourt Kitchin, late editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, as editor of the new issue of the *Board of Trade Journal*. The price of the new *Journal* will be 6d. (post free 6½d.), but present subscribers will receive their copies without additional charge until their current subscriptions have run out. All communications should be addressed to the Editor, *Board of Trade Journal*, at Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1, or 73, Basinghall Street, E.C.2. The publishers are H.M. Stationery Office.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

	1916. Week Dec. 14.	1917. Week Dec. 13.
Cattle markets	1,132	319
General markets	405	465
Receipts (£)	1,537	784
Total for year	53,304	52,798

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS

Receipts for ten days ended November 10.

	1916. £E.	1917 £E.
Nov. 1-Nov. 10	8,947	10,640
April 1-Nov. 10	122,281	148,410

SUEZ CANAL RECEIPTS.

The traffic receipts for the Suez Canal were as follows on the undermentioned dates :—

	1916. Francs.	1917. Francs.
December 17, 18	90,000	390,000
December 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	1,130,000	840,000

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(in 300,000 Shares of £10 each, fully paid.)

RESERVE FUND - - £1,331,350.

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HEAD OFFICE: CAIRO.

London Committee:

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HON. ALGERNON MILLS, HON. SIDNEY PEEL, D.S.O.

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MANAGER: J. T. BEATY-POWNALL. ASST.-MANAGER: A. F. GILLBEE.

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MANCHESTER OFFICE: 106-108, PORTLAND STREET.
NEW YORK OFFICE: 6, WALL STREET.

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Called-up Capital - - £560,000. Reserve - - - - - £220,000

Directors:
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CLIFFORD B. EDGAR, Esq., D.L., J.P. | GEO. W. NEVILLE, Esq.
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Chief Manager: LESLIE COUPER. *Assistant Managers:* G. A. LESTER, D. W. PATERSON
Secretary: J. R. BINGHAM.

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Branches:
AMARA. BASRA. BAGDAD. BOMBAY. CALCUTTA.

Board of Directors:
The Right Hon. LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH, K.T. (*Chairman*).
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